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**Charles S. Peirce, evolutionary pragmatism and the history of science.**

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The paper under review has the following sections: Peirce the abductive detective (23–28); Working with Peirce materials: his manuscripts, collected works and recent editions (28–41); Peirce and history of science (I): his place in the history of mathematics (41–53), which deals with Georg Cantor, Richard Dedekind and C. S. Peirce (42–46), and Peirce’s approach to the infinite and to continuity (47–53); Peirce and history of science (II): the abductive scientific method and creative genius (53–67), which deals with Peirce and William Whewell (54–55), Peirce and the history of astronomy (55–56), Petrus Peregrinus (56–58), Peirce and the logic of science (58–61), Peirce on the history of biology: the case of Louis Pasteur (61–63), Peirce and the history of mathematics (63–65), and finally a last section on abduction and guessing (65–67), and a conclusion (68).

It can be read as an introduction to the work of C. S. Peirce as a mathematician, as a historian of science and as a philosopher of science. The relations between Peirce and Cantor and Dedekind are dealt with in a masterly manner and in detail, concluding that in assessing Peirce’s place in the history of science in the 19th century “he was clearly one of the pioneers”, and “one of the first to apply logic to mathematics to achieve positive mathematical results, rather than use logic simply as a critical means of examining foundations questions”. Special attention is dedicated to abductive reasoning as the key “to understanding the nature of scientific knowledge and how it is obtained”, grounded on the principle of continuity. The real history of the development of science furnished Peirce with the best examples (Kepler, Galileo, Mendeleev, Pasteur) of how to conduct the scientific inquiry to ascertain truth, and the role of informed guessing or abduction in this process: “For Peirce, reasoning was a process, abduction a method for guessing right, which more often than not succeeded because nature, and the mind of man, formed by the same laws, reflected the same laws. The synergy was the secret—and the secret was no mystery to Peirce”.

This paper exhibits an exceptional quality of outstanding scholarship, being at the same time very well written, and beautifully printed, including fourteen photographs and a wide bibliographic list of references.

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