

Theory and History of Ontology (www.ontology.co) by Raul Corazzon | e-mail: rc@ontology.co

Selected bibliography on the Theory of Categories of Charles S. Peirce

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Peirce's Theory of Categories (under construction)

Selected bibliography of Peirce's Theory of Categories (Current page)

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Chapter Six: *Metaphysics*, "The categories", pp. 226-241.
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"Conclusion."
Peirce explores two different hypotheses with respect to classifying the phaneron's constituents. The first is that they may be classified according to the three basic predicate forms of firstness, secondness, and thirdness. This is the formal classification and the one to which Peirce devotes the most energy. The second is that the phaneron's constituents may be classified on a continuum between positiveness and negativeness.
There are only hints throughout Peirce's manuscripts as to how such a classification is to work. Nonetheless, Peirce evidently holds that the formal and material

categories can be combined to construct a sort of "phanerochemical" table of constituents.

Much as the chemical elements are classified by their periodicity and atomic weight, a phanerochemical table of constituents would have (I) as its columns (A) firstness, secondness, and thirdness, including these in (B) their logical ingredient relations (the firstness of secondness, the secondness of thirdness, etc.) and (C) their degenerate and genuine forms and (II) as its rows degrees of intensity between positiveness and negativeness.

Yet it must be admitted that Peirce's project remains largely unfinished and its prospects remain uncertain." (p. 74)

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19; III. The same subject concluded 53; Part II. IV: Phenomenology and Nature (1867-1904) 59; V. Phaneroscopy: the description of the phaneron 77; Appendix 103; Bibliography 105, Index 107-109.

From the Foreword: "To trace the development of Peirce's phenomenology from a doctrine of Categories to the ground on which philosophy and science rest is the purpose of this book. Although parallels with Husserl's thought are inevitable, it has seemed proper to this writer to emphasize the growth of Peirce's own ideas and the scientific-philosophical background out of which they emerged. Thus Peirce's most original contributions, viz., a set of universal categories appearing in thought, nature and experience, the method of their discovery, and Phaneroscopy, the science that describes the *phaneron*, or the collective total of all that is in any way or in any sense present to the mind, are shown in the context of a single, evolving body of thought - a comprehensive philosophy shaped by Peirce's lifelong interest in logic, the sciences, ethics, aesthetics and metaphysics."

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