February 2013 Report of the Peirce Edition Project to the Charles S. Peirce Society

I have the pleasure to present the following report about the Peirce Project's main activities and accomplishments that took place between 1 April 2012 and 15 February 2013. Much of it is an update about several matters presented in last year's comprehensive report, which covered a 15-month period ending in March 2012.

Most important to begin with is to state how immensely grateful the Peirce Project continues to be for the sustained generosity manifested by many members of the Peirce Society and of the broader Peirce constituency. Donations from the last two years were sufficient to match the $30,000 NEH offered us in matching funds when we received a grant in the fall of 2010. That extra amount proved very useful and allowed us to retain the workforce needed to accomplish several crucial tasks.

2012 has been a year of transition and innovation in our multifaceted operation, which has three distinct wings: one consists of editors researching the Peirce Papers and establishing the text of the edition; the second consists of editorial staff transcribing and editing the texts for inclusion in the edition; the third consists of technical staff charged with maintaining and developing our production and dissemination technology. Not to mention the fourth wing: that of administering the Project, fundraising, writing grants, planning, liaising, representing, negotiating, hiring, and conferencing. Each has a complex mission, and each needs to accomplish it following best practices as far as possible.

Every now and then, a long-term project like ours needs to revisit its methods and technological infrastructure to ensure that we don't fall behind scholarly expectations and technical standards, which tend to evolve faster and faster in their mutual influence. I reported last year that we had begun revamping our technology. We have done considerable progress on that front throughout 2012, in ways that are now attracting the attention of the broader digital humanities initiatives that have been sprouting in many places in the US and abroad.

A key accomplishment has been the creation of the alpha version of STEP (Scholarly Text-Editing Platform), funded in part by an NEH Digital Humanities grant that was extended to a second year (until August 2013). We have hired four graduate students from the School of Informatics, and that team, headed by our technical editor Shawn Hanes, has been doing wonders. In particular, they were able to program an XML text editor that adheres to the international standards established by the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) and that can work *within* any web browser, as opposed to all other proprietary solutions that can only function outside a browser. This is a significant breakthrough because we now have an open-source technology that can be easily exported to and customized by other editions, a key NEH requirement. This XML editor constitutes the core of every module in the STEP platform, as every section of our volumes, whether authorial or editorial, needs to be transcribed or typed through that XML editor in order to comply with international standards. Now that this milestone has been reached, the nine modules that constitute STEP are being programmed much faster. The team consists of Human-Computer Interaction specialists who know how to design ergonomic interfaces, and therefore I am optimistic that by August 2013 the principal goal of producing a fully working beta version of STEP will have been reached.

In July 2012, the National Endowment for the Humanities turned down our 2011 request for continued funding in spite of the high score achieved by our grant application (23/25). I sent a new application in early December 2012, and we will hear about the outcome of that competition in August 2013. In the meanwhile, I have launched two other initiatives, both geared toward the realization of our dissemination platform, called "Collaborative Online Research Platform for Users of Scholarly editions" (or CORPUS). The first one stems from an internal IUPUI Arts and Humanities (IAHI) grant received from in February 2012, a new funding program that seeks to encourage interdisciplinary research collaboration among campus schools. The grant is titled "Digital Redesign of Scholarly Editions: A Collaboration between Humanities and Informatics Researchers." The proposal's major aims are (1) to identify and research theoretical

and practical issues related to the establishment of a viable and accepted peer-reviewing system within CORPUS; (2) to assess users' needs and also the desirability and implementability of a broad series of technological options for users; (3) to conceive and design the components of an elaborate end-user interface according to the best principles of human-computer interface (HCI) science so that the dissemination platform would provide users with several gradated options for contributing to the enrichment of an online repository. Thanks to the grant and to our collaboration with Professor Davide Bolchini, the director of the HCI Program at IUPUI, we hired Ph.D. student Yuan Jia from the School of Informatics; she is the lead HCI researcher on the design and implementability of CORPUS. Assisted by graduate student Reecha Bharali, Yuan Jia has been conducting a number of interviews with editors and scholars in order to determine what the current and incoming generations of researchers expect from CORPUS, what should be its main functionalities, and how it could best accommodate a peer-reviewing process attached to multiform contributions coming from the community of scholars. Jia and Bharali have begun designing a sophisticated schematic structure of the various components of CORPUS. This helps us both visualize and conceive new possibilities regarding both the connections between internal zones of the interface, and the ways in which platform users will want to interact with CORPUS for various scholarly and communicational purposes.

The second initiative is international: In August and September 2012 the Project collaborated with a team of researchers from Humboldt-Universität in Berlin on a proposal for the NEH/DFG Bilateral Digital Humanities Program titled "An Online Image-based Research Environment for the Humanities: The Digital Peirce Archive as a Case Study." The collaboration also involves members of the Max Planck Digital Library and the Houghton Library at Harvard. We propose to build a generic open-source image management and research environment endowed with a collaborative, multifunctional structure that humanities users can customize at will at minimal cost. Our solution is to build on, and expand, a dynamic scholarly image database called *imeji* that is being developed under the aegis of the Max Planck Digital Library in Munich. Imeji's strength is the collection of tools it provides to describe, enrich, connect, magnify, index, and link image data through a configurable set of metadata definitions. Our goal is to transform it into a collaborative research environment capable of seamless integration into the workflow of STEP and CORPUS. Its design will be tested through its exemplary application in the *Peirce Digital Archive* (DPA), which will be an online dynamic repository of digital images of the Peirce manuscripts. The principal result of this collaboration will be twofold: a generic and customizable image-based research environment, and the free, publicly accessible Digital Peirce Archive endowed with an HCI-compliant interface. The DPA represents a foundational module both for STEP and CORPUS since it would essentially feed them with digital images of the Peirce papers. We will learn about the outcome of that NEH/DFG grant competition in April.

The Peirce Project recently received a bridge-funding grant from IUPUI's Research Supports Funds Grant program (RSFG). That new source of funding combined with other monies will enable us to offer a one-year post-doctoral position to a Ph.D. in philosophy with competence in Peirce (we hope to prolong that position thanks to the NEH grant we just applied to). The new hire (whose search is underway) will take on the responsibility of an assistant research editor who will conduct full-time research on the reorganization, repagination, and dating of the Peirce manuscripts.

Throughout 2012 we did much progress on both volume 9 (August 1892 to early summer 1893) and on volume 11 (*How to Reason: A Critick of Arguments*, 1894). Vol. 9 is nearly ready and has been vetted by the MLA's Committee on Scholarly Editions, which I am glad to say has granted it its seal of approval. We will be sending that volume to the printer later this year. Volume 11 should be ready in 2015. I expect volume 7 (Peirce's contributions to the *Century Dictionary*) to be sent to the printer in January 2014. Our satellite operation at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM), directed by Prof. Latraverse, continued to work on vol. 7 and the thousands of complex documents associated with Peirce's work for the *Century Dictionary*. New team members (Ph.D. students) have replaced older hands. Latraverse's second SSHRC grant was extended for one more year and ended in summer 2012, when Latraverse retired—

although he continues to work on the volume with the help of his colleague and logician Alain Voizard. PEP-UQAM also intends to make available an online companion to W7, which will provide access to transcriptions, definitions, and related materials that did not make the selection for the print publication.

The major staff news that needs reporting is that Diana Reynolds, our long-time senior editorial associate and keystone of our transcription and book layout activities, will be leaving the Project at the end of February 2013. Diana first joined the Project in 1998 and worked for us as a technical assistant and then an editorial assistant until 2001. She returned in 2004 and stayed with us ever since. She has been a model staff member, diligent, well organized, and efficient. Our edition owes her an enormous debt of gratitude and appreciation for the excellent work she has consistently performed over those thirteen years. Transcribing Peirce is no easy task: the complexity is daunting, as is the tedium of tagging logical and mathematical formulas, intricate alteration descriptions, and long lists of emendations and other apparatus components. Diana laid out most of volume 6 and volume 8, and now volume 9. Every volume is difficult and offers new challenges never met before, both textual and technological. Diana has met those challenges steadfastly and with incredible grace and patience. We will miss her terribly.

Diana's departure means that we are about to launch another search for her succession, but her position will first need to be reconceived from the ground up before we proceed, given the new technological infrastructure we have been putting into place, which entails modifications in our workflow and in the distribution of responsibilities.

Our relationship with Institute for American Thought, of which the Project is a principal unit, remains excellent. The support provided us by IAT Director David Pfeifer has always been wonderful, and I want to finish this report by expressing our special gratitude to this remarkable gentleman, always full of sound advice, steadfast encouragement, and good cheer. The Peirce constituency owes him a great deal for everything he has done and will continue to do for the Project, even after he steps down from his position, which he will do at the end of June 2013.

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