

Bertrand Russell's Life and Legacy

Edited by Peter Stone

VERNON SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY

Summary

This volume brings together a collection of papers dealing with the philosopher, humanist, and peace activist Bertrand Russell. The various papers deal with Russell's life, thought, and work. The organizing idea behind the book is that Russell remains intensely relevant to our intellectual life today, more than four decades after his death. The aim, therefore, has been to show what Russell has to contribute to questions of interest to the contemporary reader in a variety of fields.

The primary audience for this book is, of course, the world of Russell studies. Scholars focused on Russell will appreciate the contributions the book's essays make to the many ongoing conversations regarding the philosopher. But readers outside this field will find the book a welcoming invitation to join one or more of these conversations. Philosophers, for example, will appreciate both the historical essays connecting Russell's work to that of Wittgenstein, Carnap, and Husserl. They will also enjoy the new treatment given to one of Russell's most famous works, *The Problems of Philosophy*. Readers interested in religion can learn from both the extended analysis of Russell's book *Religion and Science* and the paper comparing Russell's approach to spirituality with that of contemporary New Atheist Sam Harris. An essay on Russell's approach to peace practice will inform readers from both peace studies and education.

And those who enjoy biography will enjoy learning more about Russell the man—his family, his life, and his loves. They can also enjoy an extended meditation upon the lessons biography has to offer the world of philosophy.

Above all, Bertrand Russell's *Life and Legacy* invites the reader into Russell's world—a world that should prove of interest to both philosophers and non-philosophers for many years to come.

About the editor

Peter Stone is Ussher Assistant Professor of Political Science at Trinity College Dublin. Before that, he taught Political Science at Stanford University and held a Faculty Fellowship at Tulane University's Center for Ethics and Public Affairs. He is the author of *The Luck of the Draw: The Role of Lotteries in Decision Making* (Oxford University Press, 2011), the editor of *Lotteries in Public Life: A Reader* (Imprint Academic, 2011), and the co-editor, with Tim Madigan, of *Bertrand Russell, Public Intellectual* (Tiger Bark, 2016). He has been a member of the Bertrand Russell Society for over 20 years, serves on its Board of Directors, founded two of the Society's local chapters, and is a former editor of the *Bertrand Russell Society Quarterly*.

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with a foreword by
Tony Simpson, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation

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