PEIRCE EDITION PROJECT UPDATE

Volumes 7, 9, 11

W9 We had expected volume 9 to be completed by the end of 2011. That turned out to be too optimistic because the Project experienced personnel complications throughout the spring and summer . Several steps were taken to reduce the impact of those changes on our workflow, in part thanks to the generous help of scholars who have stepped in and volunteered a sizable portion of their time. Still, production of W9 slowed down unavoidably. But an inspection of W9 by the Modern Language Association's Committee for Scholarly Editions has been now requested and will soon be underway, and W9 should be done later this summer.

W11 Work on W11 ("How to Reason: A Critick of Arguments") also slowed down as a result. The text has been fully transcribed and its editing has begun. The principal responsibility for that volume's annotations has been assigned to Dr. Irving Anellis, whose competence as a historian of logic and mathematics is simply prodigious.

W7 PEP-UQAM has made much progress on W7 in Montreal. The electronic platform has evolved into a most astonishing and elegant production solution, and thanks to it and the hard work of Professor François Latraverse's team, Peirce's contributions to the *Century Dictionary* will indeed appear in a very handsome volume. Latraverse will soon retire from UQAM, but he will continue to guide the production of W7 until its completion, which should occur in 2013.

New NEH Grant Application Under Review

We applied last November for a new three-year NEH grant (fall 2012 to summer 2015) and expect to hear back from NEH in July or August. The central budget request in the new application is to fund the position of an Assistant Research Editor, the responsibility of which will focus on manuscript organization and annotations research. This is clearly the Project's most pressing need. Should NEH award us a grant, that position will be immediately advertised; the principal qualification for it will be a Ph.D. in philosophy with a specialization in Peirce.

NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant: A Great STEP

NEH awarded last fall a $50,000 Digital Humanities start-up grant to the Institute for American Thought. That grant is being used to help the Project and the other IAT editions develop an open-source "**S**cholarly **T**ext-**E**diting **P**latform" (STEP).

STEP will allow us to transcribe, critically edit, annotate, format, and lay out Peirce's texts without relying on ever-changing proprietary software. STEP will comply with the international tagging standards dictated by the latest, fifth, edition of the *Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) Guidelines*. STEP is powered by Drupal, a powerful open-source content management system. STEP will eventually offer the following capabilities:

(1) importation of digitized images of original documents for transcription and hyperlinking;
(2) production of exact transcriptions to be stored in a relational database;
(3) enabling the online scholarly editing, annotating, and formatting of texts in a WYSIWYG interface that tracks and archives every iteration of a document through multiple stages of corrections;
(4) linking edited texts to the digitized documents and to their critical editorial apparatus; and
(5) streamlining the conversion of edited texts to fully laid-out and hyperlinked texts readied for online or printed publication.

STEP will reach beta stage in September 2012. IAT Associate Technical Editor Ali Zimmerman had been working on STEP since early 2010. She was joined last October by a new hire: web developer and programmer Shawn Hanes, an able graduate student who is working toward an MS in Human-Computer Interaction. Zimmerman, however, left the IAT in March of this year. As a result Shawn Hanes has been moved into her position and we are in the process of hiring a cadre of informatics students who will be working on the platform and on the Project's website under his direction. Their mis-

sion is to get a beta version of STEP ready for use by September 2012; it will come with an online XML, TEI-compliant, editor that our staff can use to transcribe Peirce's texts and produce any particular volume. Our goal is to make STEP available to any interested scholarly edition when it reaches alpha stage.

CORPUS: Toward a New Dissemination Platform

We have also begun planning a *dissemination* platform. This entails the re-conception of what an electronic critical edition should become in order to be relevant to future generations of researchers. An online critical edition should not be merely an electronic version of the paper volume. Much more than that, it needs to make use of the many technologies that are being developed by national and international institutions in order to provide the scholarship with an array of flexible tools. The platform we are envisioning is meant to satisfy such a condition; we have named it CORPUS (**CO**llaborative **R**esearch **P**latform for **U**sers of **S**cholarly Editions).

CORPUS is intended eventually to fulfill several missions: (1) provide the public at large with electronic access to the content of our critical edition and extra materials; (2) provide an interactive interface allowing scholarly users to conduct research both in collaboration with others and privately; (3) provide users with different levels of privileges allowing them to enhance the electronic product with their own scholarly contributions; (4) institute a quality-assessment system that keeps track of authorized contributors, gauges the quality of their contributions, assesses their impact factor, protects the system's integrity to guarantee a safe and productive scholarly environment, and offers peer-reviewed certifications when needed. The main goal is to stimulate transformative scholarship by turning an online edition into a flexible and expandable, centralizing but non-monopolizing, resource that allows scholars to produce and share their work with the audience that is most in need of it.

IUPUI Internal Grant Newly Awarded

To launch such a long-term endeavor, the Project was recently awarded an internal IUPUI Arts and Humanities grant ($30,000) that will enable collaboration between PEP and the School of Informatics program in Human-Computer Interaction. Together, we will conduct preliminary research regarding how best to design CORPUS so that it may offer scholars means of peer-reviewed interactions that will encourage them to contribute meaningfully to the online edition thanks to the prime incentive of an institutionally endorsed professional accreditation of their work. The specific aims of that research are four:

(1) identifying and researching theoretical and practical issues related to the establishment of a viable and accepted peer-reviewing system within the dissemination platform;
(2) assessing both the desirability and implementability of an array of technological options for users;
(3) conceiving and designing the components of an elaborate end-user interface according to the best principles of human-computer interface (HCI) science so that the dissemination platform can provide users with several gradated options for contributing to the enrichment of the online repository;
(4) outlining the central theoretical and practical aspects of a proposal to the Mellon Foundation.

New International Collaboration in the Works

Along the same line, NEH and Germany's DFG are poised to resume their bilateral digital humanities program over the summer 2012. They will issue a new set of application guidelines, and as soon as these are out the Project will be again working with the "Kolleg-Forschergruppe Bildakt und Verkörperung" at Humboldt University in Berlin. PEP and the KBV collaborated in the fall of 2010 with the Houghton Library on a joint DFG/NEH application that in the end was not funded. But lessons have been learned and NEH has been encouraging, so that we have this time better chance of success. The goal remains to digitize all of the Peirce papers at Harvard in high definition. Fruitful contacts with experts from the Max Planck Institute Digital Library give us reason to think that sophisticated technological solutions currently under development will help us achieve that essential objective.