

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2023

The Annual General Meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society was held in conjunction with the Eastern Division Meeting of the APA on January 5, 2023, at the Sheraton Le Centre, Montréal, Quebec. Rosa Maria Mayorga chaired the meeting and called it to order at 12:38 p.m.

1. Moment of Silence

The annual meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of Peirce scholars who passed away in the last year.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 Meeting

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting had been posted online. Copies were also distributed at the annual meeting. Rosa Maria Mayorga asked for a motion to approve the minutes. James Liszka so moved and Fabienne Forster seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Report from the Executive Committee

Richard Kenneth Atkins submitted the following report.

The Executive Committee Meeting was held virtually via email. All members of the Executive Committee were contacted and responded regarding the agenda and items.

Agenda Items

- (A) Non-profit status update
- (B) Funding for scholarship
- (C) Next year's AGM
- (D) Any other business

(A) Non-profit status update: On December 5, 2022, we received notification from the IRS that we have been legally approved as a public non-profit foundation.

(B) Funding for scholarship: Every year, we set aside a certain amount of funding for scholarship, usually 2/3rds of the year's income. This includes the \$1,000 set aside for the Peirce prize. Atkins reported that the income this past year was \$6,597.06. 2/3rds of that is \$4,400. Atkins requested that that amount of money be set aside for funding for scholarship, with which the committee unanimously agreed.

(C) Next year's AGM: Atkins proposed that we continue to hold our annual conference in conjunction with the E-APA in New York, NY, especially as this keeps us in line with the calendar year which is also our fiscal year as a non-profit. The committee unanimously agreed.

(D) *Any other business:* Cornelis de Waal suggested that we add to the agenda for the annual business meeting a moment of silence to commemorate Peirce scholars who passed this year. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed.

4. 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*. Richard Kenneth Atkins read the report on his behalf.

During the 2022 calendar year we produced four issues of the *Transactions*. We encountered some problems with the first issue, because the printer suffered a ransomware attack. This apparently wreaked havoc with their system and caused significant delay in the completion of the issue.

Likely due to the (after) effects of the pandemic, quality submissions to the journal were down significantly, both in the Peirce segment and in the non-Peirce segment of the journal. In addition, there was a significant drop in book reviews. The latter led to the resignation of our long-term book review editor, Henrik Rydenfelt. For the last two months I have been taking over for him, and I'm first-hand experiencing some of the challenges, even including publishers simply not following through on requests for books. We did, though, publish a book symposium on James Liszka's *Charles Peirce on Ethics, Esthetics and the Normative Sciences*, and we have another book symposium forthcoming on Chris Voparil's *Reconstructing Pragmatism: Richard Rorty and the Classical Pragmatists*.

Besides a number of excellent papers on Peirce, we published some very nice papers in American philosophy. The latter include an extensive portrait of Edwin Bissell Holt, a discussion of the use of the term pragmatism in 18th century Germany, the first English translation of two texts by Wilhelm Jerusalem, as well as work on George Santayana, Jonathan Edwards, and Emily Dickinson.

With Henrik gone, the editorial team is now down to Robert Lane and me (hopefully briefly returning to the traditional Robin-Hare setup). I'll be attending the upcoming SAAP meeting in Denver, and Bob is planning to attend as well. There we will start the process of looking for a new non-Peirce editor to replace Dwayne Tunstall who resigned a little over a year ago.

The press has informed us that financially the situation is becoming a bit more challenging, including, among other things, increases in the cost of paper stock and shipping. This isn't reflected yet in the numbers below, as IU Press's fiscal year ended on June 30, but we may see this play out going forward.

At the end of IU Press's 2022 fiscal year (FY22), the *Transactions* counted 2,200 subscribers (down from 2,378), resulting in a decrease of 7.5%. Of these subscriptions 2078 were Project Muse subscriptions (down from 2,200). The number of institutional subscribers decreased by 10% dropping from 88 to 80. Unfortunately, the situation with individual subscribers is more dismal. Over the last three years we dropped from 94 to 73 to 42. This

means that, technically, the Society's membership is down to 42 members. This suggests that it might be good for the Society to explore different mechanisms for determining membership, so that it more aptly represents the community of Peirce scholarship. Over the last two decades the landscape of journal publishing has changed considerably, making individual journal subscriptions largely a thing of the past. And this landscape is still changing. Starting in 2021, JSTOR ceased its Current Hosting Program (CHP). This means that current issues are now no longer available through JSTOR but need to be accessed through Project MUSE (the last issue to be found on JSTOR is 57-2). Because of the 3-year moving wall, this means that no new issues of the *Transactions* will appear on JSTOR until 2025 (given how it is calculated, the so-called 3-year wall is effectively a 4-year wall). The transition to Project Muse has caused problems for a few subscribers, but as far as I can tell all of them were quickly resolved. We sold no individual print issues during FY22.

In FY22, the *Transactions* made a gross profit of \$42,333.73, which is down slightly from previous year's \$43,818.46 (which was close to \$3,000 less than the two fiscal years before it). Of this 15% went to the Peirce Society, which amounts to \$6,350.06, slightly less than the year before (\$6,572.77). This year there were no editorial surcharges.

Returning to the cost increases I mentioned earlier, I would like to reaffirm that having a journal that includes a print run remains fairly expensive. The total cost for FY22 for having four issues printed and mailed adds up to about \$3,800. The number of subscribers (institutional as well as individual) who received a print edition of the journal during that period was 63, resulting in a cost per subscriber of \$60. (In addition, for each issue between 20-30 copies are sent free-of-charge to contributors, and I receive 15 copies of each issue as well.) I think that there are at least two reasons for retaining the print edition at this time. First, the far majority of individual subscribers still receives the print edition and having a printed copy may be why they are still subscribers (only nine opted for the electronic edition only), as do over a third of the institutional subscribers. Second, sending paper copies remains a nice gesture to the contributors.

Cornelis de Waal,
Editor-in-Chief

5. Financial Statement

Richard Kenneth Atkins delivered the following report:

This report is for the period beginning Jan. 1, 2022 and ending Dec. 31, 2022.

The Society's income during this period was \$7,473.26:

- \$6,350.06 in *Transactions* royalties
- \$247.00 in membership dues
- \$160.19 in interest

Membership dues represent those from 2021. 2022 membership dues have not been deposited into the account. I have been in contact with Indiana University Press about the matter.

The Society's expenditures during this period were:

- \$1,000.00 for the Peirce Essay Prize
- \$226.72 for membership dues to FISP
- \$150.00 for Central APA AV Equipment
- \$2,350.00 for non-profit incorporation legal expenses
- \$2,000.00 to fund publication of Peirce's writings into Bulgarian by A. Feodorov
- \$150.00 in bank fees for international wire transfers to FISP and for book funding

As of Dec. 31, 2022, the Society's assets were \$52,613.46, an increase of \$880.53 from Dec. 31, 2021.

The breakdown of the assets is:

- \$17,161.12 in checking,
- \$35,383.41 in a money-market account,
- \$68.93 in member savings.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kenneth Atkins

6. Report from the Peirce Edition Project

André De Tienne submitted the following report on behalf of the Peirce Edition Project, which Richard Kenneth Atkins read.

5 January 2023

Report of the Peirce Edition Project, Year 2022 to the Charles S. Peirce Society

The present report covers the period from January to December 2022. It will focus on four matters: PEP staff, the reconstruction of the Peirce Project, progress made on our NEH-ODH grant to develop STEP, and the need to launch a fundraising campaign worldwide (plus one extra request).

PEP Staff

The Project's editorial staff consisted of the same three employees: Associate Textual Editor April Witt, NEH-funded/PEP-Endowment-funded STEP Developer Kannan Govindarajan, and myself as director and general editor. The School's financial situation throughout 2022 continued its more-than-a-decade-long decline. As a result, faculty and staff attrition persisted school wide. In July 2022, April Witt became half-time at the Peirce Project, the Dean having decided to assign her other half to duties as associate director of the Writing Center in the English Department. The key difficulty is that the Peirce Project does not generate tuition revenue. Assigning April to English was a way to resolve a problem within the English Department and with the fact that PEP, much reduced as it is, does not generate money.

On October 27, 2022, a fateful meeting took place between De Tienne and the Dean team (Dean Tami Eitle, Associate Dean for Research Jeff Wilson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and former IAT Director Raymond Haberski, and the School's Fiscal Office Lori Handy). They explained that they were being forced, through campus administration pressure, to implement a hard budgetary decision. They had decided to cut all non-tenure-track non-grant-funded positions in all of the School's research centers, effective either the end of June 2023 or grants' end date. Effectively that means that the Peirce Project would lose both April Witt and Kannan Govindarajan, leaving myself as the only person on staff since I am the only member with tenure. The measure applies thus also notably to the other three editions: the Santayana Edition, The Frederic Douglass Papers, and the Ray Bradbury Center. One consequence is the practical ending of the "Institute for American Thought."

The consequence of this illiberal attack against humanities research within an American university will be discussed in this report's last section.

Research Center Resurrection

Following the mold-contamination disaster described in last year's report, PEP activities were severely affected by the slow transition to much smaller older quarters in Cavanaugh Hall. To make a long and painful story short and painless to read, suffice it to say that I managed to finalize that move (which took many protracted stages) throughout summer 2022, spending all of those months configuring and reconfiguring the arrangement of about 60 file cabinets, 300 drawers, 400 boxes in a rational order across the six little rooms that constitute our new research center in CA 213, in the north-west corner of the building's windowless second floor. The Peirce Project thus reopened its doors to ourselves and our visitors on October 10, a good two weeks before the aforesaid fateful meeting. Though not spacious, the research center looks good and tidy, with every resource in its right place.¹ All the paper collections we had, except for the Carolyn Eisele papers,² are there. One room in particular has been turned into a hallowed shrine. Its door's nameplate bears the name of Max H. Fisch. It contains plenty of file cabinets full of his papers, private and professional. It is also adorned with several of portraits of his and related artifacts.

As far as the Max Fisch library is concerned, all of his books are now in the Law School Library, along with the books pertaining to the Paul Weiss library, the Charles W. Morris book deposit, and about half of Carolyn Eisele's library (the other half had to be discarded, and it took me days to cull it down, wielding Peirce's pragmatic maxim along with critical commonsensical reasonableness). As far as the other library collections are concerned, I am relieved to say that all the books from the Peter Hare deposit, the Arthur W. Burks deposit, the David Pfeifer deposit, the RCLSS deposit (semiotics), and the Irving Anellis deposit (logic) are in my own new office in CA 513. After spending six months in a tiny shoebox office, I was allowed to move to a room 4 times larger, large enough to accommodate 18 full bookcases besides my own large desk (inherited from Max Fisch) and six file cabinets.

¹ See a picture at <https://www.researchgate.net/lab/Andre-De-Tienne-Lab>.

² Professor Kees de Waal is graciously spending much of his rare free time examining the 120+ boxes constituting the Carolyn Eisele Papers, deciding what is worth keeping and what can be safely thrown away. That strenuous work will take many months, still in the basement of our former dreadful but now decontaminated abode.

The reopening of that center means that scholarly visitors can now come back and conduct their research for days, weeks, or months for the sake of great books and magnificent doctoral dissertations.

STEP and NEH Grant

Last year's report had a long technical section explaining multiple details regarding our technological endeavors regarding STEP. I will not repeat any of it here: much of the work we have done since then follows the same lines. The work was supported through a grant from the NEH Office of Digital Humanities. That grant came to an end at the end of April 2022, at which time I filed the related semestrial report. At the end of July 2022 I filed the final summative grant report along with the requisite "white paper," a document for public consumption that explains to everyone what we have done (according to plan and beyond the plan), what we have not managed to do, how, why, with what challenges encountered, lessons learned, and directions for the future. That same document comes with large appendices that illustrate abundantly all aspects of our work: the cloud-based structure that constitutes STEP's architecture environment, our implementation of the online workflow for a critical edition, the amazing work done to transmute the standalone version of STEP Transcriptor into the online version, a comparison of algorithms programmed in LiveCode and in JavaScript, a full presentation of the TEI-XML Components software (the most crucial piece of our strategy, which gets successfully updated every six months to match the new versions of the TEI Guidelines), and a presentation of several other tools: STEP Alternator, STEP Hand and Type Descriptor, Witness-List Maker, STEP Textual Editor, and TEI Header Maker.

The white paper constitutes the most comprehensive report about the Peirce Project's technological progress to date. The document is a large PDF of 212 pages. It can currently be downloaded by anyone at the following URL:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/366866871_Creating_an_Online_Editing_Platform_for_Scholarly_Editions-NEH-WhitePaper

Since the grant terminated on April 30, a principal concern was to retain Dr. Govindarajan beyond that term. The School could not afford it, evidently, but it is fortunate that the Peirce Project, managed most thriftily for years, was prepared for such terrible rainy days. Our endowment at the IU Foundation had enough money to keep Kannan for two extra years. Transforming his position from a grant-funded faculty position into an endowment-funded staff position took much administrative effort, and so did the securing of the extension of his J1 visa, followed by its transformation into an H1-B visa—extremely challenging and finger-biting operations considering the immense backlog and complexified rules in place at USCIS and at the Department of Labor. Extensive collaboration with overworked personnel in the School administration and IUPUI's Office of International Affairs was each time eventually successful, fortunately. I cannot stress enough the significance and the competence of the work Kannan has been doing over the last three years to secure the technological future of the Peirce Project. It is very complicated work related to a very complex workflow. We have made great headways, I am proud to say. But much more work remains to be done.

Fundraising Campaign

During the sleepless night that followed the fateful meeting of October 27, I resolved to do the following, based on two simple premises. The first premise is raw: doing nothing would essentially destroy everything PEP has done over the last twelve years, turning my life into pragmatistic meaninglessness. That is a metaphysical absurdity that has no right of reality. The second premise is all-American: our Dean told me that if I wanted to maintain staff I had to buy them. It follows that PEP needs a ton of money. Going to NEH or other foundations with a modicum of interest in the humanities (they are extremely rare) is uneconomical: it takes each year an enormous amount of time to prepare a grant application that, even if wonderfully made, has little chance of garnering unanimous “Excellent” marks (at NEH), year in, year out. Besides, the money thus received does not allow to maintain more than one person in the team at an uncompetitive salary (remembering that the university takes away about a third of grant monies for indirect costs).

The only long-term viable solution is to raise at least ten million dollars to create a permanent endowment whose annual returns (an average of \$450,000) are sufficient to maintain a minimal efficient team permanently. Why permanently? Because the work is enormous, and because back in 1986 Max Fisch had been told by the IUPUI administration that they had decided to make the Peirce Project permanent.³

The calculation goes as follows. It is premised that the School will continue to pay the Director’s salary, not only because he is tenured and is a member of the Philosophy Department, but also because the School had better keep some skin in a high-stake scholarly endeavor. The Project has enough money in an endowment to afford paying Kannan Govindarajan’s salary until the end of April 2024. Retaining Kannan for many years is a priority since he is the software engineer in charge of developing STEP. His salary is about \$100,000 a year, fringes included. I must hire a scholar with a PhD on Peirce and an aptitude for minute editing that I can groom for several years in all the arcana of our complex workflow (an endowed tenure-track position): \$80,000. Also two lower-level positions to transcribe/encode manuscripts and proofread transcriptions: \$120,000; two graduate students for all kinds of tasks: \$38,000; operational costs (computers, travel to archives and conferences): \$18,000; publication costs (whether print or digital): \$25,000. Total: \$450,000. When STEP becomes fully functional, scholars from plenty of other places will be able to collaborate on the edition and earn much scholarly credit for it.

How are we going to raise 10 million dollars, which is, to relativize, tantamount to asking 10,000 people to give \$1,000 each, just once but forever? By organizing an

³ Quoting from a letter Max Fisch wrote to Mrs. Helen “Betsy” Peirce Prince on 2 April 1986: “Indiana University has decided to make the Peirce Edition Project a permanent research center, continuing on beyond our 20th volume, and extended to include other members of the Peirce family: his father Benjamin, his grandfather Benjamin, his brother “Jem” (James Mills), and your grandfather Herbert. We already have the papers and the philosophical part of the library of Charles Morris, an important follower of Charles Peirce in semiotics. I am leaving my own library to this new center, and it is being catalogued and evaluated at the present time. (My professional correspondence and research files are included.) If you are still undecided about your grandfather’s books and papers, may I suggest that you consider the Peirce Project. . . . I personally would be very pleased if your grandfather’s collection were deposited here, and the director of the Project and the Dean of our School of Liberal Arts would be delighted with such an addition to our resources. They assure me that it would be kept separate and properly cared for, and made accessible only to qualified scholars and students.” SLA Dean Plater, who had been copied, thanked Max Fisch for that “wonderful letter,” and Plater cc’d that reply to IUPUI Chancellor/IU Vice President Glenn W. Irwin, Jr. and IUPUI Executive Dean Howard G. Schaller.

international campaign that will last as long as it needs to. Professor Giovanni Maddalena recently came to IUPUI to discuss the strategy and together we hatched a workable plan. The good thing to know is that the School has agreed to back the initiative: they acknowledge that the amount, though seemingly huge, is correct. The Indiana University Foundation has the necessary structure to maintain such an endowment while ensuring complete security and legality. They are also good at maintaining its stability throughout poor market conditions.

We are busy establishing a fundraising board, preparing strategies for identifying moneyed people, and a calendar of activities that includes learning how to raise funds and how to maintain a functioning team-spirited board. Our constituency is worldwide, diverse, multidisciplinary. The intellectual stakes are highest: just like Aristotle, Peirce will continue to be studied two thousand years from now. That's because his work is so fundamental that it holds research promises in nearly every discipline across the humanities, the arts, the social sciences, and even the hard sciences. To make our case, we will need many dedicated people full of ideas for all sorts of initiatives, and good at communication across a spectrum of media.

I am confident that Peirce Society members can help in this ambitious endeavor. A permanent endowment will free us from the enormous amount of time wasted every year looking for pitiful amounts of funding. It is likely that the majority of the funds will come from the US, and that is only fair: this country had better come to the rescue of one of its most significant and influential thinkers in its entire history. Failing to do will only attract global opprobrium across centuries. But we also need to reach out everywhere abroad because Peirce has become, indeed, a thinker of global significance, and one should not bet that Americans may be stirred to do the right thing all by themselves. Still, it is not as though the money does not exist: it is flowing just about everywhere. What we need, therefore, is to develop convincing and compelling rhetoric. Anyone good at it should step forward and contact the Peirce Project immediately. Anyone favorably connected should work those connections.

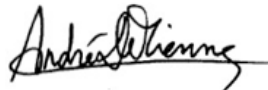
One Extra Campaign

What about Volume 9? Finishing it will require finding an extra \$85,000 as quickly as possible. That is the cost to hire someone with a very special competence: the ability to convert all of our W9 files from their current obsolete file formats (FrameMaker+SGML and PDFs) to Adobe InDesign. We cannot use our current PDFs of W9 to print the volume because those PDFs are generated by Adobe FrameMaker 7 for the Mac, and that software works only on the two ancient iMacs that sit on my desk behind a far more recent workstation. The PDFs so generated are structurally obsolete and cause a great deal of problem when exported to current versions of Adobe Acrobat because of their font. Following a decision made in the late 1990s, PEP volumes began to be printed in the Times font because that font could accommodate all manner of special characters and because it was thought to be a long-lasting classical font. Unfortunately, that turned out to be unforeseeably false. The Times font has been abandoned by all the major software companies. Adobe brought its own Times-font license to an end. As a result, the text images in those ancient PDFs are uneditable. Any correction results in garbage and loss of layout. W9 needs to be laid out afresh and completely. That will take a full year of work for someone with requisite technical skills, hence \$85,000.

Final words

It seems that every year the Peirce Project's report to the Society is a mere litany of worsening gloom and doom. This Project has been my life and soul since September 10, 1985, Peirce's birthday, the day I arrived at Indianapolis and was greeted at the airport by Max Fisch himself. Never would I have imagined, in those heydays, the kind of fate I have been confronting now for so many years. This has been a cross full of thorns. Yet I am fully determined, more so than ever, to get us out of the current situation, which cannot get any worse now that it has bottomed out. We cannot allow this edition to perish. Throughout the several months I spent rebuilding the research center, I marveled every day at the incredible richness and quality of the resources we have accumulated in nearly 50 years at IUPUI, not to mention the 30 extra years ensconced in Max Fisch's prolonged study of Peirce! No critical scholarly edition of Peirce is conceivable without having those resources at hand. I somehow inherited their stewardship. Let us not betray the extraordinary legacy they represent. They demand continuity, they demand to be used. The posterity of Peirce-based scholarship is at stake. Stagnation must be avoided at all cost. And the cost is ten million dollars. Only. I urge everyone who cares to go get them.

Respectfully submitted,



André De Tienne

Director and General Editor, Peirce Edition Project

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

Elizabeth Cooke submitted the following report on behalf of the nominating committee, which Richard Kenneth Atkins read.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Cooke, with Michael Raposa and Giovanni Maddalena as members, propose the following candidates:

Hans Joas (Humboldt University of Berlin, DE) as Vice-President 2023–2024, rising to the Presidency 2024–2025

Aaron Wilson (South Texas College, USA) as Executive Director 2023–2026

Maria Regina Brioschi (Università degli Studi di Milano, IT) as At-Large Member 2023–2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Cooke

All nominated persons accepted the nomination. The nominees were announced to all members by email on Nov. 28, 2022. Having received no other nominations by Jan 1, 2023, nominations closed and the persons nominated were elected by acclamation.

8. New Business

Rosa Mayorga asked whether there was any new business. Richard Kenneth Atkins thanked Rosa Maria Mayorga for her service as President over the past year. Rosa Maria Mayorga thanked Richard Kenneth Atkins for his service to the Society in his capacity as Executive Director over the past six years.

9. Installment of New President

Yi Jiang was installed as the new president of the Charles S. Peirce Society.

10. Adjournment

Rosa Maria Mayorga adjourned the annual general meeting at 1:06 p.m.