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.

Signs Grow: Semiosis and Life Processes

Floyd Merrell
University of Toronto Press, 1996, 356 pp.
ISBN 0-8020-7142-2 (paper), $24.95

Signs Grow is the third volume of Merrell's trilogy on signs, which began with *Signs Becoming Signs* and *Semiosis in the Postmodern Age.* Whereas the first two volumes concentrate on the firstness and the secondness of the sign respectively, *Signs Grow* explores the thirdness of the sign. Elaborating on Peirce's doctrine of the man-sign, Merrell argues that after they are "born," signs begin to grow "in a twisting, turning world of ordered complexity, of chaotic harmony," in the course of which they go through puberty, mature, survive midlife crises, so as to finally become senile and fade away. Merrell's book is a strangely fascinating blend of Peircean semiotics and post-modern insights that is intensely stimulating.

The Essential Peirce, Vol. 2

The Peirce Edition Project
Indiana University Press, 1998, xxxviii + 584 pp.
ISBN 0-253-33397-0 (cloth), $39.95
ISBN 0-253-21190-5 (paper), $24.95

This book, which completes the two-volume *Essential Peirce,* provides the first comprehensive anthology of Peirce's mature philosophy. During his later years, Peirce worked unremittingly to integrate new insights and discoveries into his general system of philosophy and to make his major doctrines fully coherent within that system. A central focus of this volume is Peirce's evolving theory of signs and its application to his pragmatism. Included are thirty-one pivotal texts, beginning with "Immortality in the Light of Synechism" (in which Peirce proposes synechism—the tendency to regard everything as continuous—as a key advance over materialism, idealism, and dualism) and ending with Peirce's late and unfinished investigations of the relative merits of different kinds of reasoning. Peirce's *Harvard Lectures on Pragmatism* and selections from *A Syllabus of Certain Topics of Logic* are among the texts included. There are a few previously unpublished texts and all have been newly edited. Even well-known writings appear fresh and in new light in their chronological placement. All selections are introduced by summary headnotes and there is a general introduction to provide historical background. EP 2 is extensively annotated, and an electronic companion mounted on the Peirce Edition Project's Web site provides additional support for classroom use.

The Logical Status of Diagrams

Sun-Joo Shin
Cambridge University Press, 1994, 197 pp.
ISBN 0-521-46157-X (cloth), $39.95

Shin challenges the all-too-common prejudice against visualization in the history of logic and mathematics and provides a formal foundation for work on natural reasoning in a visual mode. She presents Venn diagrams as a formal system of representation equipped with its own syntax and semantics, and specifies rules of transformation that make her system sound and complete. Shin's extended system is based on Peirce's graphical innovations which, according to Shin, "not only overcame some important defects of Venn diagrams but opened the way to a totally new horizon for logical diagrams." Shin concludes with a discussion of the fundamental differences between graphical systems and linguistic systems.

Elements of Knowledge: Pragmaticism, Logic, and Inquiry

Arthur Franklin Stewart
Vanderbilt University Press, 1997, 145 pp.
ISBN 0-826-51303-4 (cloth), $19.95

This is a revised and expanded version of Stewart's *Elements of Knowledge: Pragmaticism and Philosophy of Knowledge,* noticed in a previous issue of the Newsletter. As noted then, *Elements of Knowledge* is remarkable for serving as an accessible introduction to pragmatism while also serving as an excellent text for courses in reasoning. Now, in the Vanderbilt edition, Stewart has smoothed out his prose and improved the presentation and has succeeded in giving us a superb text for the classroom, whether for logic or general education, yet in a form well adapted for the general reader.

Genealogical Pragmatism: Philosophy, Experience, and Community

John J. Stuhr
SUNY Press, 1997, xiv + 300 pp.
ISBN 0-7914-3558-X (paper), $19.95

Stuhr begins his preface with the question "Can a book have a preface?" In other words, can a book begin before it begins? Moreover, can the start of anything *really* be a beginning? Isn't any beginning a reconstruction? In this way, Stuhr introduces readers to his view that the work of pragmatism is reconstruction: it reconstructs philosophy, experience, and community. Pragmatism must be critical, addressing future possibilities, but it must also address the past—for the sake of the future. In looking backward, in presenting itself as "the history of the future of philosophy," pragmatism is genealogical. Genealogical pragmatism avoids stagnation and irrelevance—"the chewing of historic cud long ago reduced to woody fiber"—by being constantly guided by the fully faced present. Guided more by Dewey than any other pragmatist, Stuhr investigates the practical ramifications of a genealogical pragmatism that takes seriously the notion that the future of philosophy is to help shape the future.

The three parts of Stuhr's book explore and evaluate—and extend—the reconstructive import of the work of the classical pragmatists for philosophy, experience, and community. The fifteen essays that make up this book are persuasively written and exhibit fine craftsman-

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ship. They not only feature the classical pragmatists, but also include discussions of the work of many contemporary pragmatists and philosophers. Chapter 6, "Rorty As Elvis," is an especially engaging discussion of Rorty's misreading of Dewey. Peirce scholars will be most interested in chapter 11, where Stuhr criticizes Peirce's account of the normative sciences. He considers Peirce's view that the ideal of conduct is to contribute to reasonableness and attempts to identify some practical consequences of this view "for individual and social action." Stuhr paints Peirce as hopelessly entrenched in a fundamental dualism of theory and practice (and also of means and ends, facts and values, and logic and inquiry) but draws out some important practical lessons nonetheless. Peirceans will want to challenge some of Stuhr's interpretations, and well they should, but it would be a shame to lose track of the main thrust of Stuhr's message. This is an important book.

Catching Up with the Vision, A Supplement to Isis, Vol. 90
Margaret W. Rossiter (ed.)
University of Chicago Press, 1999, 359 pp.

This supplement to the journal *Isis* contains a selection of essays written in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the History of Science Society's founding. The volume includes a paper by Mary Louise Gleason on the metropolitan New York section of the society, in which she gives a detailed account of the role of Carolyn Eisele. Roger Hahn's paper on Berkeley's History of Science Dinner Club devotes some attention to the role of Victor Lenzen.

Modern Logic 7
Irving Anellis (ed.), January 1997, 108 pp.

This issue of *Modern Logic* is largely devoted to computers and logical machines. It contains a number of historically significant texts in this area, including Charles Peirce's "Logical Machines" (which is also published in volume 6 of the *Writings*), Benjamin Peirce's "A New System of Binary Arithmetic," and James

Mark Baldwin's entry for "Logical Machine" in his *Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology*. The issue opens with Irving Anellis's article on the place of John Vincent Atanasoff in the history of computer logic and technology. Atanasoff is credited with building the first full-size electronic digital computer. In his paper Anellis traces the development of computer logic in both the United States (giving due attention to the two Peirces) and Russia, drawing heavily on original Russian sources.

"Charles Sanders Peirce and the Principle of Bivalence"
Robert Edwin Lane
Dissertation, University of Miami, 1998, 261 pp.

In 1909, Peirce defined the first operators for three-valued logic, thus rejecting the principle of bivalence. Lane challenges the way commentators have interpreted Peirce's reasons for this move. Lane rejects in particular the following interpretations of Peirce's third value: object-indeterminate propositions, indeterminate predications, modal propositions, and lawful generalizations of future directed subjunctive conditionals. Instead, Lane argues, Peirce intended this third value to be taken by so-called "boundary propositions"; that is, propositions which predicate of a continuity breach one of the properties that is a boundary property relative to that breach. Lane concludes his argument by considering how Peirce's rejection of the principle of bivalence affects his pragmatic account of truth.

Products as Representations: a semiotic and aesthetic study of design products.
Susann Vihma
Dissertation, University of Art and Design Helsinki, 1995, 209 pp.

Vihma uses Peirce's semeiotic to analyze the different ways in which designed products can act as signs. In addition to a study of the literature, and a theoretical chapter on the application of semeiotic for design products, Vihma concentrates on four such products: the steam iron, the

exercise bike, the telephone kiosk, and the bicycle helmet. Vihma makes good use of Peirce's distinction between icon, index, and symbol. Early electric irons, for instance, had to resemble the old models that worked with coals; steam irons often have pilot lights to indicate they have reached the right temperature; and irons generally contain symbols such as the famous "Made in Germany." According to Vihma, this triadic division becomes an exceptionally useful tool when comparing, for instance, the various steam irons that come on the market—a tool far richer than traditional approaches that seek to examine designed objects only within the context of cultural history, or in terms of social power structures, or according to their ergonomic aspects.

The Peirce Seminar Papers: Essays in Semiotic Analysis, Vol. 4
Michael Shapiro and Michael C. Haley (eds.)
Berghahn Books, 1999, xi + 637 pp.
ISBN 1-57181-732-8 (cloth), $69.95

This volume constitutes the proceedings of the International Colloquium on Language and Peircean Sign Theory held at Duke University in June 1997, and contains 22 papers by linguists and philosophers working together to understand the relevance of Peirce's "semeiotic" to contemporary linguistics. From among the papers worthy of Peirce scholars' attention, let us single out the following eight. Tony Jappy demonstrates the superior analytical power of Peirce's theory of iconicity over categorically degenerate versions such as some Jakobsonian models. Tom Short offers an important study of Peirce's conception of teleology, contrasting it with that of purposefulness. Joëlle Réthoré shows how a semiotics steeped in pragmaticism overtakes traditional linguistic methodology when it comes to analyzing discourse, especially assertions. Jim Liszka clearly explains the three necessary conditions that allow a process to become meaningful: directedness, mediation, and interpretation. Dan Nesher shows the relevance of Peirce's pragmaticist semiotics for learning theory. Michael Haley teaches George Lakoff a good lesson in Peircean philosophy. Robert Innis

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brings to light significant agreements between Peirce and Polanyi on perception and meaning. Finally, Helmut Pape offers an engaging discussion of context-dependence, indexicality, and vagueness. Overall, this is an excellent collection reflecting the ever-widening appeal and potential of Peirce's logic of signs.

Charles S. Peirce: On Norms and Ideals
Vincent G. Potter, S. J., with a new introduction by Stanley M. Harrison
Fordham University Press, American Philosophy series, 1997, xxxiii + 229 pp.
ISBN 0-8232-1709-4 (cloth), $30.00
ISBN 0-8232-1710-8 (paper), $16.00

This is a reprint of a celebrated work that first appeared in 1967, in which the late Father Potter excavated systematically and thoroughly the foundations supporting several major pillars of Peirce's mature philosophical system. A primary reference in Peirce scholarship, Potter's book studies Peirce's conception of the three normative sciences, his theoretical definitions of them, and in particular the puzzling but fundamental claim that esthetics precedes ethics, which in turn precedes logic. Potter shows how this claim is inseparable from the kernel of Peirce's pragmaticism, and how a correct understanding of it provides a smooth philosophical introduction to all the premisses of Peirce's evolutionary metaphysics, including those of his synechism, his tychism, and his agapism. Harrison's introduction is clear and inspirational, and is a useful guide to some of the milestones in the book.

Metaphysics: Royce's 1915–16 Class Lectures
Richard Hocking and Frank Oppenheim (eds.)
SUNY Press, 1998, xxi + 346 pp.
ISBN 0-7914-3866-X (paper), $24.95

These lectures were initially edited by William Ernest Hocking from detailed class notes taken by Ralph W. Brown and complemented by notes from Bryon F. Underwood. This book is an outstanding achievement that virtually enables readers today to sit in on Royce's last yearlong course in metaphysics. As was pointed out by John E. Smith, "Nowhere else did Royce have an opportunity to explain the relations between his two most ambitious works, *The World and the Individual* and *The Problem of Christianity* and to show how they complement each other, the former being the 'logical' approach to metaphysics and the latter the 'social' approach." Peirceans will be especially interested in Royce's many references to Peirce and to his assessment of some of Peirce's contributions. When commenting on Peirce's discovery that there is an intellectual "mode of action" that can't be defined in terms of perception or conception, Royce remarked, "I don't think James ever appreciated the views of Charles Peirce." From Royce, who knew James so well, this comment must be taken seriously indeed. Royce also makes many penetrating criticisms of the proponents of "the new realism," who were then beginning to build up steam. Of course the main value of this collection is to add to our understanding of Royce's own philosophy in one of its most mature presentations. Hocking and Oppenheim have added an important work to the growing library of Classical American Philosophy.

Pragmatism and Classical American Philosophy: Essential Readings & Interpretive Essays, Second Edition
John J. Stuhr (ed.)
Oxford University Press, 2000, xii + 707 pp.
ISBN 0-195-11829-4 (cloth), $59.95
ISBN 0-195-11830-8 (paper), $32.95

Most readers of this newsletter are already familiar with the first edition of John Stuhr's anthology. First published in 1997, it quickly became one of the most widely used texts for university courses on nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American philosophy. Now in its second edition, with "Pragmatism" added to the title and expanded in scope to include Emerson and some of the contemporary thought that helps put classical pragmatism into context, Stuhr's anthology is sure to become a classic in its own right. Changes to this edition go beyond the inclusion of new sections. The sections on Peirce and Mead have been reorganized (the Peirce section entirely) and introduced by different scholars: Vincent Colapietro for Peirce, and James Campbell for Mead. In addition, some revisions were made in the James and Santayana selections. The result is the best collection of its kind.

The Writings of Charles S. Peirce, Vol. 6
Peirce Edition Project
Indiana University Press, 2000, lxxxiv + 656 pp.
ISBN 0-253-37206-2 (cloth), $49.95

This volume contains forty-seven writings—most from the unsettled period in Peirce's life just after he moved from New York to Milford, Pennsylvania, followed shortly afterward by the death of his mother. It begins with interesting remnants of Peirce's correspondence course in logic, by which he hoped in vain to make a living. Other notable selections include the much-heralded "A Guess at the Riddle," Peirce's never-finished yet substantial attempt to draw his wide-ranging philosophical theories into a unified system of thought; his dispute with Edmund Gurney over Gurney's *Phantasms of the Living;* his attack, under the pseudonym "Outsider," on Spencer's mechanical philosophy; and lengthy excerpts from the report on gravity that led to his forced resignation from the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. These and other writings in this volume reveal Peirce's powerful mind probing into diverse issues, looking for an underlying unity but, perhaps, also looking for direction.

PEIRCE BOOK FOUND
Another book from Peirce's personal library has resurfaced. Professor William Jensen, Oesper Professor of Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati, discovered one of Peirce's books at a used book sale, and he generously donated it to the Peirce Edition Project. The book is Edward Johnston Vernon's *A Guide to the Anglo-Saxon Tongue: A Grammar after Erasmus Rask* (London: John Russell Smith, 1850). The front flyleaf of the book is signed "Charles S. Peirce / Harvard College," and the book contains some annotations in Peirce's handwriting.