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.
The Cambridge Companion to
PEIRCE

Edited by
Cheryl Misak
University of Toronto
## CONTENTS

"List of Contributors" page ix

1 Charles Sanders Peirce [1839–1914] 1
   Cheryl Misak

2 Peirce’s Place in the Pragmatist Tradition 27
   Sami Fihlström

3 Peirce and Medieval Thought 58
   John Boler

4 Reflections on Inquiry and Truth Arising from Peirce’s Method for the Fixation of Belief 87
   David Wiggins

5 Truth, Reality, and Convergence 127
   Christopher Hookway

6 C. S. Peirce on Vital Matters 150
   Cheryl Misak

7 Peirce’s Common Sense Marriage of Religion and Science 175
   Douglas Anderson

8 Peirce’s Pragmatic Account of Perception: Issues and Implications 193
   Sandra Rosenthal

9 The Development of Peirce’s Theory of Signs 214
   T. L. Short
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Peirce's Semeiotic Model of the Mind</td>
<td>Peter Skagestad</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Beware of Syllogism: Statistical Reasoning and Conjecturing According to Peirce</td>
<td>Isaac Levi</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note on References</td>
<td></td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td></td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Index</td>
<td></td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTRIBUTORS

DOUGLAS ANDERSON is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Penn State University. He is the author of *Strands of System: The Philosophy of Charles S. Peirce* and coeditor of *The Contemporary Vitality of Pragmatism*.

JOHN BOLER is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is the author of *Charles Peirce and Scholastic Realism*, as well as numerous articles on Peirce and on medieval philosophy.

RANDALL DIPERT is C.S. Peirce Professor of American Philosophy at SUNY Buffalo. He has written extensively on the history and philosophy of logic, especially on Peirce and the nineteenth century. In aesthetics, he has published articles on music theory, performance practice, and authenticity and is the author *Artifacts, Art Works, and Agency* [Temple University Press: 1993].

CHRISTOPHER HOOKWAY is Professor of Philosophy at Sheffield University. His publications include *Peirce* [Routledge 1985] and *Truth, Rationality, and Pragmatism: Themes from Peirce* [Oxford University Press 2000].

ISAAC LEVI is currently John Dewey Professor at Columbia University. He is author of *Covenant of Reason, For the Sake of the Argument, Fixation of Belief and Its Undoing, Hard Choices, Enterprise of Knowledge, Decisions and Revisions*, and *Gambling with Truth* and is an editor of the *Journal of Philosophy*. He is a past president of the Charles Peirce Society.
x Contributors

CHERYL MISAK is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Truth and the End of Inquiry: A Peircean Account of Truth* (the second edition of which is coming out from Oxford University Press in 2004) *Verificationism: Its History and Prospects* (Routledge 1995), and *Truth, Politics, Morality: Pragmatism and Deliberation* (Routledge 2000).

SAMPI PIHLSTRÖM received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Helsinki in 1996. He is Docent and University Lecturer of Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Helsinki. His publications include three books in English: *Structuring the World: The Issue of Realism and the Nature of Ontological Problems in Classical and Contemporary Pragmatism* (dissertation, 1996); *Pragmatism and Philosophical Anthropology: Understanding Our Human Life in a Human World* (Peter Lang, New York, 1998); and *Naturalizing the Transcendental: A Pragmatic View* (Prometheus/Humanity Books, Amherst, NY, 2003).

SANDRA B. ROSENTHAL, Provost Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University of New Orleans, has published 11 books and approximately 200 articles on pragmatism and its relation to various issues and movements. She is on the editorial boards of several journals and book series and has served as president of various professional organizations, including the Charles S. Peirce Society, the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, and the Metaphysical Society of America.

T.L. SHORT is Chairman of the Board of Advisors to the Peirce Edition Project and author of many articles on Peirce.

PETER SKAGESTAD has taught philosophy at Williams College and at Trinity College, Hartford and currently teaches at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. He is the author of *The Road of Inquiry: Charles Peirce’s Pragmatic Realism* (1981), *Making Sense of History: The Philosophies of Popper and Collingwood* (1975), and numerous articles on philosophy, communication, and technology. He is an Associate Editor of *The Journal of Social and Evolutionary Systems*. 
Contributors

DAVID WIGGINS is Emeritus Wykeham Professor of Logic at Oxford University. He previously taught at Birkbeck College and is a Fellow of the British Academy as well as an Honorary Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His publications include *Sameness and Substance* (1986) and *Needs, Values and Truth* (a new edition of which was published in 1998), as well as numerous articles on ethics and metaphysics.