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Peirce Edition Project

Writings of Charles S. Peirce



(index.html)

Publications (publications.html)

Primary Publications

A Century of Editing Peirce

Presentations

Past Newsletters

Book Notices

Primary Publications

Los viajes europeos de Charles S. Peirce, 1870–1883

From the back cover:

This volume presents the correspondence that the American scientist and philosopher Charles S. Peirce (1839-1914) maintained throughout the five trips he made through Europe between 1870 and 1883. These trips, closely linked to his activity as a scientist at the United States Coast Survey, made it possible for Peirce to come into contact with prominent European researchers and to acquire notable international prestige. The study of these letters, to which until now due attention had not been paid, is of great relevance for a better understanding of Peirce's biography, and also shows the enormous influence of the European years, of the cosmopolitan period of his life, in the evolution of his thought, and even in the genesis of some of his theories.

Here is a volume (© 2022) that has been in the works for nearly a quarter century. It is the brainchild of Jaime Nubiola and Sara Barrena, in collaboration with librarian and documentalist Jacin Luna (who helped find plenty of documents and illustrations) and Dra. Izaskun Martínez (who developed the remarkable website (<https://www.unav.es/gep/CorrespondenciaEuropeaCSP.html>) that has long been the permanent companion toward the production of this book).

The detailed table of contents traces the elaborate and multiform epistolary production, both professional and private, that Peirce maintained across his five European journeys across diverse European countries. Correspondence publication comes with many arduous editorial challenges, including that of their chronological and logical organization. Each of the five trips begins in the volume with a general description of that trip, then continues with Barrena's translation of all of Peirce's letters one after the other in chronological order, and ends with an "Otros documentos" section containing letters received by Peirce from the Coast Survey or from his family as well as documents related to Peirce's activities (reports, articles, photographs of books purchased, and other mementos). All letters had first to be deciphered and typed into English (available on the website) and then translated into Spanish (also on the website with thousands of hyperlinks to myriad illustrations). The task was herculean and we stand agape at such a remarkable accomplishment. The typesetting of such a complex volume, including illustrations and photographs interspersed throughout, and many hundreds of footnotes, is extremely well done and makes the book a pleasure to leaf through. Peirce's own drawings and mathematical equations are elegantly and smoothly reproduced as facsimile images throughout the texts.

There are useful complementary discussions at the end: a detailed overview of the places visited by Peirce, and then two essays on Peirce as a scientist and Peirce as a tourist. The selected bibliography and the index of names are two distinct navigation tools that end the book felicitously. The volume is a chef-d'oeuvre of thoughtful and dedicated scholarship. It will long redound to the credit of its editors.

19/7/23, 13:49

Peirce Edition Project

We are extremely grateful to Sara Barrena and Jaime Nubiola for this indispensable and original contribution to Peirce studies. It is available in both eBook (€ 23,99) or hardcover (€ 34.90) at EUNSA (Pamplona, Spain: Ediciones Universidad de Navarra, S.A., 2022, 714 pages).

Sara Barrena has a PhD in Philosophy and has coordinated the activities of the Peircean Studies Group of the University of Navarra since 1997. She is the author of *La belleza en Charles S. Peirce: Origen y alcance de sus ideas estéticas* (EUNSA 2015), *Charles S. Peirce: Un argumento obviado en favor de la realidad de Dios*, *La lógica considerada como semiótica*, *La razón creativa*, *Charles S. Peirce: El Pragmatismo y el amor evolutivo y otros ensayos sobre ciencia y religión*, and co-author with Jaime Nubiola of *Charles S. Peirce (1839–1914): Un pensador para el siglo XXI* (EUNSA 2013). Jaime Nubiola is a professor of Philosophy at the University of Navarra, where he has held the academic positions of Secretary General and Vice Rector for International Relations. He is the author of the books *El compromiso esencialista de la lógica modal*; *La renovación pragmatista de la filosofía analítica*; *El taller de la filosofía*; *Pensar en libertad*, and, with Fernando Zalamea, of *Peirce y el mundo hispánico*. He was director of the magazine *Anuario Filosófico* (2003–14). He founded the Peircean Studies Group in Navarre in 1994 to promote the translation and study of Peirce's work.

