

BOOK NOTES

In this section we publish short descriptive notices of new books about Peirce or subjects likely to interest our readers. We cannot survey all new publications or prepare critical reviews, so we notice only those books sent by authors and publishers. When available, we reprint notices supplied with the books (often edited and supplemented with text from prefaces or introductions); otherwise we prepare our own brief announcements. Please note: we notice books only if they are sent as review copies to be deposited in the Project library. Prices and ISBNs are given when available.

His Glassy Essence: an Autobiography of Charles Sanders Peirce

Kenneth Laine Ketner.
Vanderbilt University Press, 1998. 416 pp.
ISBN 8-8265-1313-1

This is the first of a planned three-volume life of Peirce; it deals mainly with Peirce's first twenty-eight years and focuses on little-known aspects of his life. Inspired by Walker Percy, who himself was absorbed by the life and writings of Peirce, Ketner adopts a narrative strategy that lets Peirce tell his own early life story. Ketner weaves the voluminous components of an intellectual biography that are scattered throughout Peirce's published and unpublished writings into a novelistic account that reads like a mystery. There is a lot here for the seasoned Peirce scholar as well as for the student and general reader. Some manuscript texts and many letters are published for the first time. Ketner's solutions to some of the puzzles of Peirce's life, while sure to create some controversy, are always fascinating and stimulating. Ketner warns his readers to beware of Peirce's "transforming power" and it seems clear that he hopes his book will be an instrument for the conveyance of that power. Interested readers should give Ketner's book a chance by reading it straight through as it was written, neither skipping the sometimes lengthy quoted passages nor ignoring the thought experiments readers are asked to perform. The book is intended to present Peirce in a new light.

Philosophy in Experience; American Philosophy in Transition

Richard E. Hart and Douglas R. Anderson (eds.)
Fordham University Press, 1997,
xi + 281 pp. \$30.00; \$18.00
ISBN 0-8232-1630-6 (Cloth)
ISBN 0-8232-1631-4 (Paper)

This collection of essays aims to make explicit the transition into which American Philosophy is currently engaged, so as to mark out its place as philosophy enters the twenty-first century. The volume, which appears in the American Philosophy Series, contains thirteen essays, and concentrates on the themes of self, community, meaning, interpretation, and metaphysics. Included with essays by the editors are ones by Thomas Alexander, Gary Calore, James Campbell, Vincent Colapietro, Robert Corrington, Carl Hausman (the introduction), Felicia Kruse, Armen Marsoobian, John Ryder, John Stuhr, and Kathleen Wallace. There is no index.

The Metaphysics of Experience; A Companion to Whitehead's Process and Reality

Elizabeth Kraus
Fordham University Press, 1998 (2nd revised edition), xxi + 200 pp. \$35; \$17
ISBN 0-8232-1795-7 (Cloth)
ISBN 0-8232-1796-5 (Paper)

Kraus refers to her book as a "sherpa guide" to Whitehead's *Process and Reality*. She begins with a presentation of the nature of process philosophy and of the linguistic difficulties surrounding *Process and Reality*. Chapter two presents an overview of Whitehead's initial, non-technical formulation of the philosophy of organism in *Science and the Modern World*. The remainder of the book closely follows the structural divisions of *Process and Reality*, so that it can be read concurrently with it.

The Metaphysics of Experience is not a "Whitehead made easy." Anyone who wants to confront *Process and Reality* still should prepare for some serious climbing. With Kraus as a guide, however, one definitely gets to climb with the best.

Woman Philosophers

Mary Warnock (ed.)
Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc., 153 Milk Street,
Boston, MA 02109-4809, 1996. xxvii +
301 pp. \$8.50
ISBN 0-460-87721-6 (Paper)

This collection of selections from seventeen women philosophers begins with Ann Conway (1631-1679) and ends with Susan Haack (1945-). Among those included are Mary Wollstonecraft, L. Susan Stebbings, and G. E. M. Anscombe. Peirce scholars will be pleased by the incorporation of The Hon. Victoria Lady Welby.

Warnock's criterion for identifying a woman as a philosopher is concern for matters of significant generality together with being at home among abstract ideas. She takes David Hume as a good example of such a person from mainstream philosophy. Despite his never having held a position as an academician, he passionately confronted the ideas of other philosophers, arguing for his own theories. Warnock argues that the women herein included are philosophers cut from Hume's cloth — generalizing, explaining and arguing rationally.

Also of particular interest is Warnock's parallel chronologies of the lives of women philosophers and of the cultural and historical events. One almost-humorous chronological match, for example is the publication of Susan Haack's *Deviant Logic* (1974) opposite "(1974) Watergate scandal."

Pragmatism, an Annotated Bibliography (1898-1940)

John R. Shook
Rodopi, 1998, xxx + 615 pp. \$ 155
ISBN 90-420-0269-7 (Cloth)

This valuable volume contains no less than 2,794 bibliographical entries (not including reviews), most of which are annotated. The annotations range from three lines to about five pages for James's *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. They also contain references and summaries of reviews of the entry. The book comes with a thorough author and subject index. The former shows that 33 articles by Peirce are included (including reviews); the latter that he is mentioned in only 80 entries/annotations. There are about 90 entries for writings of William James (again including reviews) and he is mentioned in over 250 entries/annotations.

The bibliography comes with an introduction describing the criteria for selection, research method, as well as short accounts of the development of pragmatism in Cambridge, Chicago, Britain, Italy, France and Germany.

Signum um Signum; Elizabeth Walther-Bense zu Ehren

Udo Bayer, Karl Gfesser, and Jukiane Hansen (eds.)
Agis-Verlag, 1997, 383 pp.

A Festschrift dedicated to the seventy-fifth birthday of Elisabeth Walther-Bense, and contains a bibliography of her work. Four essays discuss aspects of Peirce's semeiotics: Gérard Deledalle, "Peirce, Les Catégories et les Signes;" Georg Nees, "Die Blindschleichen, das Eisenerz und die Zeichen;" Frue Cheng, "Neue Darstellung der Zeichenoperationen;" Hariss Kidwaii, "Die Basistheorie der Semiotik und die Kleine 'Matrix;" and, Karl Herrmann in "Anwendung semiotischer Vorstellung zur Erzeugung erkenntnistheoretischer Modelle." Cheng seeks to develop a visual representation of the three operations of the sign (adjunction, superisation, and iteration), by using the Chinese alphabet, Chinese opera, and garbage disposal at subway stations as examples. The paper contains an extensive discussion of Peirce's categories. Herrman begins by regrouping Kant's system in terms of triads, after which he uses these triads to analyze and schematize the reactions of Fichte, Schelling, Hegel, and Marx to the Kantian philosophy.