

Nicholas Griffin (editor)

The Cambridge Companion to Bertrand Russell

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REVIEW

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The Cambridge Companion to Bertrand Russell is one of the latest in a very popular series of anthologies dedicated to influential figures in the history of philosophy. Readers of this journal most likely best know Bertrand Russell as the discoverer of Russell's paradox, and as co-author of *Principia Mathematica* (hereafter *PM*). However, in addition to these accomplishments, Russell contributed significantly to almost every area of philosophical thought. In addition to a lengthy introductory and biographical piece by the editor, the *Companion* contains fifteen chapters, each dealing with a different aspect of Russell's philosophy. Two chapters, by Nicholas Griffin and Richard Cartwright, deal with Russell's inculcation into the tradition of British idealism as a student, and the break he made away from it along with his peer at Cambridge, G. E. Moore. Three pieces, by Bernard Linsky, William Demopoulos, and R. E. Tully, address various aspects of Russell's metaphysics. Two chapters are dedicated to Russell's epistemology, written by A.C. Grayling and Thomas Baldwin. The *Companion* also contains chapters dedicated to Russell's theory of descriptions (by Peter Hylton), Russell's analytic philosophical methodology (by Paul Hager), and Russell's contributions to ethics (by Charles Pigden). In addition to these, the *Companion* contains five pieces of significant interest to scholars of logic and the history of logic worth discussing in full.

The first of these is a piece entitled "Mathematics in and behind Russell's Logicism, and its Reception," by I. Grattan-Guinness. Here we find a detailed treatment of the main mathematical influences on Russell's work in mathematical logic, beginning with the early work in mathematical analysis by Cauchy and Weierstrass. Grattan-Guinness identifies Cantor and Peano as the two principal influences on Russell's