

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Charles Sanders Peirce Society

28 December 1999

Following the annual scholarly meeting, with the Presidential Address from Joseph Ransdell ("Peirce and the Socratic Tradition"), and papers by Cathy Legg ("This is Simply What I Do") and the Society's essay contest winner Mats Bergman ("Reflections on the Role of the Communicative Sign in Semeiotic"), President Ransdell called the meeting to order at about 7 p.m.

1. The minutes of the 1998 Business Meeting were approved as published in the Summer issue of the *Transactions*.
2. President Ransdell put forward a motion to appoint Professor Randall Dipert as third editor of the *Transactions*. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. At the end of the meeting President Ransdell also asked for a moment of silence to commemorate Naomi Cummings and Thomas Goudge who passed away this year.
3. Peter Hare reported that in 1999 the Society had 514 members (400 domestic and 114 foreign). The bank balance is \$14,855. 33 articles have been accepted; 37 rejected; and 11 are pending.
4. Cornelis de Waal delivered the following report for Mark Migotti:

1999 income was \$2,049.78 (\$1,542.00 in membership dues and c. \$507.78 in interest).

1999 expenditures were c. \$1,673.27 (\$575.95 for mailings; \$500 for the essay contest prize; \$280.23 for two years' dues to FISP, the international organization of philosophical societies; a \$200 travel subvention for the invited speaker at the annual meeting; \$87.09 for dinner for the essay contest winner, invited speaker, and guest; and \$30 for mailing three years of back issues to the financially strapped Centro Interamericano de Semiótica Peirce, Ediciones Castellanas (CISPES) of Buenos Aires).

The Society's assets as of December 31, 1999 were \$14,343.39, an increase of \$372.46 over last year. The breakdown of the assets is as follows:

\$58.93 in savings,
\$284.07 in checking,
\$14,000.39 in a money market account.

5. Nathan Houser delivered the following report on the Peirce Edition Project.

It was another good year for the Peirce Edition Project, but we had some ups and downs. We found out that we had a lot to learn about the fine points of our new production process, especially after we lost our technical editor to the world of commercial business. Customizing SGML text encoding techniques for Peirce's manuscript writings has presented us with many unforeseen difficulties but our intrepid staff has managed to refine our system and to finish volume 6 — a little late but we think to good effect. (A bound copy of W6 page proofs was on display at the IU Press Station in the Book Exhibit.)

While some members of the Project staff were working on W6, others were working ahead on volumes 8, 9, and 10. We have made good progress with these three volumes and hope to finish W8 in about a year. The improvements we made to the production process for W6 should make things a little easier for W8. W7 will be devoted to Peirce's *Century Dictionary* definitions and will be published out of order when time permits.

We are very grateful for the encouragement and financial support we have received from so many Society members and from our board of advisors. The Board had begun to take a more active role in building a secure financial base for the editors. Joseph Brent has accepted an appointment as Chair of the Board's PEP development committee and has begun contacting supporters about plans to build an endowment for the edition and for a Peirce research center after the edition is complete.

I am pleased to report that we raised the full \$80,000 for the NEH match from our previous grant — thanks again to many of you. In November we began a new NEH cycle with a new matching funds challenge — this time for \$45,000. This amount must be raised by July 2001 to receive the full NEH offer. We got a tremendous boost a few weeks ago when the Pearson Family Foundation agreed to match half of the NEH match. The Pearson Foundation will double every contribution we receive up to \$22,500, enabling us to meet the NEH challenge far more readily and thus get to work sooner on our long term plans. Our most urgent long term need is for a permanent salary line and secure job opportunity for talented young Peirce Scholars like Cornelis de Waal, who has been contributing so much to the edition but who remains on soft money.

I want to give special notice to the generosity of Charls and Claire Pearson, the principals of the Pearson Family Foundation. (The Pearsons were recognized and applauded by the Society.) Charls has agreed to serve on the development committee to help with the endowment campaign, which we hope to officially open in about a year.

Finally, as I reported last year, the Peirce Project has been joined at IUPUI's School of Liberal Arts by two other scholarly editions: The Santayana Edition and The Frederick Douglass Papers. We continue to explore possibilities for co-operation but so far I have nothing concrete to report. Hopefully next year I will have some news on that front.

6. The nominating committee, consisting of Richard Robin, Peter Hare, and Lesley Friedman (chair), proposed Umberto Eco for Vice President to succeed Karl Otto Apel, and Cheryl Misak for a three-year term on the Executive Committee to replace Demetra Sfondoni-Mentzou, whose term is ending. The slate was seconded and approved unanimously.
7. There was no Old or New Business
8. Outgoing President Ransdell introduced incoming President Apel in absentia and adjourned the meeting at around 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Cornelis de Waal for Mark Migotti