

# PEIRCE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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## COMING ATTRACTIONS:

### *Peirce's Work for the Century Dictionary*

How did Peirce define "continuity"? What did he mean by "abduction," "dialogism," "homogeneity," "phenomenon"? One way to find out is by studying the many manuscripts in which he wrote about or used those concepts. Another way is by consulting the *Century Dictionary*, for which he wrote or passed judgment on, by his own estimation, about 16,100 definitions (MS 1163: 2). Peirce spent many years of his life laboriously crafting definitions for the C.D., so much so that no student of his work can possibly afford to overlook such a significant resource. An important selection of Peirce's contributions to the C.D. is slated to appear in vol. 7 of the critical edition. The complexity of the available materials is such that some years of work will be required before W7 can appear, and the volume will thus be published out of sequence. This article aims to describe the scope of Peirce's dictionary work, and to explain the various editing problems awaiting us in the coming decade.

Peirce nurtured a lifelong interest in dictionaries and lexicography, and more generally in the classification of words. Knowledge of words and the ability to classify them requires long training, a truth the scholastically minded Peirce had learned quite early in his career (he developed such a respect for the history and proper usage of words that he wrote up an "ethics of terminology"). There are many documents that lay out his views about spelling, grammar, and etymology, views that are frequently relieved on a background of comparative linguistics. No word could be either explained or defined without a thorough knowledge of its history and usage, and that conviction certainly contributed to turn Peirce into one of the most thorough lexicographers of his time.

The Century Co. emerged from Scribner's & Co., a subsidiary of Charles Scribner's & Sons, and was founded in 1881 by Roswell Smith, an Indiana lawyer and a major Scribner's & Co. stockholder. Smith bought the subsidiary (renaming it in honor of New York's well known Century Club) so that he could start publishing books and not just the *Scribner's Monthly* magazine (a contractual limitation that was too profit-hampering). The magazine evolved into the very successful *Century Illustrated Magazine*. But the C.D. was to be the new company's largest and most significant undertaking. Smith had purchased the American rights to Charles Annandale's enlarged edition of John Ogilvie's *Imperial Dictionary* (based on *Webster's Dictionary*, and first published in England in 1852) from Blackie & Son of Glasgow some time in 1881 or 1882, and the Century Co. published an American edition of the *Imperial* in 1883. Early in 1882 however, Smith proposed that the Century Co. adapt the *Imperial* to American needs, turning it into the most comprehensive and detailed American dictionary ever made. Smith appointed the great philologist William Dwight Whitney as editor-in-chief, and made his own relative Benjamin E. Smith (who succeeded Whitney in 1894) managing editor. B.E. Smith was a graduate assistant at the Johns Hopkins University at the time, and although he was not Peirce's student he had presented two papers at the Metaphysical Club in February and March 1882. It seems likely that it was at Johns Hopkins, some time in 1882, that B.E. Smith recruited Peirce to become one of the main editorial contributors to the C.D. Peirce began working on definitions in 1883 and in the fall of that year, probably with the dictionary in mind, he added a new course on philosophical terminology (see Nathan Houser's Introduction in W4: lvi). Peirce was made responsible for six subject areas (only two other contributors were responsible for as many areas): logic, metaphysics, mathematics,

## EDITIONS JOIN PEIRCE EDITION PROJECT IN INDIANAPOLIS

The George Santayana Papers and the Frederick Douglass Papers have joined the Peirce Edition Project in Indianapolis, making Indiana University's School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI an international center for academic editing. The Douglass Edition moved to IUPUI last summer and the Santayana Edition will move this summer. Taken together, the resources of these three editions constitute a diverse and important scholarly collection in American thought and culture and provide a unique opportunity for students and researchers.

Herman Saatkamp, Jr., Professor of Philosophy, is director of the Santayana Project and the general editor of *The Works of George Santayana*. He moved to Indianapolis to become Dean of the IU School of Liberal Arts, and he brought the Santayana Edition with him. *The Works of George Santayana* is a 20-volume critical edition published by MIT Press and supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Four volumes of the series have been published: *Persons and Places*, *The Sense of Beauty*, *Interpretations of Poetry and Religion*, and *The Last Puritan*.

John McKivigan, Professor of History, is director and editor of the Douglass Edition. Five volumes have been published so far, representing the best of more than 6,000 speeches delivered by Douglass. The Douglass Edition, published by Yale University Press, is also supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Although the three editions are to some extent competing for the same funds, both within the university and without, their combined significance as a resource center for textual editing and for American thought should, at least in the long run, attract support. The Peirce Project welcomes the Douglass and Santayana Editions!



IUPUI Editors: Nathan Houser, Herman Saatkamp Jr., and John McKivigan