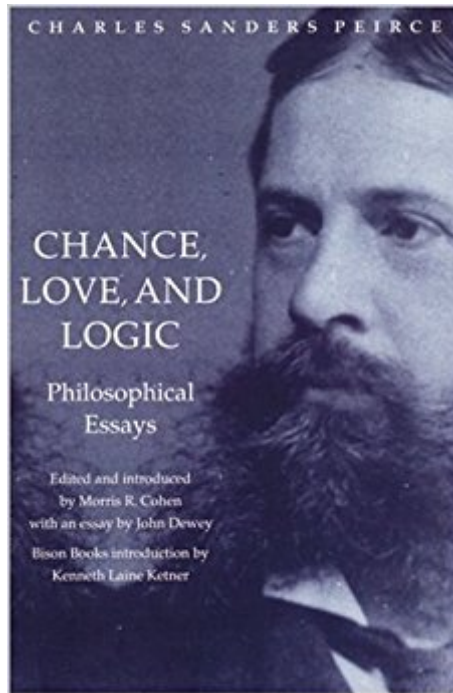




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Chance, Love, And Logic: Philosophical Essays



Synopsis

Chance, Love, and Logic contains two books by Charles Sanders Peirce (1839–1914) which are among his most important and widely influential. The first is *Illustrations of the Logic of Science*. The opening chapters, “The Fixation of Belief” and “How to Make Our Ideas Clear,” mark the beginning of pragmatism. The second presents Peirce’s innovative and influential essays on scientific metaphysics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most of the Peirce’s writings here are found in other popular editions of his works, but the intro and conclusion are exceptionally important for anyone trying to understand Peirce, a major philosophical and scientific thinker who has helped to shape our age. This edition is a relatively old one, published in 1949 and only available as a used book, which I bought from . Morris Cohen’s 30 page Preface and Introduction, however, is as good as any written before or since, containing a technical but clear intro to Peirce’s logic, philosophy, and science. As a bonus, at the end of the book is a reprint of John Dewey’s argument for the superiority of the pragmatism of Peirce over the pragmatism William James. Peirce’s contribution to logic is his “abduction,” which describes what traditional deduction and induction do not, namely how a hypothesis is created in the first place. Eventually this will lead to what physicists like Ilya Prigogine describe as the way order develops spontaneously out of chaos in far from equilibrium thermodynamic states. None of this is on the horizon yet when Cohen is writing, but Cohen’s meticulous descriptions of Peirce’s chance, logic, and evolutionary

love surely help to set the scene for the "order for free" of not only Prigogine but biologists like Stuart Kauffman and Terrence Deacon. My only "criticism" of Cohen's selection of Peirce's essays, especially given the prominence of love in his title, is that he could have included another essay or two in which Peirce elaborates his ideas of evolutionary love ("agapism"), not as a cause but a description of the evolutionary process itself. Peirce scholars have generally ignored this subject. For anyone interested, I will be glad to send a copy of my paper for the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in June, 2014. My address is jthomas@mail.sdsu.edu or you1@verizon.net.

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