

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society was held virtually via zoom on January 8, 2021. Michael Raposa chaired the meeting and called it to order at 11:05 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2020 Meeting

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were posted online. Attendees were directed to the website to review them. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Report from the Executive Committee

Richard Kenneth Atkins submitted the following report.

1. Non-Profit Status of the Peirce Society. The Peirce Society is not incorporated as a non-profit, even though we are treated as a 501(c) organization under the US tax code. We previously struck an ad hoc committee to establish our non-profit status (Aaron Wilson, Daniel Brunson, D. Micah Hester, Cornelis de Waal, Richard Atkins). In order to proceed in securing non-profit status without becoming mired in legal concerns, the Executive Committee has agreed to seek legal counsel in this regard. Any expenditures for this purpose will require the additional approval of the Executive Committee. The ad hoc committee is charged with securing legal counsel.

2. Funding for Scholarship. This past year, we received no requests for funding, no doubt because of the ongoing pandemic. In 2017, the Society agreed to set aside 2/3rds of the year's income to support scholarship. As our income this year was \$6,871.19 (excepting interest), the Executive Committee has agreed to set aside \$4,680 to support scholarship. \$1000 of that income is designated for the Peirce Essay Prize.

3. Conference in Milford. Because of our success with the Peirce Memorial Monument conference, we had hoped to begin holding a biannual conference in Milford, PA. Those plans have been suspended indefinitely as a consequence of the ongoing pandemic. The Executive Committee has agreed to tentatively look toward April 2022.

4. Early Release of Drafted Minutes: Jon Alan Schmidt has requested that we post online the drafted minutes from our Annual General Meeting shortly after the meeting. As it stands now, our minutes are posted/ published a year later, after they are approved at the next Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee has agreed to post the draft minutes online immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

5. Next Year's Annual General Meeting. The Peirce Society traditionally meets in conjunction with the Eastern APA. The Executive Committee agreed to do so again in 2022.

6. Any Other Business

The Executive Committee received reports from Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen addressing the status of Peirce's books in the Harvard library system and digitizing the Houghton Peirce Papers.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kenneth Atkins

3. Report from the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*

Cornelis de Waal submitted the following report on behalf of the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, which Richard Kenneth Atkins read on his behalf.

2020 Transactions Report

During the 2020 calendar year we published three issues of the *Transactions*, the fourth issue is currently in production, having experienced some delay due to Covid-19. We are well-positioned, though, to fulfill our contractual obligation of completing four issues for the fiscal year. During this period the number of non-Peirce submissions continued to be lower than we would like to see it. Peirce submissions did better, in part due to two symposia, one on the Milford meeting, which came out in the spring issue and another discussing Peirce on assertion, which we expect to publish in 2021.

On June 30, 2020, which marks the end of IU Press's 2020 fiscal year (FY20), the *Transactions* counted 2378 subscribers, which is slightly less than the year before (2,432 subscribers).

Breaking down the circulation numbers leaves the following picture: the number of Project Muse subscribers decreased from 2,348 to 2,196. The number of institutional subscribers also decreased slightly, from 93 to 88. We saw a small uptick, however, in individual subscribers (or members), from 91 to 94. Note that some fluctuations may be due to renewals being out of sync with the fiscal year, and it is unclear whether, and if so how, the pandemic has had any bearing on these numbers. As in FY19, we sold no individual (print) issues in FY20. The number of subscriptions to JSTOR's "new issue alert" for the *Transactions* is steadily increasing, with 138 in FY20, compared to 104 in FY18, and 63 in FY17, suggesting that the interest in the journal is increasing. Unfortunately, we do not have insight in the number of articles downloaded or accessed through Project Muse or JSTOR.

Overall the *Transactions* made a gross profit of \$46,085.27, slightly less than the year before \$46,351.79. This compared to \$41,982 the year before, and \$48,164 and \$42,344 in the two preceding years. Of that 15% went to the Peirce Society, which comes down to \$6,912.79. We were charged \$41.60 because of additional typesetting fees, reducing the proceeds to the Society to \$6,871.19.

Cornelis de Waal,
Editor-in-Chief

4. Financial Statement

Richard Kenneth Atkins delivered the following report:

This report is for the period beginning Jan. 3, 2020 and ending Jan. 4, 2021.

The Society's income during this period was \$6,945.23:

\$6,871.19 in *Transactions* royalties

\$74.04 in interest

As of January 4, 2021, membership dues for 2020 have not been deposited in the account. I have been in contact with Indiana University Press to resolve the problem. The funds should be deposited within two weeks.

The Society's expenditures during this period were \$1,000.00 for the Peirce Essay Prize.

As of Jan. 4, 2020, the Society's assets were \$47,841.76, an increase of \$5,950.23 from Jan. 2, 2019.

The breakdown of the assets is:

\$27,600.22 in checking,

\$20,172.85 in a money-market account,

\$68.69 in member savings.

N.b. The previous financial statement reported that we had lost \$4.88 in member savings. This was not entirely accurate; the difference was rather a difference of the available balance to the current balance. The account had in fact gained 12 cents. The balance stated here is the current balance, of which only 63.69 is available. The balance stated in the last report was the available balance.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kenneth Atkins

5. Report from the Peirce Edition Project

André De Tienne submitted the following report on behalf of the Peirce Edition Project, reading a shorted version at the meeting.

January 2020

Report of the Peirce Edition Project to the Charles S. Peirce Society

The present report covers the period from January to December 2020.

Transition

Advisory board member Joseph Lancaster Brent, III passed away on January 21, 2020 at the age of 91. Born in Baltimore, Maryland on May 9, 1928 the son of a career diplomat, Joe Brent spent his early youth living overseas in Cairo, Paris, Jerusalem and Istanbul, before studying at Princeton University, and then obtaining a PhD in history from UCLA after serving in the Korean War. After teaching at Louisiana State University-New Orleans, the College of William & Mary, and the University of Maryland-College Park, Joe became the founding history department chair at Federal City College, which was established in 1968, and later merged with DC Teachers College and Washington Technical Institute to form the University of the District of Columbia. He was a tenured professor of history at UDC until retiring in 1995. As a professor of history, he developed a paradigm for the teaching of both public and academic history. It was based on the importance of generalization, causation, significance, and time as critical methodological factors demonstrating the “science” of history. He went on to formulate an integrated model for both public and academic history, demonstrating that all historians, whether they act in an academic setting or in the public realm, must use the same methodologies. It was in 1993 that Joe published his now famous biography, *Charles Sanders Peirce: A Life*, revised and expanded 5 years later. He developed a close relationship with the Peirce Project, at first through Nathan Houser who became a principal advisor and mediator regarding the biography. Brent was a great supporter of our critical edition and our operation. We will long miss his vigorous presence and his enthusiasm for Peirce.

Pandemic Toll

Starting in early April the campus closed all of its buildings and employees began working at home. This was very challenging because PEP work requires access to a quantity of paper-based resources, none of which are normally allowed to leave our premises: copies of manuscripts and correspondence, access to the Max H. Fisch papers, access to PEP file cabinets, and the like, not to mention access to a variety of computers with gigabytes of data on their hard drives. Only the PEP director was allowed by the administration to carry three computers to his home office with several folders. Staff duties had to be reconfigured to adapt to the new situation. In May the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts decided that the ever-worsening financial crisis demanded that two positions within the Institute for American Thought be cut. IAT Director Ray Haberski thereupon informed De Tienne that the cut would affect the two most vulnerable existing positions, both of which were in the Peirce Project. PEP long time research associate Joseph Kaposta happened to have reached retirement age: he was persuaded to retire promptly, and so he did: June 30 became his last day. Research assistant Matthew O’Haver was also let go, for his line was not permanent but cash-based, and SLA had no cash reserves. In addition to those two departures, PEP also lost a third person, our long time Technical Editor Young Chang who was notably in charge of maintaining our servers and hiring and supervising students helping develop STEP. Chang commuted to IUPUI from his home in Bloomington every day. The pandemic led the university to cancel the daily shuttle between IUPUI and IU-Bloomington. Not feeling safe, Chang asked to be reallocated to a technical position in Bloomington. As a result, PEP’s editorial staff, already diminished through years of attrition, was suddenly cut in half, leaving De Tienne and Associate Textual Editor April Witt as the only two full-time employees.

PEP Footprint

As mentioned in the 2019 report, the Peirce Project is facing eviction from its current space in the basement of the Education/Social Work building. The current footprint of PEP and the Max Fisch Library is 4000 sq. ft. As was discovered last year, the campus levies a tax of US \$25 per square foot per year on our type of space. The School cannot afford to pay \$100,000 a year to the campus, and therefore PEP is asked to reduce its footprint, in part by moving out of the unaffordable basement. Earlier this year we were told that we had to move out by December 2020. This schedule was then revised and pushed to summer 2021. On the one hand, moving out of the basement is a good idea. We are away from our own School, and practically invisible to faculty, staff, and students. Out of sight, out of mind: today's colleagues for the most part know nothing about our operation, and students have no incentive to come and use our library and other resources. Most of our visitors, paradoxically, come from other universities, and from other countries, not from IUPUI. It is also the case that the basement is not in good shape: the building shows its age, and there are all-too-frequent water-related incidents. Indeed, from May to September there were three such incidents, each time involving drain pipes or other fixtures in the ceiling that rusted out and caused watery fluids to hit the ground underneath. The worst incident destroyed an entire office which became a health hazard due to black mold. That office had to be sealed, its contents discarded, and then it had to be rebuilt from floor to ceiling. Other incidents were fortunately less severe and affected only ceiling tiles and the carpeted floor underneath. None of our collections were affected, miraculously. Air quality is another issue: ventilation is uneven throughout the basement, and so is heating. The temperature, always cold even in the summer, dropped to 60° F from October to December. It was discovered that the heating unit was broken. Hopefully it will have been repaired over the holidays.

On the other hand, though, moving out is a less than optimal idea because there is no more affordable space on campus, even though space is actually available. The current plan is for PEP to return to Cavanaugh Hall (the SLA building). A suite of offices on the third floor has been identified as the likely area. It only consists of three offices and some storage area: not even 1,000 square feet. Negotiations are ongoing: PEP has made it clear that it must maintain direct access to its own resources (including a ton of documents, archives, and many books) and to the Max Fisch Papers in their entirety. Other resources are likely to find a home in University Library or University Collections. Nothing is clear at this stage yet, also because of another circumstance: Interim SLA Dean Rob Rebein's appointment ended suddenly at the end of December. A new external Dean was appointed effective 1 January 2021, Professor Tamela Eitle, a sociologist who was recently vice provost for curriculum, accreditation and assessment at Montana State University. How she is going to address PEP's space issue is yet to be determined. De Tienne provided her with a summary of the situation and asked for her support.

The idea of finding more affordable space large enough to accommodate PEP and all of its collections outside campus has been floated by members of the PEP advisory board and others. The complexities involved are enormous, from all standpoints: legal, financial, archival, administrative, logistical, and of course institutional and strategic. How functional could PEP be away from the university? At what cost? Those are hard questions; solving them all will require a great deal of time and ingenuity. An optimal solution needs to aim for the long term and will require a fundraising campaign. The urgency at the moment forces us

to focus only on the short term, however, also because the PEP Director is under the pressure of his own multiple commitments, which keep increasing as staff gets reduced.

If PEP has to move in summer 2021, that will cause immense disruption. As we learned back in 2004 when we moved to the Education/Social Work building basement, such a move takes a ton of logistical preparation, of calculations, of scheduling, and of time to transport, resettle, and put everything back in operational order—several months. Our staff in 2004 was three times as large as today. With only two employees left, the move is likely to be a messy affair with long-term concerning ramifications regarding access to scattered collections. In the spring of this year the PEP director took time to describe those collections (eight major and seven minor collections) in some detail. The webpage discussing those resources is at <https://peirce.iupui.edu/resources.html>. That webpage provides multiple links to finding aids and other online resources, including other research centers.

Editorial Accomplishments

We had hoped to finish W9 this year. The pandemic threw a wrench into that intention. The reason is simple enough: proofreading and laying out the volume into printable book form using the obsolete Adobe FrameMaker + SGML software on an old and slow iMac was the responsibility of the two employees that were laid off. It now behooves the PEP Director to finish laying out the volume's back matter on his own, a skill he is busy acquiring when he can find the time. A hiring freeze prevents the Project from hiring anyone at the moment; should there be a thaw in that regard, it is not likely that the Project will be given priority because it is a research center and not a teaching department or program. In addition, our Associate Textual Editor has been required to teach courses in the IAT's professional editing program in order to help the IAT accrue tuition revenue, so that her effort for PEP has decreased sharply. Fortunately the PEP Director has not been required to teach any course, which helps a little, but that situation may not last.

After much haggling with university and campus research administration, De Tienne was allowed to resume working in the Peirce Project offices on campus in early June. He spent the last seven months of 2020 working mostly alone in the IAT basement: all other IAT employees stayed home. Kaposta spent his remaining weeks at home creating a database of Max Fisch's famous set of slips. That was possible in good part thanks to the scanning of a large portion of those 4 x 6 cards by Professor Daniel Everett, a sporadic visitor who is busy accumulating a ton of information toward his ambitious intellectual biography of Peirce. He is sharing with us his scans, and De Tienne established an OCR protocol for Kaposta to follow so that he could transform images of the slips into text, and then proofread and correct or retype the result. The end goal is to have a fully searchable database of those 60,000 slips—one of the most valuable resource at PEP. That work was interrupted by Kaposta's retirement. It is the kind of task that is perfect for volunteers to offer their service in order to complete it. One other task was to update PEP's most significant databases: the Manuscript Database and the Correspondence Database, both of which were running on ancient software. De Tienne managed to bring them back to sustainable 21st-century life. The PEP website itself was moved to a new server, and De Tienne learned how to maintain and update it himself.

NEH grant

The greatest portion of the PEP Director's time has been devoted to the NEH Digital Humanities grant awarded in 2018. It took us more than a year and a half to identify a suitable candidate for the NEH-funded position of Digital Humanities Programmer and Developer. It was only on May 1st of this year that Dr. Kannan Govindarajan, who has a Ph.D. in computer science with a special expertise in cloud computing and several years of post-doctoral research experience, began working for us as a Visiting Assistant Research Scientist—a faculty line. We applied to NEH for an 18-month extension of our grant, and NEH granted our request, which included a completely revised work schedule, last September. Dr. Govindarajan will therefore be able to continue work on the development of our Scholarly Text-Editing Platform (STEP) until the end of April 2022. His position is likely to be extended afterward for one additional year with endowment money at our disposal.

STEP Progress

Our revised STEP strategy made us realize the necessity to develop a software that would considerably increase STEP's efficiency and reliability. The core of STEP's conception rests on its adherence to the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)'s Guidelines for XML encoding. There are different ways of ensuring that compliance, most of which are not transparent. Years of experience have convinced us that such a lack of transparency was a barrier to successful compliance because it prevents users from understanding the logic of the process, and therefore from appreciating it and learning how to adapt it to distinct situations (many textual situations can be encoded in different ways depending on purposes and strategies). We decided that STEP and STEP Tools had to have direct access to the TEI Consortium's enormous bank of XML, HTML, and DTD files that lay out encoding requirements in utmost detail. It was not enough for STEP to be conformant to the Guidelines; the Guidelines had better be directly embedded within STEP in a way that allowed them to be not only better understood but also reliably updated whenever the TEI's Technical Council updates those files (about every six months). De Tienne therefore spent several months developing a brand-new application. Called "TEI-XML Components," that application manages to concentrate within itself the technical specifications concerning the entire TEI infrastructure, including 582 elements (or tags), 266 attributes, 832 values, 77 attribute classes, 124 model classes, all 21 TEI modules (each corresponding to an extensive chapter in the Guidelines), 33 datatypes, and 6 macros.

Data and metadata related to all those components (mined from thousands of files) rest in a number of multidimensional arrays within the application. A slew of algorithms allows those data to be distributed and displayed across many fields and within drop-down menus across a single interface structured by twelve tabs and panes. Every mention of any component is hyperlinked so that users can jump from one component in one pane to another instantly. A search utility allows users to type any keyword ("transcription" for instance) and access a complete list of components of any type whose descriptions include that keyword in one way or another. The application facilitates understanding of the hierarchical dependencies among all TEI XML components as well, and that is a considerable pedagogical benefit. An immediate technical benefit is that we now have algorithms that allow verification and validation of every XML encoding move executed by a STEP user. Should the TEI Technical Council change any rule in any subsequent edition of the Guidelines, a simple update of the application will accommodate that modification instantly

and seamlessly (the updating algorithm successfully passed the recent test of the August 2020 TEI Guidelines update).

De Tienne also developed another utility now attached to TEI-XML Components; it helps users not only validate the standardized format of any kind of value they provide to any TEI-sanctioned attribute, but also allows them to transform time, date, and duration values into the desirable but complex W3C or ISO standards. That utility also lets users add new values to attributes that allow it. Another improvement was the incorporation of an *internal web browser* within the application, a browser specially configured to interact with the TEI website and bring any relevant webpage of that website into view within the context of whatever TEI component is being examined.

As to Dr. Govindarajan, his first task was to familiarize himself with the current platform's architecture and structure (developed over several years by a dozen students). He focused in particular on the extensive workflow in order to understand the various cross-dependencies and interactions among its components, including the logic governing the various modules ("desks") that facilitate workflow monitoring, manuscript transcription, critical editing, research annotations, creation and consolidation of front-end matter and back-end matter, and text layout. He managed to migrate and get STEP to run within the Linux Operating System successfully. He inspected the technological and security issues and determined that the PHP source code was vulnerable to various security attacks such as Cross scripting attack, SQL injection attack, session hijacking, and a few others. He also determined that our long-held strategy of relying on the Drupal CMS was no longer practical or economical. We therefore abandoned it for another more malleable and robust solution involving the redesign of STEP platform within a Model-View-Controller (MVC) architecture, ensuring far easier management of the platform. The migration of STEP toward such an MVC architecture is being done via Ruby on Rails. The Model contains the business logic of an application and the rules to modify the data. The View contains the display logic which is implemented using HTML. The Controller establishes communication between model and view, allowing the data from models to be processed and transferred to the view for display. The plan is therefore to develop separate controllers, including the Workflow Desk Controller, Editing Controller, Transcription Desk Controller, Apparatus Desk Controller, Annotations Desk Controller, Front Matter Desk Controller, Back Matter Desk Controller, and Layout Desk Controller. Dr. Govindarajan is currently busy designing the STEP workflow by modeling it closely on a prototype designed by De Tienne: STEP Workflow Monitor. He is also busy developing an online version of STEP Transcripitor, along with a TEI-XML editor.

We have reconceived STEP as a scalable cloud-based infrastructure. We will thus be able to support multiple editorial projects in the current system, projects that can share and integrate the data in the cloud anywhere around the world. STEP will ultimately consist of a standalone TEI editor and of a virtual STEP Platform workflow management coupled with a TEI online editor system. Saving all data to the cloud provides easy access globally, along with unlimited storage space, robust security, considerable scalability, and especially ease of maintenance and thus appreciable savings: only one person will be needed to maintain the whole structure instead of multiple maintenance staff in different places.


Deledalle Papers

We hired graduate student Akshay Rajendra Mali to develop an implementation of the ArchivesSpace CMS to create an online catalog of the Deledalle Papers. The implementation is mostly done and catalog data are being entered as time permits. The ArchivesSpace

solution is robust and accommodates plenty of kinds of metadata. The plan is to extend it to the cataloging of other PEP collections, such as the Max Fisch Papers, the Arthur Burks papers and ENIAC artefacts, the Carolyn Eisele Papers, and the Charles W. Morris Papers.

On behalf of the staff of the Peirce Project, I want to express our enormous gratitude to the Peirce Society and to all steadfast supporters of the Peirce cause and the Project's mission. The year ahead is not fully predictable. Perhaps the long promised W9 will be completed, perhaps not: that will depend largely on the level of disruption we will need to face. More than ever PEP's future depends on the success of the STEP platform—the gateway toward decentralizing the Peirce Project operation and ensuring longevity to our essential enterprise. This is why developing that platform is our current priority.

Respectfully submitted,



André De Tienne

Director and General Editor, Peirce Edition Project

6. Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of New Officers

Rossella Fabbrichesi submitted the following report on behalf of the nominating committee.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Rossella Fabbrichesi, with Kathleen A. Hull and Aaron B. Wilson as members, propose the following candidates:

- Rosa Mayorga for Vice-President (2021–2022, succeeding to the presidency 2022–2023);
- Catherine Legg for at-large member (2021–2024);

Respectfully Submitted,

Rossella Fabbrichesi

All nominated persons accepted the nomination. Following the new constitutional guidelines, the nominees were announced to all members by email on Nov. 9, 2020. Having received no other nominations by Dec. 25, 2020, nominations closed and the persons nominated were elected by acclamation.

7. New Business

Rosa Mayorga recorded her thanks to Michael Raposa for his service to the Society and looks forward to joining the Executive Committee over the coming years.

8. Installment of New President

John Woods was installed *in absentia* as the new president of the Charles S. Peirce Society.

9. Adjournment

Martin Irvine moved to adjourn. Rosa Mayorga seconded. The annual general meeting adjourned at 11:47 p.m.