

TO CHARLES SANDERS PEIRCE, SEPTEMBER 22, [1905?] ¹³¹

Cambridge
103 Irving St.
Sept. 22.

Dear Mr. Peirce:—

Doubtless I bore you beyond measure; yet regarding your interpretation of my O-system in terms of the “respects,” there is still this to say, which you may consider at your leisure, or not at all, as you will.

Your interpretation in terms of “respects,” as you state it, is founded on my Laws I and II. The other laws are existential. What you say, if true, must apply to *any* system which obeys my Laws I and II, whether or no the other laws are satisfied. For what you say about the respects is supposed to result from Laws I & II together, apart from the others; at least so your letter states the case.

Well, consider a new system N, possessed of the following characters: It consists of any objects whatever in suitable multitude. By an O-collection in N, I now (for the moment) propose to mean *any collection of the elements of N which is a collection infinite in multitude*. The O-collections thus defined are subject to the following laws:—

- I. If $O(\alpha)$, then $O(\alpha\gamma)$, whatever collection γ may be.
- II. If, whatever element b_n of β be considered, $O(\delta b_n)$, then $O(\delta)$ (whatever collection β may be, whether an O-collection or not).

¹³¹ ALS. Royce Papers. HUA. At the top of p. 1, Royce wrote: “Rewritten & sent in other form.”

The first of these laws is identical with my Law I. The second includes my Law II as an obvious, although here pretty trivial special case. For of course, if $O(\beta)$ is true, $O(\delta)$ is, under the conditions also true.

What are the “essential respects,” in none of which do all the members of *such* an O-collection as this agree?

Now this system N is *not* my system Σ ; nor are these my O-collections. But the system does obey the first pair of the laws of the system Σ . It breaks laws IV, V, VI. But your criticism, so far as concerns the “respects,” is not founded, as I understand you, upon those later laws.

I conclude then, that your interpretation in terms of “respects,” although important as a possible view of my system, is in any case *not* made inevitable merely by my Laws I and II.

Forgive me my importunity. I simply want, if ever you find time for me, to have my case in your hands.

Yours Truly
Josiah Royce.