

Philippe De Rouilhan,

“Russell’s Logic”, in René Cori, Alexander Razborov, Stevo Todorčević, and Carol Wood (editors), *Logic Colloquium 2000. Proceedings of the Annual European Summer Meeting of the Association for Symbolic Logic, held in Paris, France, July 23-31, 2000*

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REVIEW

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The only article in the proceedings of the ASL Summer Colloquium 2000 of direct historical pertinence is the contribution of Philippe De Rouilhan on “Russell’s Logic”. Of potential interest to philosophers of logic and to many historians of logic and mathematics is William Ewald’s, “Hilbert’s Wide Program” (pp. 228–251). In this review I shall restrict my attention to De Rouilhan’s article.

The title which de Rouilhan chose for his article is somewhat misleading, and suggests a far broader scope than is actually presented. De Rouilhan does not present, as his title suggests, a survey of Russell’s contributions to logic. Rather, the chief, indeed the sole focus, of the article is one aspect of Russell’s efforts to deal with the paradoxes, and to do so within the broader context of Russell’s various approaches to treating the paradoxes. To provide the historical background, De Rouilhan sets forth three versions of Russell’s work on the paradoxes. He begins with the canonical—or as he calls it, “popular”—account, namely the discovery of the Russell paradox as described in the appendices of the *Principles of Mathematics*, and the theory of types, as first provided in “Appendix B” of the *Principles*, and as elaborated in his and Whitehead’s *Principia*, as the means to avoid the paradox. Next, we are given the “scholarly” account, which is a more detailed and complex story, and examines the various adumbrations and development of the theory of types. Lastly, De Rouilhan offers his rational reconstruction, to explain the development of Russell’s thought in working