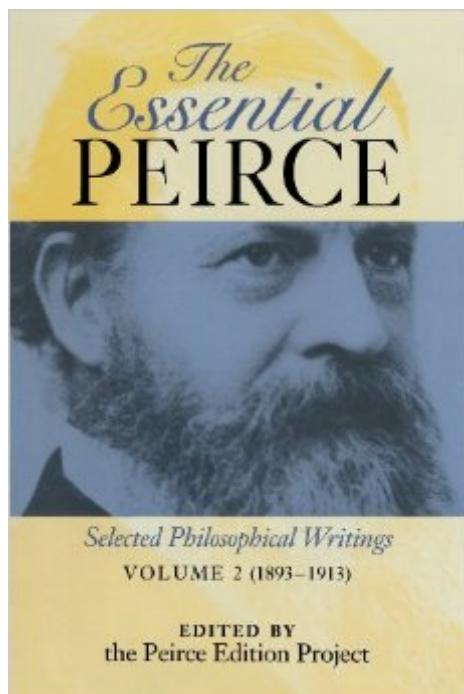


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# The Essential Peirce: Selected Philosophical Writings (1893-1913)



## **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.

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## **Customer Reviews**

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 McD'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 while 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 It leaves out some of Peirce's unpublished work on "logical graphs"...symbolic logic by another name, and written before Russell and Whitehead.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.

IMO, 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...

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