

NEWS FROM THE PEIRCE EDITION PROJECT

This issue of the “News” will update you, our valued readers and supporters of the Peirce Edition, about the current state of affairs at the Project. It comes with several positive reasons for optimism, and thus for your continued steadfast backing of our mission. — André De Tienne

NEH grant for 2010–2012

To begin merrily, in early June 2010, the National Endowment for the Humanities announced their willingness to offer a grant to the Peirce Project. That was elating news! The Project had applied for a three-year grant at the end of October 2009. On the basis of NEH’s offer, we revised our work-plan and budget, reduced the grant period from three to two years, and rebalanced the production schedule to match the of-

fer’s corresponding range of feasibility. NEH approved the revision one week later, and the happy outcome is that from 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2012, the Project will once again work actively under NEH sponsorship. We are all very pleased with the renewing of NEH’s trust, and are determined to work hard to accomplish our aims.

(See NEH’s Matching Funds, p. 2.)

Our pragmaticist stance

Is there a general consistent philosophy behind the making of the Peirce critical edition? Would it be possible to identify the overall character of our critical approach? Definitely. Over the course of thirty-five years and seven difficult volumes, the Project’s editorial policies have demonstrably evolved in a normative direction influenced by Peirce’s own brand of pragmatism—quite naturally, if not always mindfully.

Let us consider a common experience. The tools of scholarly editing allow us to reconstitute, edit, and eventually craft the printed appearance of heavily revised texts so as to restore them to a condition optimal for fair study. They do not authorize us, however, to write or philosophize in Peirce’s stead. Retracing minutely the many paths Peirce took to express more and more definitely a course of thinking is what we do day in and day out. Years of practice instill a sense of deep familiarity with his writing and thinking patterns across a large range of topics and documents. And yet, any time we get to the bottom of a sheet with a sentence interrupted by the margin, and turn over to the next page only to see that the direct continuation is missing, the question always surfaces: how did Peirce pursue his train of thought? Can we retrieve and recognize the missing text if it is extant?

Even if we may sometimes easily supply the first missing word through a well contextualized guess, beyond that, no amount of familiarity allows editors to supply sure-footedly the absent words: the first portion of the sentence is no springboard toward the reconstitution of the second. Critical editing vividly includes an appreciation for such creative powerlessness. It comes with an ethics that is fundamental to the scholarlyness of our enterprise. We are to show with a balanced mixture of rigorous fidelity to the evidence and concretely reasonable hypotheses what it is that Peirce ended up writing, in what order, and according to what intention as to its ultimate appearance, while also

disclosing the very decisional process that leads to our editorial solutions. A critical edition is thus also, for us its makers, always self-critical.

Over time, we have found that variations on Peirce’s pragmatic maxim provided reliable principles of critical-editorial decisions that, when applied in miscellaneous textual situations, markedly increased both the consistency and the neutrality expected from scholarly editors. Without taking the space to discuss them, here are two examples that illustrate how our editorial practice has led us to apply the pragmatic maxim in ways that we found effective.

(1) The maxim can be used to determine whether any text or document has the kind of significance that would warrant its publication: “Consider whether the omission from publication of the text under consideration would produce an effect that might conceivably hamper, distort, or lessen any reader’s understanding of Peirce’s developing thought. If there is any such conceivable effect, then the text has critical significance and must be further examined to assess whether some other version does not supersede it.”

(2) And it can also be used to define what a critically significant alteration is, which is key to determining which among Peirce’s alterations are worth reporting in our selected lists in the apparatus. (An alteration is any visually detectable or contextually inferable syntactical or semantic discontinuity introduced by an author in a portion of a text after its first partial or complete inscription, whether as an immediate correction made in the process of composition, or as a later revision.) Here is our translation of the maxim: “Consider whether reporting the change of intention manifested in the alteration produces an effect which might conceivably modify a reader’s perception or understanding of the thought process leading to the final reading. If there is any such conceivable effect, then the alteration is critically significant.”

NEH's matching funds

The grant's outright funds allow the Project to hire and pay a good 90% of the salary of an assistant textual editor, the search for whom has just concluded. NEH's offer also includes \$30,000 in matching funds. This means that every dollar the Project raises before the end of May 2012 will be matched by one NEH dollar, up to \$30,000. We encourage everyone—individuals, foundations, institutions—to make as generous a donation as can be afforded, in the confident knowledge that NEH will then provide the equivalent to the Project, all to the benefit of the critical edition.

The matching funds, to the extent that they can be raised, will allow us to complement the new assistant textual editor's salary to a slightly more attractive though still modest level, to hire a graduate assistant

who will help with annotations research and other tasks, and also to pay for indispensable shoe-string travels to the Houghton Library or other archives, so that we can check our transcriptions against original documents. Archival checking is an essential aspect of our task, made more challenging by the fact that university travel funds have been drastically curtailed because of the current unfavorable economic conjuncture.

Please be a part of the NEH matching-fund initiative, remembering simple arithmetic: if you double a contribution set in your mind, NEH will quadruple it. If you triple it—well there is no satisfactory verb for what NEH will then do, but it will be good, and you will be profusely thanked for your generosity.

New technological plans and our new Associate Technical Editor

An important piece in the Project's strategy over the next year is the transition from our current transcription and publishing software (FrameMaker + SGML, no longer supported by Adobe on Macintosh computers) to a web-based open-source TEI-compliant XML-based database/editing/layout platform. Thanks to a technological transfer agreement with the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM), we have begun building on the versatile web-based platform that our dear PEP-UQAM colleagues have successfully developed for Volume 7 (W7). Even though W7 is somewhat different from our other volumes given its dictionary form, the PEP-UQAM platform, known as ePEP3, is a modifiable solution that fits our needs excellently because it can already handle a large variety of documents (philosophical, mathematical, scientific, and graphical). Customization of that platform has become the primary task of the new Associate Technical Editor in the Institute for American Thought (IAT), Ms. Ali Zimmerman.

After Dean William Blomquist generously authorized the IAT in fall 2009 to hire a technical editor, a search committee headed by IAT Director David Pfeifer and composed of representatives from each IAT edition launched a search for the ideal candidate. As luck would have it, we quickly found the rare bird. Ali Zimmerman is very well versed in web-based technologies, and she began working for us in January 2010. Her first act was to fly to Montreal and spend a week in the company of Marc Guastavino and especially Jérôme Vogel, the two programmers and designers of ePEP3, to learn everything about their platform.

The new editing platform will consist of several dynamically linked modules, each directly accessible with a standard browser from any computer connected to the Internet (with proper authorizations). (1) The Database Module will consist of SQL databases that duplicate and enhance the databases we are currently us-

ing to keep track of the reorganization of all manuscripts and of the correspondence. (2) The Transcription Module will capture and store the text in a relational database (SQL), and manage multiple layers of corrections. Its final product will be the "perfected transcription." (3) The Editing Module will lead the transcriptions through the editorial review process, connecting each selection to the different elements of the editorial back matter: annotations, bibliography of Peirce's references, chronological catalogue, headnotes, textual notes, emendations, alterations, and line-end hyphenations. (4) The Layout Module will then allow us to typeset and lay each page of the volume. A series of transformations will be applied to each text to generate a TEI-compliant XML structure compatible with our layout application, Adobe InDesign. These XML files are imported into the layout template, and updated automatically when they are modified via the Layout Module. The images in the text are automatically detected and displayed properly. All formulas and graphics, likewise, are dynamically generated (via LATEX) following the PostScript vector format, and integrated into the template. From InDesign, the volume is finally exported into PDF and printed.

Except for the layout software, all other applications and technologies implemented are open source. The four modules will be integrated within Drupal, a powerful and flexible content management framework and system solution. Besides providing text-version management and quality control, Drupal maximizes platform compatibility and potential for future development. The highly modular structure of the platform will make it also conveniently flexible. The new editing platform will also support a future web-based electronic edition, complete with multiple search, annotation, and cross-reference tools, and links to manuscript images whenever possible.

Search for an Assistant Textual Editor Concluded

We have just hired Ms. April Witt (MA and ABD in Comparative Literature, Indiana University) as our new Assistant Textual Editor. Her role will be to assist our long-time Senior Textual Editor, Jon Eller, in a series of tasks that are essential to the production of our volume's critical apparatus.

What do textual editors do? They must not be confounded with copy editors or academic journal editors. Their skill set is distinctive. Such editors at PEP trace the genealogy of manuscripts bearing on philosophy,

logic, mathematics, and much else; collate parallel texts; identify copy-texts to be used as base-texts in the edition and build an argument for their selection; describe the physical characteristics of a document according to bibliographical standards; edit transcriptions according to critical textual theory; build the scholarly textual apparatus, including the record of editorial interventions, textual notes, rejected substantives; regularize and normalize texts; and maintain the Project's editorial guide as policies and procedures evolve.

Reconfiguration of the Advisory Board

The Project's Advisory Board has recently been reconfigured. We are most thankful to those former members who have faithfully served the Project's mission for many years under the previous leadership: Joseph Brent, Don L. Cook, Klaus Oehler, Israel Scheffler, Michael Shapiro, William Stanley, and James Van Evra. We are equally appreciative of the Board members who will continue to work with the Project: John Barlow, Joseph Dauben, Randall Dipert, Umberto Eco, Susan Haack, Karen Hanson, Robert Hirst, Christopher Hookway, Paul Nagy, Jaime Nubiola, Helmut Pape, Hilary Putnam, Joseph Ransdell, Don D. Roberts, Richard S. Robin, Sandra Rosenthal, Lucia Santaella, and Thomas L. Short. And we have the great pleasure to welcome and greet the following new members: Ivo A. Ibri, Robert E. Innis, Larry Hickman, James J. Liszka, and Michael Raposa.

Under the chairmanship of Vincent Colapietro, the Board fulfills several important roles: it advises the Dean of Liberal Arts about PEP-related administrative and strategic matters; serves as a link between the University and the Peirce community; advises the Project director about the edition (especially text selection and production); promotes the Project in professional venues; and assists with fundraising and development.

IAT News: The Works of Josiah Royce

Besides the Peirce Project, three other editions have been calling the IAT their home: the Santayana Edition, the Frederick Douglass Papers, and the Center for Ray Bradbury Studies. We are pleased to announce the arrival of a fifth family member, even if its presence will be more virtual than that of its older siblings. In summer 2010, the Works of Josiah Royce (1855–1916) became the fifth critical edition established at the Institute.

When, on 27 May 1892, Peirce wrote to Royce to urge him to study logic, he (unsuccessfully) invited him and his family to spend the summer in Milford, so that the two philosophers could work their way through logic to the advantage, as Peirce put it with uncanny prescience, of "those who in the 21st century may study your future books." Interest in Royce has lately increased considerably, as evidenced by a rising number of doctoral dissertations, the creation of the dynamic Josiah Royce Society, and the regular organization of paper sessions at major philosophical conferences. For those in our century who want to study Royce's books and have access to his many unpublished manuscripts, the imperative of a critical edition became more and more pressing. An ad-hoc committee composed of the most distinguished Royce scholars was formed, a plan was established, massive research was undertaken at the main repository of Royce's papers at the Harvard Pusey Library, which led to the

compilation of a comprehensive catalog of extant documents by Professor Frank Oppenheim. Professor Randall Auxier (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale) was named General Editor of the critical edition. IAT Director Pfeifer offered the assistance and expertise of the Institute and proposed it as an institutional basis for the edition. His offer was accepted enthusiastically by the Royce Edition committee, and formal agreements were hammered out among institutions.

The result is that the Royce critical edition will be administered by the IAT, while the editing of the Royce texts will be conducted in several other locations. David Pfeifer directs the edition in Indianapolis. Dewey Center staff members will be detached to do the critical textual editing. Editors for each volume are specialists based in different universities. In compliance with current trends and NEH requirements for new grant applications (an application is in the works), this edition will be digital from start to finish, and the IAT will supply the technological know-how. The IAT will be the repository for the paper copies of all relevant Royce documents and will be the computer center for receiving, posting, and hosting all the materials of the edition. The resulting digital volumes will be available online, hosted by Indiana University. The IUPUI and SLA administrations provided initial funding to launch the edition.

Matthew Moore and Peirce's Philosophy of Mathematics

We previously announced the launch of “Selections from the Writings of Charles S. Peirce,” an Indiana University Press series of PEP-sponsored books that seek to complement the critical edition's efforts in publishing Peirce. We are now very pleased to announce the summer publication of the first book that inaugurates that series.

The book (xli + 290 pages) is titled *Philosophy of Mathematics: Selected Writings*, by Charles S. Peirce, and edited by Professor Matthew E. MOORE (Brooklyn College), well known for his interest in Peirce's philosophy of mathematics, and especially Peirce's interactions with Cantor's works on continuity. This book took many years of careful preparation and deep thinking. The result is truly impressive and should attract considerable attention. It is conceived in the same spirit as the two volumes of *The Essential Peirce*, to which it constitutes a worthy companion. It begins with a substantial and engaging introduction that discusses both the role mathematics plays in Peirce's philosophy, and the many lessons Peirce can still teach us today, philosophers and mathematicians alike, through his own approaches, methods, and perspectives, all of which are anchored in an epistemic and metaphysical system that is far from having fallen into obsolescence. The book continues with twenty-nine selections organized chronologically within six rough groupings (rough because Peirce's texts escape mono-categorization). The majority of selections are excerpts from longer documents, and their lengths vary from very short to not very long. In selections 1–4, Peirce discusses the nature of mathematics as a science and

its place in human knowledge, including the classification of sciences; selections 5–10 treat of mathematical ontology and epistemology, including the role of diagrams; selections 11–13 treat of the methods and objects of set (collection) theory; selections 14–15 of arithmetic (its analytical but also experiential nature, and the semiotics of it); selections 16–17 of geometry (topology, and the metaphysics of its *entia*); and finally selections 18–29—more than a third of the Peirce text—are devoted to all things synechistic: multi-angled discussions of continuity, infinites, and infinitesimals make the latter part of the volume a convenient gathering of essential pronouncements from a philosopher who held synechism to be the key to every fundamental hypothesis. Important to mention with much praise is that Moore has prefaced each selection with generous introductory comments that testify to his ingrained helpfulness: all usefully illuminate the selections they introduce, summarizing them, explaining unusual terms, or mapping the texts' sometimes intricate structure. Thirty-five pages of well-researched notes to the text follow the selections and precede a serviceable bibliography and an index.

We heartily congratulate Matthew Moore on this signal accomplishment and momentous service to Peirce studies, and we look forward to the forthcoming publication of his related edition of *New Essays on Peirce's Mathematical Philosophy* (Open Court), a collection of articles by a roster of the best specialists in the field. *Philosophy of Mathematics* is available in both paperback (\$29.95 at Indiana University Press) and hardcover (\$80.00).

Staff news

- Two long-time employees, Diana REYNOLDS and Joseph KAPOSTA, were promoted to Senior Editorial Associates, and their positions were administratively reclassified to reflect more adequately the nature of their scholarly contributions. In March, Diana presented an M.A. thesis on Harriet Jacobs and we are all proud of her subsequent graduation. Diana and Joe are the two staff members that constitute the core of our production team: their principal work is to transcribe the Peirce copy-texts, team-proofread them multiple times until transcriptions are perfected, ready them for critical editing, insert editors' emendations, build the apparatus with the lists provided by the editors, proofread all editorial texts, and bring each volume to physical completion. These are tremendous tasks, and we are grateful to both for carrying them out.
- The Project has always benefited from the assistance of graduate students to conduct a variety of tasks, principally accumulating the raw materials (proper-names identification and quotation sources) for our annotations. We are thankful to Bonnie SEITZER, who is now at work on an M.A. thesis on Peirce's proof of pragmatism, and to Steve TAKACS, for all that they contributed to the Project during the last academic year. We look forward to working with their successors, Monica MORRISON and Derek COATNEY.

The Writings of Charles S. Peirce are produced by the following core editorial team:

André De Tienne, Director & General Editor
Jonathan Eller, Textual Editor
Cornelis de Waal, Associate Editor
April Witt, Assistant Textual Editor

Diana D. Reynolds, Senior Editorial Associate
Joseph Kaposta, Senior Editorial Associate
Ali Zimmerman, Associate Technical Editor
Luise Morton, Research Associate

Current progress

W8 came out in December 2009, and we welcomed its weighty physical embodiment with a contented sigh of relief. There is something to be said about the passage from virtual electronic substance to concrete being: it's a categorically positive experience. We hope our readers will appreciate the volume for both its Peirce content and the massive amount of scholarship that accompanies it. We encourage readers to buy copies from the first print run, for they are more handsomely bound and printed than those produced through the print-on-demand system that sets in once the first print run is exhausted.

Over the last year, the Project has continued to work on W9 (August 1892 to early summer 1893) and W11 (*How to Reason: A Critick of Arguments*, 1894). We described their content in last year's issue of the "News." It had been calculated that W9 would have been finished by this summer, but delays were incurred in the textual editing of the volume. This situation will begin to improve once our new assistant textual editor has been hired and trained. We now anticipate completion of W9 by the end of March 2011. Production of W11 has made good progress and we are expecting to bring it to publication in 2012.

The volume we intend to bring to publication after W11 is not W10, but W22, slated to contain the Lowell Lectures of 1903. These texts count amongst Peirce's most important writings, but have never been published in their entirety before. W22 will be the first volume produced on the new electronic platform that Ali Zimmerman is busy constructing. Professor Helmut Pape will write the introduction to that vol-

ume; we have together prepared and just submitted a grant application that would greatly facilitate our collaboration toward that introduction. We will first review and finalize the organization of the documents prepared by Professor Pape. This research will involve fine-tuning the entire set of hypotheses that has driven the identification of each document and its genealogical positioning within a prodigiously complex nest of manuscripts. There are numerous drafts, variants, discards, multiply-recycled pages within and among numerous notebooks that were labeled and relabeled unclearly according as Peirce kept revising and readjusting the content and order of his lectures until the last minute before public delivery. The manuscript base for the famous companion "Syllabus" is only slightly less complex. Once all of this is sorted out, the table of contents will be finalized. XML transcriptions will be done in a dedicated software while waiting for the new platform's Transcription module to be completed. We are counting on finishing W22 by the end of 2013 (which is outside the period of the current NEH grant).

As to W7, the Project will reap the benefit of the considerable work done by PEP-UQAM. Professor François Latraverse's team is busy completing Phase 2 of the project (with the support of a grant from Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council). If all goes well, W7 should reach publication in early 2012, at about the same time as W11. The editorial guidelines PEP-UQAM follows are nearly identical to our own; variations are related to the dictionary nature of the volume, which requires careful application of critical edition principles.

Indianapolis Peirce Seminar series

Scholarly activities abound at the Peirce Project, and one that we particularly relish is listening to the presentations made by our visitors in our conference room. The "Indianapolis Peirce Seminar" is the name of that series, whose regularity corresponds to the rhythm of visitors willing to share with us the latest state of their research. Presentations are followed by a heavy round of questioning, commenting, objecting, and sometimes agreeing, and a capping dinner at the university restaurant allows everyone to recover amicably. The IAT has a similar series with the same formula.

Over the last academic year, we had the pleasure to hear and discuss with the following speakers:

- 10 September 2009 (Peirce's birthday): John Shook, on "Peircean Arguments for God and Current Theological Strategies."
- 19 November 2009: Randy Auxier on "Two Kinds of Pragmatism."
- 3 December 2009: J. Lee Auspitz on "The Semiotic Switch: A Computational Embodiment of Sign Element Theory (Stechiotic)."
- 21 January 2010: Ana Maria Guimarães Jorge on "Mental Action and the Pre-Gnosiological Basis for the Proto-Diagram Concept."
- 4 February 2010: Susan Haack on "Pragmatism, Then and Now."
- 25 March 2010: Daniel Huebner on "Constructing George Herbert Mead's book *Mind, Self, and Society*."
- 8 April 2010: Jim Wible on "Peirce, Newcomb, and Ely and the Issues Surrounding the Creation of the American Economic Association in the 1880s."
- 29 June 2010: Cathy Legg on "The Hardness of the Iconic Must: Can Peirce's Existential Graphs Assist Modal Epistemology?"

Ivo A. Ibrí presents the Centro de Estudos de Pragmatismo at PUC, São Paulo

The Center for Pragmatism Studies (CPS) within the Program of Graduate Studies in Philosophy at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, Brazil, was founded in 1998 by Prof. Ivo A. Ibrí and is currently completing 13 years of activity. It was created to gather students and researchers in classical and contemporary pragmatism and related philosophical disciplines.

Owing to the main research focus of its founder, the CPS has given special emphasis to the work of Charles Peirce, and since its inception it has trained a significant number of researchers specializing in Peirce's thought. The CPS has organized study groups around three concentrations: pragmatism and logic, pragmatism and ethics, and pragmatism and esthetics; they provide topics for M.A. and Ph.D. dissertations in the graduate program to which the CPS is academically connected.

It was also in 1998 that the CPS organized the first annual Meeting on Pragmatism, initially only with Bra-

zilian professors. From 2000 on, the Meetings became the annual *International Meeting on Pragmatism (IMP)*, as the conference began inviting international scholars.

In 2000, the journal *Cognitio* was issued for the first time. Its aim is to publish essays in the field of pragmatism with contributions coming from the IMPs. *Cognitio* has today become a notable publication of the CPS with two annual volumes, and has garnered excellent national and international recognition. The CPS also publishes the on-line journal *Cognitio-Estudios*. It provides access to papers from students and recent MAs or PhDs—mostly short presentations at the IMPs.

The CPS plans to keep and expand all these activities, together with an intense interchange with other international centers, contributing an approach to pragmatism that is deeply committed to a permanent dialogue with the history of philosophy. The next IMP will take place from 7 to 11 November 2011.

Orders of Infinity



Here is an unpublished sheet from Peirce's first draft of his treatise on metaphysics of the early 1860s (R 921: ISP 69). Readers will appreciate the significance of this pre-Cantorian text, written when Peirce had no access to Bolzano's posthumous 1851 *Paradoxien des Unendlichen*.

The Orders of Mathematical Infinity.

1860 July 13.

It now becomes perfectly easy to remove the objection which perhaps was felt against my making Mathematical & Theological Infinity the same, because the former having *orders* would seem either not to be infinity at all or at least a very different kind of infinity from the latter. For it can now be seen how this idea of order of infinity arises in mathematics without giving infinity any different definition from that which it has in the category, which I showed in the essay just referred to was the definition it had in theology—both Natural & Rational.

In mathematics then the term order, applied to infinity, implies that infinite quan/ti/ties are not all equally large & that one may even be infinitely larger than the other. The reasoning by which these conclusions are reached is as follows.

Since infinite extensive quantities are still extensive quan/ti/ties, whatever is true of extensive quan/ti/ties in general is true of those that are infinite. So that

1st Since if a & b are extensive quantities & if $b > 0$, $b + a > a$ it follows that since $\infty > 0$ we may make $a = \infty_{No1}$, $b = \infty_{No2}$ & then $\infty_{No1} + \infty_{No2} > \infty_{No1}$; but from the nature of infinity (that it is Perfect in degree) $\infty_{No1} + \infty_{No2} = \infty_{No3}$ $\therefore \infty_{No3} > \infty_{No1}$ or all infinity is not equal.

2nd In the same way from the formulae $a > b$, & $i^a : i^b = i^{a-b} : 1$ we deduce $\infty_{No1} / \infty_{No2} = \infty_{No3}$.

All which reasoning is in accordance with the principles of the last essay.

International visiting researchers

A steady stream of budding or established researchers comes to the Project every year, for short or long stays. We are very welcoming, for we enjoy providing this essential service to the scholarly community. Dedicated learners are welcome to contact us and arrange for a visit of any length. Neither the Project nor the IAT can provide financial assistance to visitors, but we do provide a desk and computer access, and we may also provide an office to long-term visiting researchers (on a first come basis). Visitors have access to the large Max H. Fisch library, to copies of all known Peirce documents found in archival depositories, and to a large mass of research our faculty and staff have accumulated over decades.

Two of our recent visitors from Italy, who both stayed with us for half a year, wrote each a testimony about their experience at the Peirce Project; their good words are printed below. Other recent visitors have included Ana Maria Guimarães Jorge (Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo, Brazil), Benjamin Meyer-Kramer (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany), Ivan Mladenov (Bulgaria), Marta Morgade (Madrid, Spain), Iris Smith-Fischer (U. of Kansas), Dorothea Sophia (Australia), Cathy Legg (New Zealand), James Wible (U. of New Hampshire), Charles Seibert (U. of Cincinnati), and Matthew Moore (Brooklyn College).

Over the next six months we are expecting visitors from Germany, Italy, and Japan.

1. PROFESSOR GIOVANNI MADDALENA teaches philosophy at the University of Molise in Campobasso, Italy. He has worked for many years on American philosophy, with a special focus on Peirce and the classical pragmatists. His research mainly concerns the comparison between pragmatism and contemporary epistemology: theory of reference, rationale of hypothesis, relationship between logic and metaphysical realism. He has produced several significant monographs (including *Istinto razionale: Studi sulla semiotica dell'ultimo Peirce*, Torino 2003, and *Metafisica per assurdo*, Soveria Mannelli 2009), as well as a host of articles in international journals. He edited, translated and introduced a large Italian anthology of Peirce's works: *C. S. Peirce, Scritti scelti* (2005, 2009). He is a founding editor of the electronic *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*. As the recipient of a Fulbright Research Scholar fellowship, he stayed six months in Indianapolis, from February 1 to July 31, 2010. Here is his cordial testimony:

“Is God a super-generality or a super-individual, a widespread ghost or an absolute photon that time and space cannot catch? Did Paul the octopus exercise his guessing instinct so successfully at the last World Cup because the universe is predetermined or because of a complex semiotic pattern that animals, especially tentacled ones, are sensitive to? Are American alcohol laws the fruit of a nominalistic approach to philosophy? Is geography fundamental to an adequate understanding of philosophers?”

There are more issues you can discuss at the Peirce Project, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy! As everybody knows, PEP is one of the best places in the world for studying Peirce. I learned it twelve years ago during my doctoral research and I can confirm it again after spending six months on a Fulbright. But twelve years ago I did not realize that PEP's greatness is not only due to the easy access to manuscripts, the richness of Max Fisch's slips, the cautious and thorough kind of scholarship apprehended from critical editors. Greatness

is also creativity but there is no creativity without constant questioning. PEP's staff is a terrific help, a continuous challenge to match philosophy and life, personal beliefs and cultural variety, 'world and individual.'

During my Fulbright I wrote three papers on 'perfect gesture'—the semiotic, Peirce-driven understanding of a real synthetic judgment, forged upon the mathematical conception of continuity, the iconic logic of existential graphs, and the transition among modalities. I also checked the Italian translation of a selection of the Peirce-James correspondence that I edited with Marco Annoni, due out in September. I read tons of secondary literature books that IAT's rich library offers thanks to the Fisch, Eisele, Weiss, and Morris donations. Fortunately enough, those great scholars also loved theater, novels, and mystery books. Creativity stems from dialogue with geniuses of every kind in any field.

Between laughter and a seminar on American philosophy you can get over Indy's humidity and cold, the not exactly Italian style of Indiana life, and the landscape of a large basement. I was glad to use the set of household supplies left by Priscila Borges for long-term visitors, and I completed it with other items, so that it is easier to get by. The community of inquirers has never been so effective and funny.”

2. FRANCESCO POGGIANI is a student from the University of Milan, Italy, where he studies under the direction of Professor Rossella Fabbrichesi. He is an excellent example of a young and eager student who came to the Peirce Project armed with a promising thesis project, and who after six months returned home having studied and learned an enormous amount of material, along with an elaborate plan for a much sharpened thesis, and drafts of chapters that were solidly written and leading clearly toward a satisfactory outcome. While at IUPUI (from January 11 to July 16, 2010), Francesco followed De Tienne's graduate seminar on Peirce and Royce. His is a success story other students might want to replicate.

“An extensive study of Maurice Blondel's great work, *L'Action* (1893), made me want to dig more deeply into the concept of action and to probe its particular position within the general thought process. This is how I came across the philosophy of Charles Sanders Peirce for the first time. Before I could even understand precisely a single statement of his great article “On a New List of Categories,” I became instantly fascinated by the greatness of his mind and the deepness of his thought. For this reason I asked Professor Rossella Fabbrichesi to direct my M.A. thesis on Peirce, and she accepted. With her agreement, I asked André De Tienne's permission to spend a semester of study at the PEP, and I was kindly welcomed at no cost. Professor De Tienne invited me to attend his seminar on Peirce's and Royce's idealisms. I was amazed by his deep comprehension of those authors, and especially by his capacity to put them into relation, not only with each other, but also with the entire tradition of philosophy. Thanks to his lessons and to the many personal conversations I was fortunate to have both with him and his colleague and friend Giovanni Maddalena (who happened to stay at the Project during the same period), I tried to gain a more comprehensive approach to the philosophy of Peirce. After four months I started writing my thesis, which aims to give an account of the concept of *sound reasoning* in the development of Peirce's theory of pragmatism. This period of study allowed me not only to gain a wider and deeper knowledge of Peirce's philosophy, but especially also to improve my general method of study: I learned that to understand a concept one must not only grasp the general idea that drives it to our mind, but also follow the development of that idea by observing all its conceivable effects in our experience, as Peirce would say. I further discovered that this level of comprehension is reached only when the words of the philosopher become the object of our mind's loyal and continuous consideration. I am very thankful to André De Tienne and to the whole staff of the Peirce Project, as well as to the director of the Institute David Pfeifer, without whose continuous and generous help this experience would not have been possible. I am looking forward to seeing what kind of fruit the method I learned during these months will come to bear.”



PEIRCE EDITION PROJECT

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