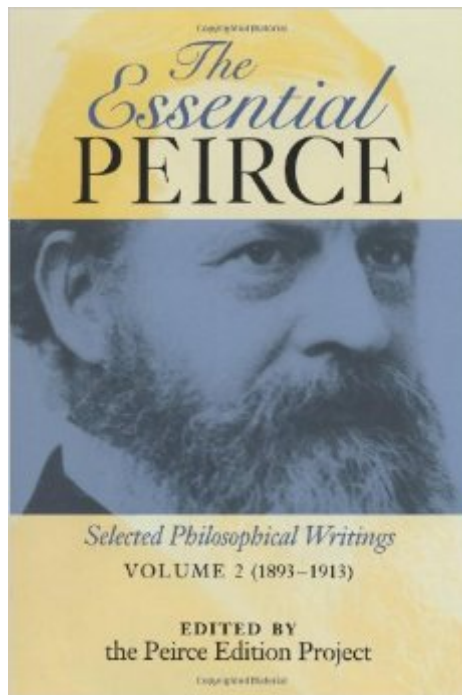


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# The Essential Peirce, Volume 2: Selected Philosophical Writings, 1893-1913



## Synopsis

Praise for Volume 1: "... a first-rate edition, which supersedes all other portable Peirces.... all the Peirce most people will ever need." — Louis Menand, *The New York Review of Books* Volume 2 of this convenient two-volume chronological reader's edition provides the first comprehensive anthology of the brilliant American thinker Charles Sanders Peirce's mature philosophy. A central focus of Volume 2 is Peirce's evolving theory of signs and its application to his pragmatism.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Carefully selected excerpts from Peirce's massive trove of life-thoughts. We may never arrive at "Peirce's system" but we can find out here exactly what he had to say about categories, semiotics, logic, and the plethora of phenomena to which he gave original names. This book should enable you to have the gumption to think for yourself and build on the triadic forms that he, more than any philosopher including Hegel, identified as the foundation of all thinking. This is happily available to Kindle users.

John J. McDermott began a section of his *Philosophy* 47, "Classical American Philosophy" by saying: "the life of Peirce is a life of misery and genius" (1977). Almost thirty years later I invited myself to a convention of the American philosophical association just to hear McDermott speak on William James, and on the progress made to edit and publish critical editions of American thinkers. In class, we read

John McDermott's selected editions for James and Dewey. He assisted in Joan Boydston's Dewey project; John was among the editors of the new collected James -- lead editor of the letter, I think. He apologized that he could not get permission, then, to print paperback editions of Royce, although he warned that Josiah Royce tends to write whole books that cannot be split out for selected essays. Peirce, he said in 2003, is the one American thinker who can be called a genius. Back in 1977, Professor McDermott told us every week about the great Indiana University effort to find, decipher, organize chronologically, and to publish a coherent 50 - 80 volume edition of Peirce. There was no good selected Peirce, although any book that includes "How to make our ideas clear" has a key essay. However, there is much more. The Essential Peirce (EP) is a thick two-volume selection from the Indiana project. It is the "much more": the most accessible -- easiest to find and to own -- of almost all of the key writings. It leaves out some of Peirce's unpublished work on "logical graphs"...symbolic logic by another name, and written before Russell and Whitehead. It leaves out most of his semiotics, which exist, as best I can tell, in his manuscripts. The left-out doesn't matter. Find a university library and get the Indiana edition or the mish-mash Harvard edition from the '20s. The two volumes of EP is where any student should start, and where John McDermott would have started if it had been available. On the Kindle: I haven't tried to read Peirce on a Kindle, and I think Peirce is the sort of writer who needs to be read on paper...you read a few sentences, make the connections, note your comments, underline, circle some key parts of his argument, then re-read. I've found that Kindle works better for fiction, and best for something like "Game of Thrones". Try this, but you will want the print version.

In my opinion, no genius exists on Earth, the extent\_\_scope, depth and breadth\_\_of C.S. Peirce; and these two exquisite volumes certainly do represent the best ordered collection of his complete life's work available\_\_that is as per his early ideas, as well as his mature thoughts. I especially thought his 'normative' and 'nomological' perspectives were the best that's ever been written, even to this day\_\_and that includes of the 100's/1000's of present secondary authors, who have written about Peirce... Peirce is not only the world's foremost logician, he's also the world's foremost epistemologist, esthetician and rhetorician. As the previous reviewer noted; "His knowledge was immense and he is the only person that I know of who equals Aristotle." I couldn't agree more, and I being 67 years young, have read most all the philosophers, mathematicians, logicians, estheticians and rhetoricians...My assessment rests on a lifelong study of philosophy, as well as the last 10 years being spent researching all links, books and materials available about Peirce. I've also visited his homestead, and the museum down the street, in Milford, Penn\_\_It's really a shame more hasn't

been done, by our Gov., to more thoroughly commemorate this greatest of America's public servants... If you want the philosophical truth between 'The Continental' and 'The Analytic' schools of thought, then this man's 'Pragmatism' is for you, as it's all Peirce's own, in only the way he could tell it, though he credits all the authors throughout history, who's shoulders he stands upon\_\_He also offers the most honest assessments of all the other philosophers, he chooses fit to mention, or dis-mention...I've been reading all the world's major philosophers, for years\_\_but, it's always a pleasure to return to the master of em all\_\_Peirce... As a matter of fact, I've had this book for over a month, but saved it for 1-1-2012, to start the new year off right\_\_what a pleasure it's been... I don't think there's a word been said in philosophy, since Peirce's death, that can't be 'research-chased' back to this massive intellect\_\_and that's no exaggeration, as it's been the largest part of my personal research project, over the last 10 years, of which I'm presently preparing an academic paper, and a few books. If anyone were to just type Peirce's name into Google, with a space + space, then type any important philosophical author after, since Peirce's late 1860's ideas on, and truly research the links, as to his primacy of ideas\_\_you'll find em, as they exist, especially if the subjects of philosophy are also link searched\_\_as that's simply how I found all the information linking Peirce to all modernity's most important philosophical ideas\_\_pre-dating what academics has presently given false credits to other lessers\_\_Just check out 'Peirce Law' as a primer, or his 1870 books on 'Boolean Logics and Maths...'I've never been more impressed by one man's total ideas, than by Peirce's, and I'm basically an economist, who uses Peirce's logic to improve my economic writings... I recommend these two volumes, more than anything in print\_\_as imo, it takes Peirce's 'critical common sense' logic, to even begin to understand all the other subjects' ideas, especially in today's overly hyped World\_\_He's by far, the most grounded man on Earth...

C.S. Peirce is a genius; and these two volumes represent the best collection of his work (unless you want to get his collected works). Peirce is extremely hard and extremely rewarding. His knowledge was immense and he is the only person that I know of who equals Aristotle.

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