

Obituary

Professor W.M.S. Russell (1925–2006)

Bill Russell died on 27 July 2006, after a short terminal illness, but after many years of chronic sickness, borne with the cheerfulness which characterised everything he did.

Readers of *ATLA* will know Bill Russell as the co-author with Rex Burch of *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique* (1959), which spelled out their Three Rs (*Reduction, Refinement, Replacement*) concept in great detail. However, he was also well known, respected and loved in many other fields.

Bill went up to Oxford in 1942, to read Classics as a Scholar of New College, but his studies were interrupted by war service. He was a rifleman in the British Army from June 1943 to October 1945, and was on active service in Europe in the 12th battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He returned to New College to read Classics and English Literature, but later switched to science and was awarded a First Class Honours Degree in Natural Science (Zoology) in 1948. After post-graduate work in animal behaviour, he joined the UFAW project which was to lead to the Three Rs. Subsequently, he was in private practice as a psychoanalyst from 1959 to 1964, at which time he joined the Commonwealth Bureau of Pastures and Field Crops as a Scientific Information Officer. He became a Lecturer in the newly-established Department of Sociology at the University of Reading in 1966, subsequently being promoted to Reader (1971), Professor (1986) and Emeritus Professor (1990).

For eight years, he represented the West of England on the BBC Home Service radio programme, *Round Britain Quiz*, in which pairs of intellectuals from different parts of Britain competed to solve very difficult cryptic questions. Now broadcast on BBC Radio 4, the quiz has run almost without interruption since it began in 1947, as a development of an earlier wartime version, *Transatlantic Quiz*. One of Bill's trademarks was to sing the answers to some of the questions, putting words thought up on the spur of the moment to popular tunes, usually by Gilbert and Sullivan. He was to continue to entertain many others in this way, and in various parts of the world, notably at the World Congresses on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, as many *ATLA* readers will remember.



Professor Russell receives a FRAME tie from Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, Patron of FRAME, after presenting the first FRAME Annual Lecture, on 24 September 1999, at the Royal Society of Medicine, London.

I will save my own reminiscences of interactions with Bill (at, for example, the ECVAM workshop at Sheringham, on *The Three Rs: The Way Forward* [1995], the opening of FRAME's Russell & Burch House in Nottingham [1995], the Bologna World Congress [1999], and the First Annual FRAME Lecture [1999]) for a special tribute to be published later in *ATLA*. Meanwhile, if any *ATLA* readers wish to send me their own brief notes of appreciation or anecdotes, we will include as many of them as we can.

In closing, let me say that, sadly, we have just lost a renowned source of inspiration, who deeply affected the lives of many of us, who was great fun to be with, and with whom to correspond was always a delight.

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[Professor Russell donated his body to science, so there will have been no immediate funeral. A memorial celebration will take place later this year, details of which will become available in due course, from cleo@paskal.ca].