

Retrospective Science

1902 | Minute Logic: Chapter II. Prelogical Notions. Section I. Classification of the Sciences (Logic II) | MS [R] 427:83-84

We can now no longer postpone the recognition of a second Sub-branch of theoretical science. It is a department perfectly well recognized. It belongs by virtue of its purpose to the branch of Theory; yet varies enough in its purpose from the active science to be erected into a Sub-branch. It is the subject of Humboldt's *Cosmos*, Comte's *Philosophie Positive*, and Spencer's *Synthetic Philosophy*. It is science *en retraite*, *Wissenschaft a.D.* Its design is to sum up the results of all the theoretical sciences and to study them as forming one system. It may be called *retrospective* in contradistinction to *active* science.

The editors of the *Collected Papers* added "or science of review" after Peirce's designation "retrospective" at CP 1.256. In a variant of the passage in question, Peirce did use the term "reviewing science", so the attribution of synonymy appears to be justified.

1906 | The Basis of Pragmaticism | EP 2:372

...since the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Coleridge so defined it in the opening dissertation to the *Encyclopaedia Metropolitana*, non-scientific people have generally understood "science" to mean systematized knowledge.

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The present writer [—] will call science in the Coleridgean sense *retrospective science*.