

# A Meeting of the Russell Study Society (1920)<sup>1</sup>

The Russell Study Society (*Luosu xueshuo yanjiuhui* 羅素學說研究會) was founded by a group of students from Peking University as well as a few others. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, at the preliminary meeting of the society, more than 100 people had already registered as members. On that day, the conclusion of the discussion was that their resolution in spirit alone was not enough for a formal commitment. Therefore, they did not sign the regulations of the society. They decided that all duties and expenses should be shared equally among the members of the society. Functions such as the president, secretary, etc. would not be required at all. Internally the society was divided into Chinese and English sections. Each section would convene once a week. Each time the meeting would be prepared by three members of the society who had been recommended by all members. The inaugural meeting was held on November 28<sup>th</sup> at the seat of the Western Returned Scholars Association (*Ou-Mei tongxuehui* 歐美同學會). Russell was also invited to give guidance and instructions to everyone. The inaugural meeting was attended by Russell, Miss Black, Fu Peiqing (傅佩青), Zhao Yuanren (趙元任) and altogether 39 members of the society. The discussion touched upon the research methodology. Following a debate, a resolution was passed

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1 “*Luosu xueshuo yanjiuhui kaihui* 羅素學說研究會開會.” *Minguo ribao* 民國日報, December 1, 3.

that only those who were able to conduct direct conversations in English were eligible to be selected as members of the English section of the society. At first, Russell raised four topics which ought to be answered by each member of the English section at its weekly meetings, which would be led by Russell himself. The Chinese section would meet every Tuesday at 7 o'clock. Anyone who encountered any difficult and important problems which he himself was unable to solve, would be able to pose the same question to Russell, who would then present the solution to it at a meeting. The meeting was translated by Fu Peiqing and Zhao Yuanren.

*(Translated by Jan Vrhovski)*