

Minutes of the Business Meeting Charles Sanders Peirce Society 29 December 1997

Following the annual scholarly meeting, with the first Inaugural Presidential Address by Jaakko Hintikka entitled "What is Abduction?" and Risto Hilpinen's paper "Peirce on Conditionals and Modality," President Hintikka called the meeting to order at about 7:10.

1. The minutes of the 1996 Business Meeting were approved as published in the Summer 1997 issue of the Society's *Transactions*.

2. President Hintikka remarked that we will have two sessions at the *Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy* in August (one of which will include Sami Pihlström's paper "Peircean Scholastic Realism and Transcendental Arguments"—the 1997 Peirce essay contest winner). He also asked whether the Peirce Society was registered as a non-profit organization. Peter Hare explained that it is not, though the Peirce foundation does have that status, and charitable donations can be made through them. Discussion ensued about the costs involved (for lawyers and mailings) to change that status. Peter Hare remarked that the Peirce Edition Project is also tax deductible (?)

3. Peter Hare reported that in 1997 the Society had 511 members/subscribers (386 domestic and 125 foreign). The bank balance is \$15,364.19. 32 articles were accepted; 38 were rejected; and 9 are pending. Work on a cumulative index of the contents of the journal since its founding is proceeding more rapidly than it has in recent years. Using André DeTienne's advice and indexing software, phi-

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losopher/mathematician Fernando Zalamea (Universidad Nacional de Colombia) is devoting much of his time to the project, and we hope to complete the work in 1998.

4. Lesley Friedman (for Mark Migotti) delivered the following financial report:

1997 income was \$1,808.45 (\$1,533.00 in membership dues, and \$275.45 in interest)

1997 expenditures were \$981.69 (\$334.33 for mailings, \$147.36 for F.I.S.P. dues, \$500.00 for the Essay Contest Prize).

As of the 31st of December, the Society's assets totaled \$15,274.75 (\$55.43 in savings, \$7,693.14 in money market shares, \$35.60 in checking, and \$7,490.78 on loan to the Society's *Transactions*), which amounts to a net gain of \$828.25 over last year.

It might be noted that mailing costs this year are 23% higher than the average of the past two years. This is because Hamilton College subsidized photocopying and postage costs, which (so far anyway) the University of Calgary is not doing. As a result they can be expected to rise another 10 to 15% next year, since this year's essay contest mailing was still subsidized by Hamilton. As the figures show, however, there is no cause for alarm on this front. The Society remains in good financial health.

5. Nathan Houser issued the following report on the Peirce Edition Project:

Most of you recently received a letter updating you on progress at the Peirce Project and asking you to help with our NEH matching funds challenge. I won't repeat in detail what I wrote in that letter, so if you didn't receive a copy and want to know more about our progress see me after the meeting.

The best news is that we were successful this year with NEH — receiving our first grant since 1991! Relative to grants from earlier

years it was not very large — a two-year grant for \$86,000 outright and \$80,000 *if matched* — but it certainly helps, both financially and politically. We also received a two year award of \$30,000 from the Prince Charitable Trusts, \$10,000 from The Delmas Foundation, and \$1,000 from the Philosophy Documentation Center. These grants and awards, together with the increased support from Indiana University that I reported last year, have enabled us to increase our staff to a full-production level.

The first fruit of this revitalization will be the publication this Spring of the second volume of *The Essential Peirce*. A bound set of galleys is on display at the IU Press booth on the 5th floor. This work has been prepared in-house to the camera-ready stage and has provided the training we need for the critical edition, which will also be finished in-house. Work has resumed on W6 which we expect to have finished by the end of next year. After that we are thinking about producing a few volumes out of chronological sequence. This is possible because of a policy change I reported last year: starting with W6 we will no longer assign new manuscript numbers. This change removes the single greatest obstacle to steady productivity. We haven't decided which sets of writings to focus on for early publication, but we are thinking about Peirce's 1894 "How to Read," his 1901 "Minute Logic," possibly his 1903 Harvard and Lowell Lecture Series, and maybe his 1905-08 pragmatism papers. This change may help us improve relations with some of the senior Peirce scholars who, shall I say, "regretted" that they would not live to see the later volumes.

During the coming year we will revamp our Board of Advisors, adding a few members to help with promotion and fund raising. If you are interested in helping please let me know. I urge you to help us with our NEH Challenge — and give you advance notice that after we finish with it we intend to launch a Peirce Endowment Campaign. Writing the Peirce project into your will would be a great help — eventually. And, I must not forget, I promised John Gallman, Director of IU Press, that I would report that he would like to have sponsors to help with the cost of reprinting our first five volumes. A sponsorship costs \$2000, for which you will get an acknowledgment and the pleasure of doing a good thing.

Finally, let me invite you to visit our website where, along with a lot of other things, you'll find an electronic version of Richard Robin's *Catalogue*, thanks to his generosity and the hard work of Michal Ottea's group in Germany — and that of our own technical editor.

6. Nathan Houser chaired this year's Nominating Committee (with Lesley Friedman and Randall Dipert as members) and provided the following report:

The Nominating Committee was appointed late in the year and, due to an unexpected snag, was unable to complete its assignment.

For vice president, to become president following Israel Scheffler, we chose Umberto Eco, with Jürgen Habermas as the alternative should Eco decline. An electronic letter was sent to Prof. Eco inviting him to accept nomination, but he has not replied. We could not contact him by other means, perhaps because of the holiday. Having issued the invitation, it seems proper to wait for a reply before deciding to look elsewhere. If the Society is willing, unless there are nominations from the floor that are more favorably received, we ask for your approval for Prof. Eco, if he accepts our nomination, and for Prof. Habermas, if Eco declines.

Our nominee for the Executive Committee is James Liszka, who has indicated his willingness to serve.

The Nominating Committee's recommendation was unanimously approved.

7. There was no old business.

8. New business: Kathleen Hull suggested considering funding a brass plaque for Peirce's grave, and perhaps a highway sign. She volunteered to find out information about costs, and to report back next year.

Respectfully submitted
Lesley Friedman
(for Mark Migotti)