
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 Synchism" (in which Peirce proposes synchism—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 rela-

tive 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: Pragmatism, 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: Pragmatism 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 craftsmanship.