Three Mathematicians and a Pathological Liar.

I have draughted three pencil drawings of 3 famous mathematicians. Mathematicians born in the 19th century seem to be very photogenic, especially in the case of their being portrayed in monochrome photographs. I thought that I would write a little about these drawings.

Bram Stoker

Bram Stoker was born in Clontarf, Dublin in 1847. He received a *Baccalaureus Artium* (B.A.) in Mathematics from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1870. The Novel, *Dracula*, is peppered with references to Mathematics. Even the lunatic of the piece, Renfield, "has a good understanding of formal logic," as Doctor Van Helsing remarks!

Bram Stoker died in London in 1912.

Figure 1: The above photograph is what I based my pencil sketch on. See **Figure 2**.

Figure 2: This is my first attempt at pencil-sketching a person. I got an ordinary A4 Sheet of paper, and shaded it in. After that I used my pencil and eraser in trying to capture Bram's image.

George Boole

George Boole was born in Lincoln, England, 1815. Although not strictly speaking Irish, we tend to regard him as being Irish, as he lived in Ireland, and did some of his best work here... kind of like Saint Patrick! He is best known for his writing of *Investigation of Laws of Thought*.

George Boole died – prematurely – in Cork, Ireland, in 1864, at the age of 49. He was outside in the rain and caught his death from pneumonia.

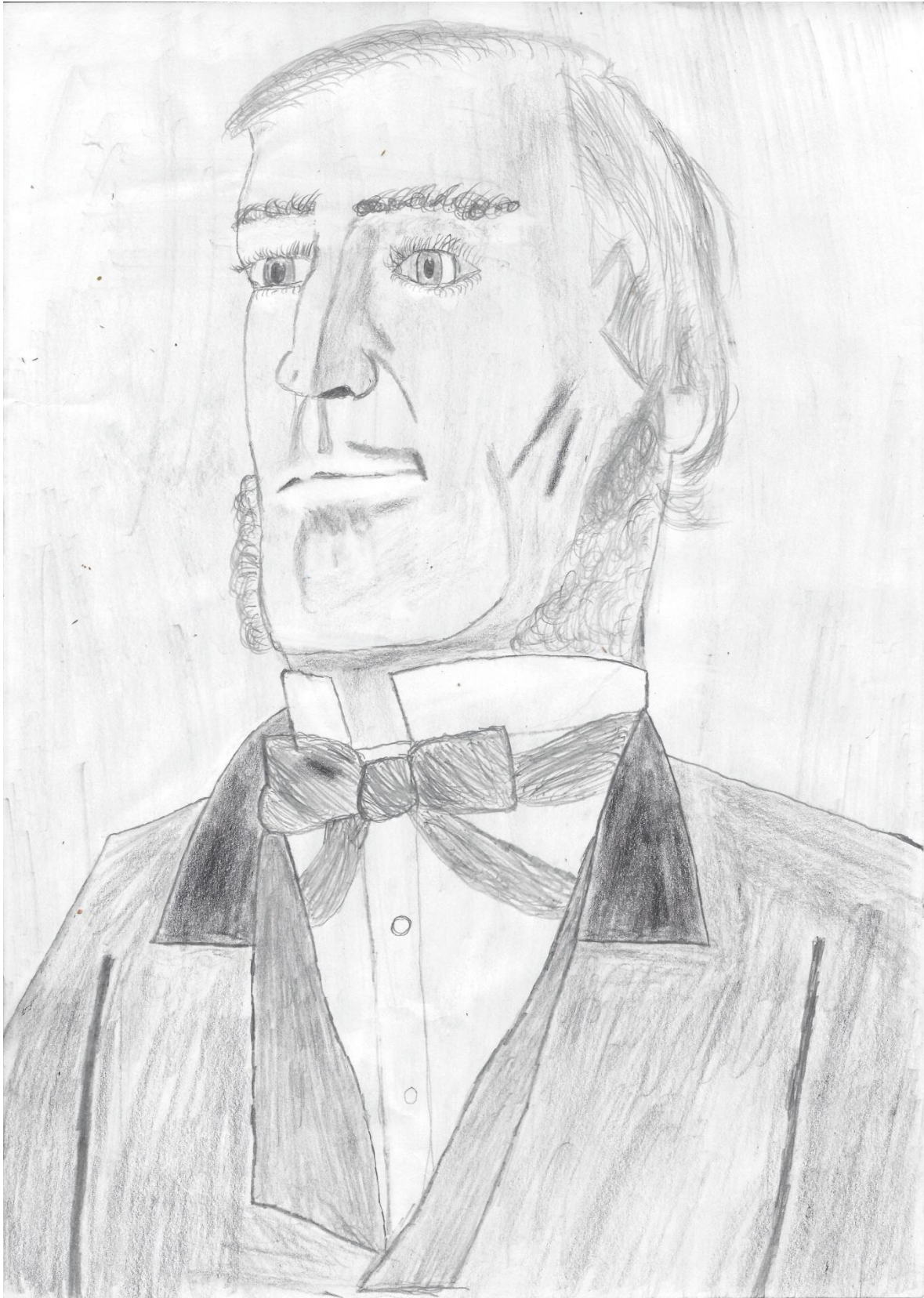**Figure 3:** The image that I based my pencil drawing on.

Figure 4: My second attempt at pencil drawing went a lot better, I feel. I think that I captured a sufficient amount of Boole's essence.

Figure 4 contd.: My Boole seems to be cheerier, somehow, than how he comes across in **Figure 3.** He seems to be wryly smiling about something. I wish that I could say that this was intentional on my part, but that would be lying! **In Figure 3** Boole looks very cheesed off. I must say that I would feel rather annoyed if the Irish Weather had killed me in my intellectual prime!

Bertrand Russell

A formal logician as Boole was. Whereas Boole wrote a book on logic that went by the name of *Investigation of the Laws of Thought* Bertrand Russell's book on formal logic was entitled *Principia Mathematica*. Bertrand Russell was born in 1872 and died in 1970.
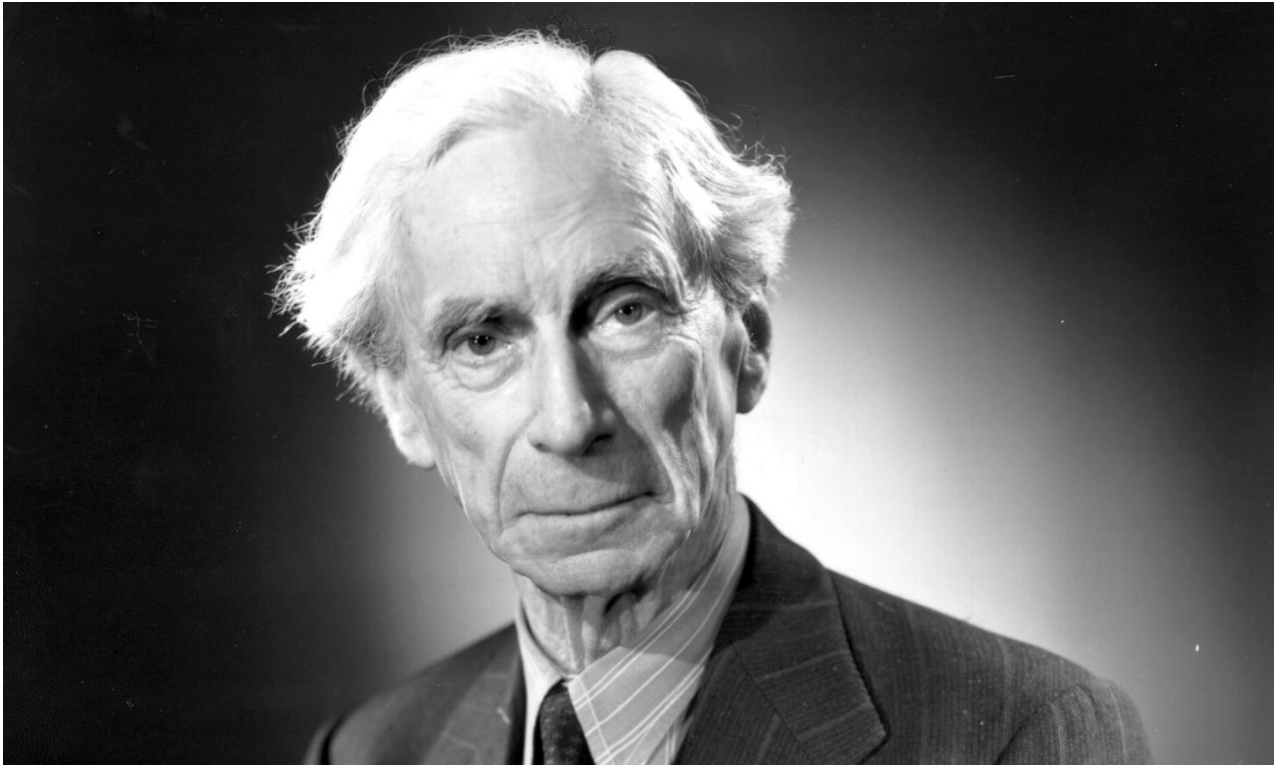
Figure 5: This is the black-and-white photograph of Russell upon which I based my sketch.
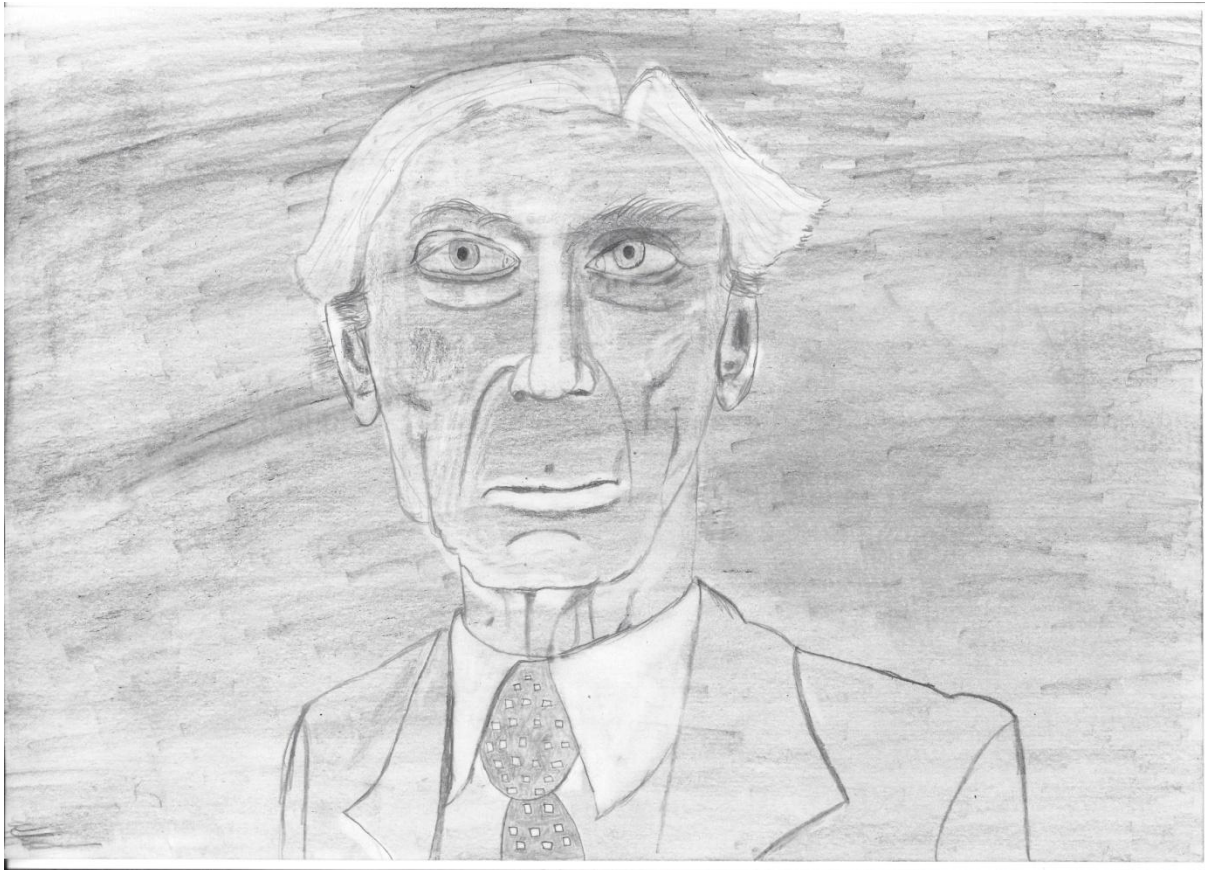
Figure 6: My sketch of Bertrand Russell.

My pencil drawings seem to be getting more refined with every attempt. As I always say: Practice makes passable.

Figure 7: Oakie Doke... because he is an oak tree, geddit? This was a stock-motion cartoon that used to be shown on CBBC in 1995, when I was nine. Oakie Doke, lived in an Oak Tree. He used to be plagued by moles and mice

and other rodent vermin who would come to him looking for assistance in some bother that they had gotten themselves into... as per the theme tune:

"Cross the Dell and ring the bell;

He'll understand!

The friendliest of folk it's Mr Oakie Doke..."

I will now cite Wikipedia regarding Oakie Doke:

"Towards the end of each episode, after Oakie had helped solve the problem, he would state: "Well, it's like I always say...", followed by a rhyming phrase. This phrase would be in relation to the solution of the problem. This was greeted with approving laughter and applause from whoever was present at the time.[1]"

I can tell you one thing: I was not applauding Mr Doke for this. As a nine year old, I was angered to the point of rage by this. I had NEVER heard oakie say this rhyming couplet before, and I had seen every previous episode. Mr Doke was having us on.

Telling lies ain't too "friendly."

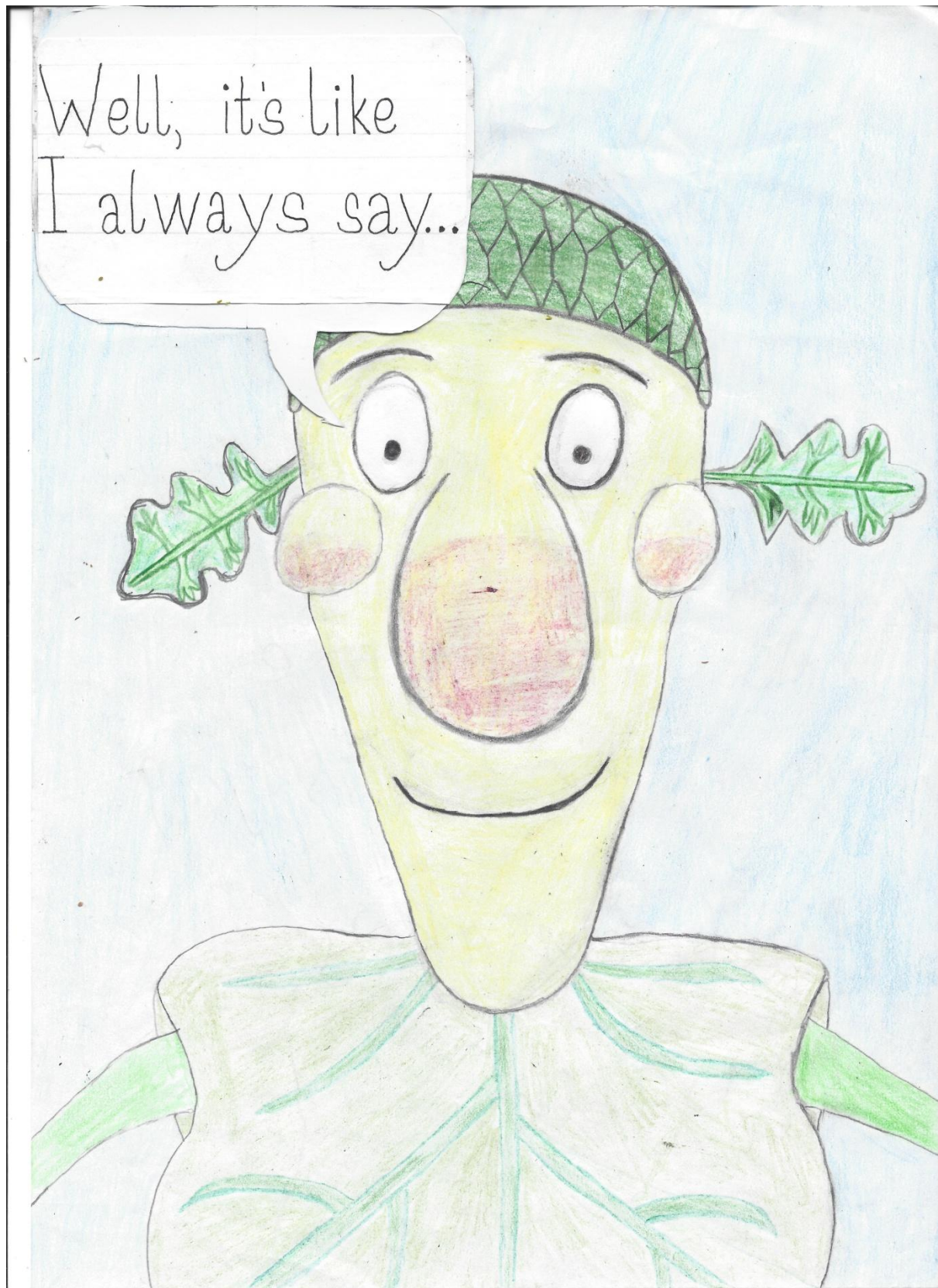[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oakie_Doke

Figure 8: You're such a liar, Oakie! You never said that before in your life!