

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
PEIRCE

Each volume in this series of companions to major philosophers contains specially commissioned essays by an international team of scholars, together with a substantial bibliography, and will serve as a reference work for students and nonspecialists. One aim of the series is to dispel the intimidation such readers often feel when faced with the work of a difficult and challenging thinker.

Charles Sanders Peirce (1839–1914) is generally considered the most significant American philosopher. He was the founder of pragmatism – the view, popularized by William James and John Dewey, that our philosophical theories must be linked to experience and practice. The essays in this volume reveal how Peirce worked through this idea to make important contributions to most branches of philosophy. The topics covered include Peirce's influence; the famous pragmatic maxim and the view of truth and reality arising from it; the question as to whether mathematical, moral, and religious hypotheses might aspire to truth; his theories of inquiry and perception; and his contribution to semiotics, statistical inference, and deductive logic.

New readers will find this the most convenient and accessible guide to Peirce currently available. Advanced students and specialists will find a conspectus of recent developments in the interpretation of Peirce.

Cheryl Misak is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto.

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