

**Annual General Meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society
2018 Eastern APA
January 5, 2018
Savannah, GA**

Richard Kenneth Atkins chaired the meeting and called it to order at 11:20 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2017 Meeting

The minutes were approved by all those in attendance, excepting one abstention.

2. Report from the Executive Committee

Richard Kenneth Atkins delivered the following report on behalf of the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee of the Charles S. Peirce Society met on November 18, 2017, at the Boston Fairmont Copley Hotel. The meeting began at 7:05 a.m. Present were Robert Cummings Neville, Richard Kenneth Atkins, Gesche Linde, and Michael Raposa. Sending their regrets were Rossella Fabbrichesi, Cornelis de Waal, Jérôme Vogel, and Aaron Wilson.

1. Review of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

In the past year, the Peirce Society made live a new website (designed by Jérôme Vogel), consolidated and migrated its email list, secured a new email address (peircesociety@gmail.com), made improvements to the tracking of membership by receiving monthly updates from Indiana University Press, began sending a biannual newsletter, organized sessions at the AAR and Pacific APA, designed and instituted policies to budget and distribute monies in the support of scholarship, and designed and instituted policies for judging the Peirce Essay Prize.

2. Constitutional Amendments

The Executive Committee reviewed the proposed constitutional amendments submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee. The committee agreed to bring the following amendments forward at the next Annual General Meeting in Savannah, GA.

Amendment One: Article V, Paragraph 2, Sentences i and ii:

a. Currently reads: In consultation with the Executive Committee, the President shall appoint a Website Committee, consisting of a webmaster, who shall serve as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee, and other members as appropriate. The President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and an Editor of the Society's journal shall be ex officio members of this Committee.

b. Proposed Amendment: There shall be a standing Outreach Committee the chair of which will be the Webmaster and Outreach Officer and the other members of which will be the President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Editor-in-Chief of the Society's journal. The Outreach Committee will be responsible for updating and maintaining any and all social media accounts of the Society. It will produce an email bulletin biannually for the purpose of communicating information about the activities of the Society, recent scholarship related

to Peirce, and any other news that might be pertinent to advancing the purpose of the Society as stated in Article I.

Amendment Two: Article IX, Heading:

- a. Currently reads: Annual Essay Contest
- b. Proposed Amendment: Support for Peirce Scholarship

Amendment Three: Article IX

Proposed Amendment: New Paragraph at start of Article IX:

In accordance with the purpose set forth in Article I, the Society shall endeavor to support scholarship on Peirce. Each calendar year, the Executive Committee will allocate as much money as is prudent for the support of scholarship. The monies shall be distributed first for the essay contest and second for the further support of Peirce scholarship.

Amendment Four: Article IX

Proposed Amendment: New Paragraph at the end of Article IX:

The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, provide further financial support for Peirce scholarship, provided that (i) availability of funds is made publicly known on the Society's website and in a letter or email to Society members and (ii) any monies awarded be awarded according to a fair and transparent process.

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting in New York City, NY, the Executive Committee agreed to bring forward amendments pertaining to the structure of the Executive Committee. In particular, the Executive Committee agreed to have (a) have the outgoing president serve a third year in ex officio capacity as Past President, (b) divide the Secretary and Treasurer positions, (c) make the Secretary position an Executive Director position. The Executive Committee decided against requiring the Nominating Committee to present at least two candidates for any position, but notes that the constitution presently allows for additional nominees not presented by the Nominating Committee.

3. Non-Profit Status of the Peirce Society

The Peirce Society is not currently a 501(c)3 organization. The Executive Committee agreed to endeavor to attain such status and, to that end, strike an ad hoc committee to determine what will be needed to achieve it.

4. Use of the Society's Email List

The Society has recently received several requests to make announcements using the Peirce Society Email List. The Executive Committee agreed it was best to include announcements in the biannual bulletin whenever possible, but in exceptional cases would be willing to use the email list to make announcements.

5. Possible Conferences or Panels (esp. in relation to the *Transactions*)

The Executive Committee agreed to continue to increase our participation in conferences. This year we held our first meeting at the AAR and will do so again next year. We will also endeavor to have at least one panel at each of the division meetings of the APA. Also, we will endeavor to have a panel at SPEP and SAAP in the coming year. The Executive Committee will also encourage participants to submit their papers to the *Transactions*. The Executive Committee delegated the responsibility of finding persons to organize such panels to the Secretary-Treasurer.

6. Future Executive Committee Meetings

In order to increase participation, the Executive Committee agreed to hold future meetings by teleconference approximately eight weeks in advance of the annual general meeting

7. Next Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Executive Committee agreed to hold the next Annual General Meeting at the Eastern Division APA meeting, January 3–6, 2019, in New York City, NY.

3. Report from the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* (submitted by Cornelis de Waal)

Richard Kenneth Atkins delivered the following report on behalf of Cornelis de Waal:

The *Transactions* had once again a good year. We completed a search for the non-Peirce editor, resulting in the appointment of Dwayne Tunstall of Grand Valley State University, who replaces Scott Pratt who left the *Transactions* in 2015. Dwayne officially started in this role in November 2017.

In 2017 we published a nice selection of papers including a symposium on John Dewey's Social and Political Philosophy related to his China Lectures. Though there is a bit of an uptick in Peirce submissions, in part thanks to the Peirce Essay Contest, the number of Peirce submissions continues to be on the low side. Forthcoming for 2018 is a symposium on Peirce and the economy of research, based on a conference organized by Giovanni Tuzet in Milan. We continue to have a modestly filled backlog.

On June 30, 2017, which marks the end of IU Press's 2017 fiscal year, the *Transactions* had 2,946 subscribers, which is slightly more than the preceding year (2,905). Interestingly, the increase can be ascribed mostly to the number of print subscribers, which went up from 97 to 131, reversing a multi-year decline. The number of individual subscribers (or members) also grew, from 89 to 120 (for comparison, in 2014, the year of the Peirce Congress, we had 167 individual subscribers). In addition, we sold 1,074 single issues—a little over half of which were hardcopies. 63 people subscribed to JSTOR's new issue alert.

Overall the *Transactions* made a gross profit of \$48,164, which is a modest increase compared to last's year's \$42,344. Of that 15% went to the Peirce Society, which comes down to \$7,224. We were charged \$143 due to page overruns for two issues, reducing the proceeds to the Society to \$7,081 (up from \$6,352 the year before). Overall we can say that the circulation remains stable, with an increase in individual subscribers that translates into a 35% growth of society membership.

Cornelis de Waal,
Editor-in-Chief

4. Financial statement

Richard Kenneth Atkins submitted the following financial report:

This report is for the period beginning Jan. 1, 2017 and ending Dec. 31, 2017.

The Society's income during this period was \$8,236.56:

\$1074.50 in membership dues;
\$7081.32.54 in *Transactions* royalties;
\$80.74 in interest.

The Society's expenditures during this period were \$4797.96
\$1520.46 for travel and accommodations costs for speakers;
\$2.50 for handling fees for international transfers;
\$115.00 gifts
\$1000.00 for design of the Peirce monument;
\$1500.00 for the Peirce essay prize;
\$660.00 dinner for 2017 meeting.

As of Jan. 1, 2018, the Society's assets were \$36,154.64, an increase of \$2,882.98 from Jan. 1, 2017.

The breakdown of the assets is:
\$16,251.63 in checking,
\$19,834.68 in a money-market account,
\$68.33 in member savings.

5. Report from the Peirce Edition Project (submitted by André De Tienne)

Richard Kenneth Atkins read the following report on behalf of André De Tienne:

The present report covers the period from January to December 2017.

1. Transitions

We learned recently that Joseph Jay Zeman, a former contributing editor to the Peirce Project, passed away on September 8, 2016. He completed a Ph.D. dissertation on "The Graphical Logic of C. S. Peirce" at the University of Chicago in 1964, and joined the University of Florida (Gainesville) in 1966 where he remained until his retirement in 1994. His interests were grounded in Peirce and formal logic and encompassed symbolic, modal, and quantum logic, along with pragmatism, semiotics, and moral philosophy. His book on *Modal Logic: The Lewis-Modal Systems* appeared in 1973 (Clarendon Press). His contributions to the study of existential graphs included a software application that made them workable on computers. The Project remains grateful for his contributions to volumes 5 and 6 of our edition.

It is also with much sadness that we announce the death, on December 16, 2017, of Frederick Henry Prince IV, a great-grandson of Herbert Henry Davis Peirce (1849–1916), Charles Peirce's younger brother. Frederick Prince was the son of Helen Peirce Prince (1920–1998), who began providing financial support to the Peirce Project in 1997 through the Prince Charitable Trusts, of which Frederick Prince was a Trustee. The Trusts decided two years ago to build an endowment over five years to benefit the Peirce Project through annual donations that will be matched by Indiana University. We are exceedingly grateful to the Prince family and their Trusts, and especially to Frederick Prince's wife Diana, for their continuing support.

2. Staff

Our current editorial staff comprises four active full-time positions: director André De Tienne, associate textual editor April Witt, editorial associate Matthew O'Haver, our transcriber and text layouter, as well as Joseph Kaposta, who resumed working for PEP in July 2017 after a prolonged stint at the Center for Ray Bradbury Studies. Part-timers included two graduate student positions during the first half of the year: Joe Dillabough and Allison Hedrick, both MA students in philosophy.

Our principal challenge continues to be severe understaffing. Over the last few years, the Project has lost six employees to reassignment, retirement, or death. Our most crucial need remains the hiring of a second Peirce scholar, a postdoc with a dissertation on Peirce and a mindset adapted to the rigor of scholarly editing. We have not been able so far to secure funding for that position, and the situation may not improve for several years. Indeed, despite many cost-cutting measures, the School of Liberal Arts was officially declared in a state of financial crisis in August. School enrollment continues to decrease from semester to semester so that the deficit keeps increasing. The School has been implementing a drastic multi-year recovery plan. The Institute for American Thought lost its administrative staff, who have either left the School or been reassigned to centralized pools away from our building. That transition did not happen smoothly and has hampered daily office management. Travel funds disappeared. Systematic workforce attrition has become the main recourse, along with increased teaching loads for most faculty.

3. Editorial Accomplishments

The most direct consequence of this gloomy situation is the prolonged slowdown in our productivity. Work on volume 9 continued with a principal editorial focus on scholarly textual, historical, philosophical, and bibliographical annotations, which are now nearly completely redone, and on the indexing of the Peirce text. Provided with a semi-sabbatical leave from February to June, the Project Director focused his time partly away on researching and drafting the introduction to W9 while also continuing to design the STEP platform with a team of five part-time computer-science students (the only thing for which funding remained available; see below). The volume will be sent to IU Press in mid-2018. We will then resume work on volume 11 (Peirce's book on the "The Art of Reasoning: A Critick of Arguments"). As announced last year, decision was taken instead to move the chronological catalog online—it will no longer be printed in our volumes. Much work was done in that direction, and the database is now nearly functional. Matters of interface and navigability remain to be improved. One goal is to open it to authorized contributors outside the Peirce Project.

A new collateral initiative that has been undertaken is the digitization of one of our most significant resources, Max H. Fisch's card catalogues, which include about 70,000 5" x 6" slips, half of which consists of an alphabetical conceptual index to the Peirce papers, and half of a chronological record of letters and events pertaining to the personal and professional lives of the Peirce family. That digitization is funded principally by the IUPUI University Library's office of digital humanities. The work is done by part-time students supervised by librarians. It is conducted chunk by chunk for we need to retain access to the slips for our daily research. Given available funding and the time it takes, it may take three years before the project is completed. Most slips are typewritten, often on both sides, with frequent handwritten inscriptions in various media. Many slips were handwritten, mostly by Max Fisch (who was a master at shorthand), but frequently by others (his wife or his assistants). And many slips are not in good condition. As a result, optical character recognition is frequently erroneous, and the Library will not fund OCR correction. Once the card catalogues are brought online, both content and metadata will be editable by

authorized users, and we will be counting on “scholar-sourcing” proofreading and correction of that most valuable resource.

4. STEP

As has been explained in previous reports, we decided several years ago to prioritize the long-term over short-term accomplishments. Our School’s enduring and worsening travails justify and buttress that strategy, in spite of the enormous imposition on our global constituency’s patience. But there is no better alternative. Under present staffing and funding conditions, it would take more than 150 years to finish the Peirce edition—in other words, it cannot get done, not by the small IUPUI team. We must therefore reinvent the Project by decentralizing and internationalizing it. That requires setting up an online workflow, complex to develop but, once it is functional, it will open up production of the edition to any scholarly mind who agrees to collaborate while adhering to the same high standards, with the reward of receiving full career-advancing credit for their peer-reviewed contribution.

Throughout the first half of 2017, our development team made further progress toward making STEP (“Scholarly Text-Editing Platform”) a reality. We hired a team of hourly graduate students (one from the School of Engineering & Technology, and up to six from the School of Science’s Department of Computer Science) who worked on various components of the STEP platform until mid-May 2017. Those students were: Venkata Pavan Kumar Dandibhotla, Deepak Sethunath, Ronak Shah, Hitendra Rathod, Raja Sekhar Rao Dheekonda, Karan Goyanka, and Naga Bala Sravya Ayyala Somayayila. Over the summer 2017, we hired a very competent IU-Bloomington Ph.D. student, Dong Inn, who helped us strengthen the internal infrastructure of STEP and begin planning a robust cloud implementation. IAT Technical Editor Young Chang supervised the team, while De Tienne charted the strategy and programmed a full workflow prototype to show the team how to design the platform with detailed clarity. We have together also created a demo website (www.step-iat.iupui.edu/platform) that showcases our continuous progress.

5. NEH grants

After failing to receive an NEH Digital Humanities grant both in 2015 and in 2016, we submitted in January 2017 yet another \$325,000 application for a two-year NEH Digital Humanities Advancement grant meant to help us finish programming STEP. That application was again backed by an array of TEI Consortium and digital humanities specialists, sister editions, and an impressive roster of scholars—24 eloquent letters supported the application. Not only that, but a special international STEP advisory board was set up, counting 13 members from six countries, including the chair and other prominent members of the TEI Consortium board of directors and technical council, digital humanities specialists, and technology specialists. That international board had been an express request from NEH grant reviewers, who wanted the assurance that STEP be designed so that it met the needs not only of the Peirce Project but also of plenty of other national and international scholarly editions. In August 2017, however, we were once more stunned that NEH declined funding, yet again. Reviewers’ comments were divided: those who knew something about TEI declared it to be excellent; others were swayed by one reviewer who thought that STEP should not confine itself to TEI encoding even though that reviewer recognized it to be the best practice in our profession; that reviewer wanted STEP to adopt other types of encodings without specifying them, and perhaps without realizing that such a project would be beyond the scope of NEH funding. Some reviewers worried that there were not enough signs that STEP would be easy enough for people to use, despite the enormous documentation we had supplied both in the application and online. It turns out that not a single

reviewer (there were eight of them) went online to visit our websites—presumably for lack of time: they had more than 160 applications to review.

Reapplying to NEH for a fourth time is what we are working on at this very moment. The Digital Humanities division of NEH has now begun accepting grant applications every six months, although it still takes eight months before funding notification. Part of our renewed argument is to illustrate even more abundantly that STEP does and will make things easier.

6. TEI Compliance Made Easier

At the end of October 2017, the Project director went to Victoria, BC, to participate again in the annual meeting of the TEI Consortium and to confer with board and council members. They were aghast that we had not received NEH funding, and even more so after they saw the progress we had managed to do on STEP and its components across the year. That progress included the initial development of a key piece of the software architecture, never developed by anyone in TEI history: a TEI Header Production and Management utility. Every TEI-conformant document must start with a “TEI Header,” a complex XML tree that contains technical and scholarly information about the document in the form of highly structured metadata. Those metadata provide a bibliographic record of the electronic text as well as of the sources from which the electronic text is derived; documentation of the encoding and editorial principles used in tagging the electronic text; terms for indexing, searching, and retrieval; a container for any non-TEI metadata; and a record of changes made to the electronic document (essential to keep track of iterations and revisions). The irony is that PEP had been producing TEI headers since the late 1990s, but always minimally, and without ever understanding what the real scholarly purpose of a TEI header was all about: we were simply misled by the automatic motions of an application (FrameMaker) that was making our work TEI-compliant through blissful ignorance.

To be successful, STEP cannot afford such bliss, and thus we came up with a solution: STEP’s TEI Header Maker, a software that comes with a fully integrated header management system allowing users to generate and keep track of the entire hierarchy of headers within a full volume. Reactions from TEI Technical Council members were extremely encouraging: they commented approvingly about its “enormous potential” for the future of TEI and saw it as a “game changer” given the ways in which it maps the entire structure both *within* a header and *among* headers. Users enter all kinds of metadata by filling a succession of forms made of fields and buttons, without having to contend with any XML or wonder where a given type of data should go. When fully completed (by the end of 2018), the TEI Header Maker utility will enable, even empower, scholars of many disciplines to enter far more metadata into TEI headers than they ever managed before, and to distribute the tasks among themselves since different subsections (more than 70) call for distinct expertise. They will do so without anguish, while learning a great deal more about the wondrous potential of that ill-understood, under-appreciated, yet potent and fundamental part of a TEI-conformant production workflow.


7. The Gérard Deledalle Collection

In July 2015, the Peirce Project received Gérard Deledalle’s papers and library in July 2015. His daughter Myriame Deledalle and her husband Bernard Morel came to Indianapolis in summer 2016 to visit the collection and discuss how to help accession it. Mrs. Deledalle agreed to provide the funding necessary for the cataloging of the entire collection. They came back in the summer of 2017 to look at the progress: Ahliah Bratzler, a graduate student in library science, had finished cataloging the library portion of the collection. What remains to be accessioned is the multitude of folders that contain Gérard Deledalle’s decades of writings and correspondence with the French philosophical establishment,

European thinkers, and scholars associated with the Internal Association for Semiotic Studies. Cataloging those hundreds of documents will resume as soon as we find a capable new intern for the job. The Deledalle library (and other IAT library holdings) can be accessed at the following URL: <http://iat-ind.narvi.opalsinfo.net/bin/home>.

On behalf of the staff of the Peirce Project, I want to express our permanent gratitude to the Peirce Society and to all the supporters of the Peirce cause. In order to advance upon the road to truth, Peirce “carried ideas to extreme lengths in speculative thought” (1898) and depended “on the sedulous care with which he scrutinized every point” (1903). Only a carefully designed critical edition fit for the 21st century can eventually do justice to the fruits of his exacting methods.

Respectfully submitted,



André De Tienne
Director and General Editor, Peirce Edition Project

6. Report from the Peirce Monument Committee (submitted by Rosa Maria Mayorga)

Richard Kenneth Atkins presented the following report on behalf of Rosa Maria Mayorga:

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society (Jan. 2017), Rosa Mayorga, Chair of the Peirce Monument Committee, provided a written report of the committee’s work during 2016, touching on the two main hurdles encountered that year and their eventual resolutions: the Milford Cemetery Association’s (MCA) rejection of Nancy Pinchot’s letter granting permission for the monument to be built on the family plot, and the MCA’s initial determination that a monument to Peirce could not be erected because there were no records of his internment there. Towards the end of that year, the MCA accepted the historical evidence provided by the Peirce Monument Committee which included a NY Times obituary, a transcript from a taped interview of Peirce’s neighbors which included eyewitness testimony, and a copy of Peirce’s death certificate. At the time of that report (Jan.2017), Nancy Pinchot had agreed to provide the sworn affidavit requested. Also, Celine Poisson had provided preliminary drawings and one quote from a Canadian manufacturer for a ballpark figure of about \$15,000 for construction of the monument (not including the foundation); she asked for \$700 in order to proceed with drawings for a complete plan with specifications as per the MCA’s request.

Several versions of the preliminary drawings were submitted for comments to the MCA between February and May (originally, a small water basin for birds was included, which was eventually taken out per MCA’s request); meanwhile the Committee initiated conversations with the Society and the Foundation in order to plan for the funding of the monument. The Executive Committee of the Society agreed to fund the substantial portion of the costs, as well as drafting a letter of appeal in conjunction with the Foundation to the Peirce community for fundraising. A fundraising committee, including the actual and incoming Society presidents, the Society secretary-treasurer, the Foundation president and Foundation secretary-treasurer, and all members of the Monument Committee, was confirmed. The Society also engaged Jerome Vogel to create a website posting drawings of

the proposed monument and providing a mechanism for contributions. Meanwhile, three Monument Committee members pledged \$500 each. A check for \$1000 was sent to Celine Poisson in June, covering the \$700 for the initial drawings as well as \$300 for a trip to Milford in order to meet with members of the MCA to discuss further details, and to meet with John Pesavento, a local contractor, who would be providing a bid on construction of the monument.

John Pesavento provided an estimate of \$15,000 to construct the monument as well as the foundation, and provided foundation drawings. The complete proposal, including monument and foundation plans, was submitted to the MCA Board for approval in August; the Board rejected the plans in September because the drawings indicated a “planter” larger than their regulations allowed (a copy of the regulations was provided then for the first time). In October a new version of the proposal was submitted, with rocks substituting for the plants, which was also rejected. The plans were revised again, this time including a granite ledger covering most of the “planter” area, save for a small space for the original marker. This necessitated a new estimate, which came in at \$16,250. A third proposal was submitted in November; it is anticipated that the MCA Board will be providing a decision later this month.

Rosa Mayorga

January 2, 2018

7. Report from the Nominating Committee (submitted by James Jacó b Liska) and Election of New Officers

Richard Kenneth Atkins read the following report:

The Nominating Committee, composed of James Liška, Martin Irvine, and Chiara Ambrosio, nominates Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen as incoming Vice President of the Charles S. Peirce Society. Ahti has accepted the nomination.

After asking for other nominations from the floor and hearing none, Richard Kenneth Atkins called for a vote. Ahti Veikko-Pietarinen was unanimously elected as Vice-President.

8. Constitutional Amendments

A vote was taken on the constitutional amendments circulated before the meeting and stated in the report from the Executive Committee. Discussion was had. The amendments were unanimously approved.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Installment of New President

Rossella Fabbrichesi was installed as the new president of the Peirce Society. Richard Kenneth Atkins read the following statement on her behalf:

I would like to thank everyone for the great honor of being nominated President of the Charles Peirce Society: I really regret not being able to be before you today. However, I have requested that this speech be delivered, and I thank the colleagues for their cooperation.

I have been studying Peirce since my university years. I first came across Peirce's thought in a class where semiotics and hermeneutics were discussed in relation to him. I started this way a journey through the bulky volumes of the *Collected Papers*, that has actually never ended. I was twenty-three years old and from that moment on I have had Peirce on my side.

In short, my thesis was on him and even my dissertation dealt with his logic and semiotics. During my professorship years I have tried to make a link between Peirce, pragmatism and some themes from hermeneutics. I have taught for many years the philosophy of some of the most important hermeneutical and post- modern thinkers—Heidegger, Nietzsche, Foucault, Deleuze—but I always came back to Peirce, and to his most attractive themes: semiotics, phaneroscopy, cosmology, common sense analysis, abduction, rhematic logic, etc. Today my main interest is in Peirce's ethics and normative sciences.

In Italy, Peirce was introduced by my professor and tutor, Carlo Sini, and then I followed his teaching. I worked with my students on the various aspects of Peirce's speculation, and I even helped found a Charles Peirce Center in my University, together with a Center of Research on Pragmatism with other Italian universities. With some colleagues we gave life to Associazione Pragma, that is dedicated to studies on the classical and contemporary pragmatists. Perhaps, It should be added that Umberto Eco and his pupils have also promoted Pragmatism and Peirce's thought in Italy and Europe from the '60s. With them, too, I often collaborated.

In my professional career I have always had the idea that Peirce was at my side, walking with me. I think he really is a classical philosopher, because only classical philosophers have such a wide range of thought that new interpretations can always be applied to them. Peirce is still for me a perpetual source of inspiration and new discoveries.

Therefore, you can imagine what a pleasure is, for me, to be beside you (at least in spirit) on this occasion. Thirty years ago I entered Carlo Sini's class for pure curiosity, without knowing anything about that philosopher, and now I find myself here to receive this important acknowledgment. I hope I will help spreading the name of Peirce in the best way during this upcoming 2018.

Thanks to you all,
Rossella

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.