
Minutes of the Business Meeting

Charles Sanders Peirce Society

28 December 2003

Following the annual scholarly meeting, with papers by Nathan Houser, "Peirce in the Twenty-first Century," and Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen, winner of the Essay Contest, "Peirce's Magic Lantern: Moving Pictures of Thought," President Houser called the meeting to order at about 6:50 p.m. in the Caucus Room of the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel.

1. The Minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting were approved as published in the Fall 2003 issue of the *Transactions*.

2. Nathan Houser reported briefly about the work of the Executive Committee:

An archives committee was appointed, chaired by André De Tienne, with Douglas Anderson and Mark Migotti as members. The committee's charge is to plan, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, for implementing the new Constitution's Article X, "Archives of Records," that requires that records pertaining to the Society's history, business, deliberations, and activities be collected and preserved physically in an archival depository. The Society and the Peirce Project have been working together to ensure the preservation of the Cuddeback Letter-book. The Society thanks Professor Charles Seibert who has been instrumental in this effort. Professor Seibert brought the letter-book from Milford to Indianapolis, where the letters, which have been professionally unglued, cleaned, and chemically treated, will be digitally scanned before they are returned to the Pike County Museum. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Gérard Deledalle, 2002 president of the Society, who died on 12 June 2003.

3. Peter Hare delivered the following report on the *Transactions*:

In 2003 there are 491 members/subscribers (392 domestic and 99 foreign). This represents a small decrease from last year. The difference was apparently caused by a year of turmoil in the subscription agency business. We expect the lost institutional subscribers to return next year. Another problem in 2003 has been international package mail, a problem apparently caused by "Homeland Defense" measures. The

postal costs of replacing numerous lost issues of the journal have been considerable. In any event, our bank balance is \$16,301.81.

The good news this year is that our complete backfile and current issues are now on the Web. This means that in any of the thousands of libraries around the globe that subscribe to EBSCO's online services a person has electronic access to anything we have ever published. We have Robert Lane's skill and perseverance to thank for this achievement.

4. André De Tienne delivered for Mark Migotti a preliminary version of the following financial report:

2003 income was \$1,609.14 (\$1,458 in membership dues and \$151.14 in interest). 2003 expenditures were \$2028.81 (\$500 for the essay contest prize, \$766.21 for travel subventions for the contest winner, \$50.00 for his dinner; \$354.21 for 2002-03 FISP dues; \$199.93 for mailings; \$113.40 for web-site fees; \$45.00 for a subsidized membership for CISPEC).

As of December 31, 2003, the Society's assets were: \$13,105.68, a decrease of \$404.67 from last year. The breakdown of the assets is: \$125.70 in checking, \$12,917.09 in a money-market account, and \$62.89 in savings.

The good news is that postal costs are going down with the use of e-mail for the distribution of the semi-annual materials: essay contest notice and annual general meeting notice. They are under half of what they were four years ago, and should continue to decrease, though this advantage is somewhat offset by our now having web site fees to pay. The bad news is that our interest income is under a third of what it was four years ago. Given the subsidies paid to recent essay contest winners from abroad, the effect is to wipe out any net gain from the reduced mailing costs. All in all, the Society remains in good financial health, with net assets amounting to some \$100 below what they were ten years ago, but about \$860 above what they had been in 1993.

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

2003 was a year of change for the Peirce Edition Project, not so much *within* the project as all around it. Under the administrative guidance of Herman Saatkamp, the Dean of our School of Liberal Arts, a new Institute for American Thought was established to draw together, under a central support unit, IUPUI's three scholarly editions, the Peirce Project, the Santayana Edition, and the Frederick Douglass Papers Project, along with the academic programs in American Studies and professional editing, and a public research center featuring the libraries and collections associated with the editions. But within days of

appointing me to direct the new institute, Herman left IUPUI to assume the presidency of Richard Stockton College, bequeathing the Santayana Edition to the Institute. We are presently searching for a new dean for the School of Liberal Arts. During the past year IUPUI also installed a new Chancellor and Indiana University installed a new system president. This means that the entire administrative leadership over the Peirce Project has been changed. The consequences remain to be seen.

Another change of note that touches the edition is the establishment of a new masters program in Philosophy at IUPUI. This new program, which will officially begin in the fall, will offer two concentrations, one in bioethics and one in American Philosophy. The American Philosophy concentration will naturally feature Peirce and, hopefully, also Santayana, but will also place emphasis on links between pragmatism and analytic philosophy. The principal teaching assignments of the Philosophy Society associated with the Peirce Edition will now be in the American Philosophy MA program.

Hopefully these changes will all work to the advantage of the edition. Considerable attention during the planning of these developments was given to this concern as my principal reason for agreeing to direct the new Institute was to make sure, insofar as I can, that the organizational structures put in place will support and enhance the productivity of the editions. I will report more fully next year on how the Peirce Edition has found its fit within the Institute. I should add that NEH has supported these developments and in the spring will send the acting director of its research division to Indianapolis to consult with us.

I am glad to report that the Peirce Project received another two year NEH grant, running from November 2003 through October 2005. As always, part of the new grant requires matching contributions from Peirce Project supporters — this time the matching portion is \$50,000. If you are still looking for a tax break this year, here's your opportunity!

Last year, after long negotiations with the Pike County Historical Society, the Peirce Project, in partnership with the Society, underwrote the preservation of the Cuddeback letter book, a bound set of letters from Peirce's early years. The first stage of this preservation effort is now complete. (I'll circulate a photograph of Charles Seibert delivering the book to PEP.)

Although it has been long in coming, Volume 8 is nearly finished and will reveal a side of Peirce rarely considered. Within a few weeks, volume 9 will be the focus of our attention in Indianapolis. We also now have work underway in Montreal, by the group directed by Francois Latraverse, and in Germany, by the group directed by Helmut Pape.

Last year I announced that Cornelis de Waal would be appointed to

a tenure teaching position in Philosophy at IUPUI. I want to confirm that he is indeed now an assistant professor, and will play an integral role in the new MA program).

Finally, I want to report that that Joseph Ransdell has been appointed to the edition's Board of Advisors.

6. Charls Pearson reported on past and upcoming activities of his American Semiotics Research Institute and his International Association of Centers for Peirce Studies.

There was no report concerning the Peirce Foundation.

7. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Andrew Reynolds, with Thomas L. Short and Kelly Parker as members, put forward Vincent Colapietro as candidate for Vice President, to succeed Douglas Anderson, Felicia Kruse for a three-year term (succeeding Robert Lane) and Cathy Legg for a four-year term (succeeding Cheryl Misak who had served an extra year in replacement of Douglas Anderson; Cathy will serve one year to see out the Anderson slot, and then serve a regular three year term of her own, so to speak) on the Executive Committee. The Committee's slate of nominees was accepted by unanimous vote. Mark Migotti has agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer for another three-year term (2004-06).

8. Old Business. Reporting for the Constitution Committee which he chaired (with André De Tienne and Mark Migotti as members), President Houser proposed a motion to amend the Constitution of the Society and summarized the main changes as follows:

Article 2. Annual dues will be fixed by a vote of the Society on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Annual dues will include membership to the Society and a subscription to the *Transactions*. Previously, the membership portion of the dues was fixed at \$2.00.

Article 3. The Vice President will preside over the annual program meeting of the Society and the Secretary-Treasurer will be the Society's parliamentarian, which duty devolves to the Vice President in the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer.

Article 5. In consultation with the Executive Committee, the President shall appoint a web-site committee, consisting of a web-master, who shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee, and other members as appropriate.

Article 8. The late Frederic Harold Young will be recognized on the title page of the *Transactions* as the founder of the Society.

Article 9. This new article establishes the Annual Contest as an official function of the Society and charges the Executive Committee

with the responsibility of setting the rules and running the contest.

Article 10. This new article directs the Society to establish an archive of official records.

Article 11. Motions to amend the constitution must, henceforth, be circulated among the membership at least six weeks prior to the annual business meeting.

Other changes have been made that are intended to bring the Constitution into conformity with the Society's established practice.

The motion to amend was seconded by Peter Hare. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. New Business:

Philip Meguire asked Society members to forward him information about deceased member Richard Martin, about whom he's writing a paper.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. by incoming President Anderson, who thanked Nathan Houser for his service.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Migotti
Secretary-Treasurer