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## Editors' Note

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach  
dozwolonego użytku.

## Editors' Note

Charles Sanders Peirce (1839–1914) was an American philosopher and semiotician, and founder of the school (popularized by his friend William James) known as pragmatism. According to the pragmatic theory of truth, it is not pure ideas created by the mind, but usefulness, that decides the truthfulness of propositions and concepts. Thinking is the most important habit in human life. Peirce's statement that the only function of thinking is to produce habits seems still to be of importance today. Peirce was also the founder of the American line of semiotics, and based his concept of signs on what he called the triad. By elevating the referent and the object itself, Peirce initiated an entirely new way of thinking about signs. Using signs is the most crucial human competence, and habit is its accumulation. It enables interpretation and mediation between signs and even different fields of knowledge. Peirce emphasized the processual development of sense and interpretation *ad infinitum*, which had an influence, for example, on communicology. In writing about the iconicity of every type of sign, he changed the whole approach to considerations of images.

"*Studia Kulturoznawcze*" ("Cultural Studies Journal") is an academic journal published by the Institute of Cultural Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, since 1995. It consists of theoretical papers and discussions, as well as students' research. Articles are focused on selected cultural phenomena considered from the standpoint of cultural studies in a broad sense. This special volume being delivered to PT readers is entirely devoted to issues concerning Peirce (both his concepts and the way they have influenced other academics), as we want to show how Peirce's concepts can still be relevant and vital on the one hand, and transdisciplinary on the other. The other reason for its publication is the hundredth anniversary of the death of Peirce in April 2014. At that time we organized a mini-conference (three presentations and public discussion) which took place at the Institute of Cultural Studies in Poznań, and as the event was a success, we then decided to record and publish the results. For this project we invited academics who are interested in Peircean writings and concepts and in applications of those concepts in later years. This issue contains

articles written by culturologists and philosophers, as well as by psychologists and linguists. We are very pleased that our project has aroused their interest and that they have responded promptly. Because we invited authors, not only from Poland but also from abroad, to write in English (they represent academic centers in the USA, Brasil, Germany and Denmark), this issue is bilingual.

The contents are divided into several parts. The first is devoted entirely to the mini-conference, and consists of three articles written by the panel members and a record of the final discussion. The second and third parts contain papers in Polish written by outstanding academics – not only by those from Poland, but also an article by Professor Winifried Nöth, which was specially translated into Polish to make it accessible to the Polish readership. In this part of the issue there can be found a reprinted article by the eminent Polish expert on Peirce, Professor Hanna Buczyńska-Garewicz. At the end of the third part is a record of the students' discussion on Peirce's *Neglected Argument* which took place in March 2015. The fourth part of the issue contains articles written in English by outstanding academics from Brasil, Germany, Denmark and Poland. They all represent a very new look at Peirce and his concepts, taken generally and in particular. Two book reviews (of Peirce's *Neglected Argument* and Paul Bouissac's *Semiotics at the Circus*) make up the last part of the volume.

We are sure that this issue of *Cultural Studies Journal* will not only interest semioticians, logicians and linguists, but will also prove to be an inspiring and exciting read for those who may have forgotten something about Peircean thought, and – perhaps especially – for those who have not yet discovered it.

### **Acknowledgments**

Our thanks go to all of the authors who kindly accepted our invitation to contribute to this special issue of the journal, and to all who participated in both discussions by asking questions and contributing to the debate. Special thanks go to Professor Hanna Buczyńska-Garewicz for her kindness and for allowing us to reprint her article. Finally we are grateful to Dr. Tomasz Komendziński, without whose help it would have been impossible to produce this volume in its present form.

*Agnieszka Doda-Wyszyńska and Katarzyna Machtyl*