

Letter to Al re Signs Becoming Sighs

Dear Al,

Re: Signs Becoming Sighs.

I spent a couple of very long heavy days on Floyd Merrill's book. It was valuable in showing that Peirce's ontological notions about continuity/discontinuity and chance have a good deal of current support. Quite surprising, as they seemed pretty outrageous when Peirce first put them forward. The tip backwards to Leibnitz and forward to Bohm actually makes Bohm's position look stringer.

Since reading Feibleman's 1946 book on Peirce I have not had much trouble with the ontological views but have been somewhat amused by the academic philosophies as they tie themselves into knots. I felt sorry for Merrill getting enmeshed but I guess that he plans to make his academic name out of Peirce.

My concerns are much more practical and I could not tune in to a lot of his discussion. Thus, on the problem Peirce tackled with his graphs I would sooner turn to Phil Herbst's amendment of Spencer-Brown than to Merrill.

Thanks for the loan. I need to keep an eye on that stuff. But only one eye. From another quarter I got hit by Steve Fuller's "Social Empiricism". I would not recommend it unless you have a special key for decipherment. It is into another dense turgid academic debate and yet it attempts to show that such debates are about academic point-scoring. With Habermas, Anthony Giddens and the frog deconstructualists the intellectual climate approximates the time of the Schoolmen.