Edward Harry Madden (1925-2006)

Edward Harry Madden died on 25 November 2006 in White River Junction, Vermont, after a brief illness. He had participated in the present renaissance of American philosophy from its beginning, contributing much to it along the way. Among his many honors were two of great significance to members of this Society: his election to a two-year term as president of the Charles S. Peirce Society (1962-63), and his selection as the 1991 winner of our Herbert Schneider Award.

Ed Madden was born in Gary, Indiana, on 18 May 1925. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1946, and completed his M.A. there the following year with a thesis entitled: “The Critical Pragmatism of Chauncey Wright and Its Prefigurement of Pragmatism.” In many ways this thesis was a prefiguring of his own philosophical career which, although it ranged widely across American philosophy, the philosophy of science, the philosophy of psychology, and the philosophy of religion, continually returned to Wright. He championed Wright’s thought for its “historical importance and lasting merit,” and emphasized his role in the later development of Pragmatism. Ed continually recalled the importance of Wright as “the senior member” of the Metaphysical Club and showed us ways through Wright’s “rambling essays that are sometimes difficult to digest,” so that we could discover his “amazing richness, subtlety and sophistication.”

Ed completed his Ph.D. in 1950 with Gustav Bergmann at the University of Iowa, writing a dissertation entitled: “An Examination of Gestalt Theory.” His teaching career included nine years at the University of Connecticut (1950-59), five years at San Jose State College (1959-64), and sixteen years at SUNY/Buffalo (1964-1980). Interspersed among these positions were semesters or years at: Brown University (1954-55), Wesleyan University (1958, 1959), Amherst College (1962-63), the University of Toronto (1967), the American University of Beirut (1969-70), and Oxford University (1978).

After his ‘retirement’ from Buffalo, Ed spent a year at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton (1980-81), and then settled into a position as research scholar at
Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. Soon after, he began to teach part-time at the
University of Kentucky in Lexington, a service that he continued until 1994. In 2000, Ed
retired to Vermont.

Ed’s published work in American philosophy was broad and varied, from obscure
figures and neglected themes to the most familiar, from introductory essays to complex
critiques. He was a member of the editorial board of both the nineteen-volume Harvard
University Press of Virginia edition of The Correspondence of William James. For these
series, he also wrote the introductory essays for The Will to Believe and for volume eight
of the Correspondence. His other published work includes such volumes as:
Philosophical Problems of Psychology (1962), Chauncey Wright and the Foundations of
Pragmatism (1963), Chauncey Wright (1964), and Civil Disobedience and Moral Law in
Nineteenth-Century American Philosophy (1968). Ed also published a series of co­
authored volumes, and over one hundred essays. In addition, he edited, or co-edited, a
number of other volumes, and served on the editorial boards of such journals as the
Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society and the Thoreau Quarterly.

I met Ed for the first time in late 1976 at Fordham University. He was a
distinguished visiting speaker discussing Wright and his interactions with Peirce and
James, and I was a doctoral student at Stony Brook trying to make some sense of the will
to believe. Through our discussion that evening, and our later correspondence and
encounters at conferences, he drew me into a close personal relationship that was for me
the most pronounced aspect of his persona. My point in this story is, of course, of no
significance except that I was representative of a whole class of younger philosophers
who were drawn into Ed’s large philosophical family, a fortunate group that shared Ed
with Marian, his wife of over sixty years, and his sons Kerry and Dennis.

We will all miss him.

James Campbell
University of Toledo

Hans Seigfried (1933-2006)

My recollection of Hans will be a personal one. One can easily find more
comprehensive remembrances of Hans’ life and work by consulting the internet. Hans
was active in many philosophical organizations and has been appropriately
memorialized by them. I found several on the internet, such as Kari Brownsberger’s
[http://www.loyolaphoenix.com/home/index.cfm?event=displayArticlePrinterFriendly&u
Story_id=b8cc2106-7b42-4267-9991-e53dd23826a], or the one in the APA Proceedings
and Addresses for May 2007 (vol. 80, issue 5):

Hans had an eventful life before coming to the United States. He was born
December 18, 1933 in Karavukovo, which was then a part of the Kingdom of
Yugoslavia. His life and that of his family’s was very much disrupted by World War II. Following the war he spent several years in a Catholic order and ultimately decided to pursue a doctorate in philosophy, which he received from the University of Bonn in 1966. He then came to the United States, having accepted a post-doc at Yale University. This was followed by a one-year appointment at the University of Texas. In 1968 he began his long association with Loyola University in Chicago. It was there that I came to know him through his involvement in SAAP and the Midwest Pragmatist Study Group that Charlene and he organized.

What most readily comes to mind when I think of Hans is John Dewey’s phrase, “passionate intelligence” (LW 9.52). No one could get more excited about an idea than Hans. Occasionally Charlene and I would get mildly perturbed when Hans continued to pursue some matter after we were ready to move on. But would that we all could experience the delight that Hans took in being a philosopher.

I also valued the “catholicity” of his philosophical interests. He was not only interested in science and politics, logic and social justice, but he refused to be bound to any one philosophical tradition, working knowledgeably and insightfully in both German and American philosophy.

As should be apparent, there was no sharp line dividing Hans’ many interests and commitments. In that respect he was fully at home in our Society.

We are fortunate to have had such a distinctive and distinguished member.

Michael Eldridge


A former director of the Peirce Edition Project, Christian J. W. Kloesel died in Indianapolis on December 15, 2006, barely six months into his retirement. Born in Breslau, Germany, in 1942, he arrived in the United States in the mid-sixties to undertake his graduate studies in English at the University of Kansas, where he received his Ph.D. in 1973. He was an assistant professor of English at Texas Tech University for five years until 1975. In 1976, he moved to Indianapolis to join the faculty at IUPUI, where he joined the English Department and became an assistant editor at the Peirce Project, which Edward C. Moore and Max H. Fisch had established the year before.

Initially responsible for manuscript reorganization and annotation research, he rose through the ranks and became director of the Peirce Project in 1984, after Ed Moore’s retirement, and after the first two volumes of the critical chronological edition had been published. Three more volumes appeared during the ten years of his directorship and editorship. In 1993, Christian left the Peirce Project to join fulltime the English Department as English professor, and eight years later, in 2001, as department chair, a position he retained until his retirement in July 2006.
Christian’s contributions to the advancement of American philosophy were not limited to his remarkable editorial work on the first five volumes of the critical edition. He edited the first volume of *The Essential Peirce* with Nathan Houser. He wrote a number of papers on Peirce’s semeiotic, seeking to illuminate some aspects of both the early and the later theory of signs. He also authored several papers on intriguing aspects of Peirce’s life, as well as many articles discussing or reflecting upon special and general issues connected to the work of reorganizing and editing the sometimes very complex manuscripts of C. S. Peirce. Christian loved to produce scholarly tools that would be serviceable to others, and thus he compiled or helped compile several bibliographies of primary or secondary materials related to Peirce’s writings.

Christian was an active member of the Charles S. Peirce Society, which he served as a secretary-treasurer for nine years, and of which he was the president in 1984 and a Fellow from 1985 until his death. He was a co-organizer of the Peirce programs at two of the world congresses of philosophy (in Brighton and Moscow), and of many other Peirce-related programs at diverse semiotic conferences in the U.S. or abroad. Abroad, he was an effective ambassador for Peirce scholarship, and he helped establish an international network of supporters that remain to this day loyal to the Peirce Project.

Christian attended several meetings of SAAP, and it was partly thanks to his initiative that the Herbert Schneider award was conferred upon the late and regretted Gérard Deledalle, one of Europe’s staunchest supporters of American philosophy and a good friend of Christian. American philosophy advances not only through the work of its philosophers, but also through the labor of those who edit these philosophers’ writings. We are grateful to Christian Kloesel for all the splendid work he did as an editor and propagator of Peirce’s thought.

André De Tienne
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