



The
Metaphysical
Club

A Story of Ideas in America

LOUIS MENAND

with book notes

Barthman

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Metaphysical Club

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Metaphysical Club:

The Metaphysical Club Louis Menand, 2002-04-10 The New Yorker staff writer Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club* is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History. A national bestseller and hugely ambitious, unmistakably brilliant Janet Maslin New York Times book about the creation of modern American thought. *The Metaphysical Club* was an informal group that met in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1872 to talk about ideas. Its members included Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., future associate justice of the United States Supreme Court; William James, the father of modern American psychology; and Charles Sanders Peirce, logician, scientist, and the founder of semiotics. The Club was probably in existence for about nine months. No records were kept. The one thing we know that came out of it was an idea: an idea about ideas. This book is the story of that idea. Holmes, James, and Peirce all believed that ideas are not things out there waiting to be discovered but are tools people invent like knives and forks and microchips to make their way in the world. They thought that ideas are produced not by individuals but by groups of individuals; that ideas are social. They do not develop according to some inner logic of their own but are entirely dependent like germs on their human carriers and environment. And they thought that the survival of any idea depends not on its immutability but on its adaptability. *The Metaphysical Club* is written in the spirit of this idea about ideas. It is not a history of philosophy but an absorbing narrative about personalities and social history: a story about America. It begins with the Civil War and ends in 1919 with Justice Holmes's dissenting opinion in the case of *U.S. v. Abrams*, the basis for the constitutional law of free speech. The first four sections of the book focus on Holmes, James, Peirce, and their intellectual heir John Dewey. The last section discusses some of the fundamental twentieth-century ideas they are associated with. This is a book about a way of thinking that changed American life.

Metaphysical Club Louis Menand, 2002-04-17 The *Metaphysical Club* was a group that met in Massachusetts in 1872 to talk about ideas. The group believed that ideas are not things out there waiting to be discovered but are tools people invent like forks and microchips to make their way in the world. This book is the story of that idea.

The Real Metaphysical Club Frank X. Ryan, Brian E. Butler, James A. Good, 2019-05-01 A full account of the *Metaphysical Club* featuring the members' philosophical writings and four critical essays. The *Metaphysical Club*, a gathering of intellectuals in the 1870s, is widely recognized as the crucible where pragmatism, America's distinctively original philosophy, was refined and proclaimed. Louis Menand's bestseller about the group was a dramatic publishing success. However, only three actual members—Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., Charles S. Peirce, and William James—appear in the book alongside other thinkers who were never in the Club. *The Real Metaphysical Club* tells the full story of how this influential group shifted the course of philosophy in America. In addition to pioneering pragmatism, the group explored radical empiricism and idealism and formulated personalism and process philosophy, equally important developments. This volume contains the important writings dating from 1870 to 1885 by the real members of the *Metaphysical Club*. The first section centers on pragmatism and science; the second part collects writings of the lawyers; and the third part covers idealist and

personalist philosophers Many of these writings have never been reprinted before and nothing like this impressive collection has ever been attempted A general introduction provides a narrative history and the editors three introductions to the volume s sections vividly bring to life the intense meetings sustained debates and pioneering thought of the Metaphysical Club The Real Metaphysical Club includes some very important thinkers that don t always make it into anthologies of American philosophy The period is also important 1870 to 1885 is critical to the development of classical American philosophy It precedes it and sets its direction The book accomplishes its goal of giving the reader a sense of the period by arranging the works in a very interesting way The readings and introduction are very readable and would be helpful to both graduate and undergraduate students as well as general readers interested in American Thought James M McLachlan Western Carolina University *The Real Metaphysical Club* Frank X. Ryan, Brian E. Butler, James A. Good, 2019-05-01 The Metaphysical Club a gathering of intellectuals in the 1870s is widely recognized as the crucible where pragmatism America s distinctively original philosophy was refined and proclaimed Louis Menand s bestseller about the group was a dramatic publishing success However only three actual members Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr Charles S Peirce and William James appear in the book alongside other thinkers who were never in the Club The Real Metaphysical Club tells the full story of how this influential group shifted the course of philosophy in America In addition to pioneering pragmatism the group explored radical empiricism and idealism and formulated personalism and process philosophy equally important developments This volume contains the important writings dating from 1870 to 1885 by the real members of the Metaphysical Club The first section centers on pragmatism and science the second part collects writings of the lawyers and the third part covers idealist and personalist philosophers Many of these writings have never been reprinted before and nothing like this impressive collection has ever been attempted A general introduction provides a narrative history and the editors three introductions to the volume s sections vividly bring to life the intense meetings sustained debates and pioneering thought of the Metaphysical Club **Metaphysical Club** Louis Menand, 2002-04-17 The Metaphysical Club was an informal group that met in Massachusetts in 1872 The one thing we know that came out of it was an idea an idea about ideas This book is the story of that idea It follows the evolution of the American mind during the period that formed the world we now inhabit [The Metaphysical Magazine](#) , 1895 *The Continuum Companion to Pragmatism* Sami Pihlström, 2011-06-30 The Continuum Companion to Pragmatism offers the definitive guide to a key area of contemporary philosophy The book covers all the fundamental questions asked by pragmatism areas that have continued to attract interest historically as well as topics that have emerged more recently as active areas of research Twelve specially commissioned essays from an international team of experts reveal where important work continues to be done in the area and most valuably the exciting new directions the field is taking The Companion explores issues pertaining to aesthetics economics education ethics history law metaphysics politics race religion science and technology language and social theory Featuring a series of indispensable research tools including

an A to Z of key terms and concepts a chronology a detailed list of resources and a fully annotated bibliography this is the essential reference tool for anyone working in contemporary pragmatism or modern American philosophy more generally

The Bloomsbury Companion to Pragmatism Sami Pihlström, 2015-05-21 Pragmatism provides not just a theoretical perspective on science and inquiry but ways of being in the world of knowing the reality we inhabit Approaching this philosophical tradition as a diverse set of philosophies that it is The Bloomsbury Companion to Pragmatism introduces many of the ideas and debates at the centre of the field today Focusing on issues in 12 different subject areas this up to date companion covers current research in aesthetics economics education ethics history law metaphysics politics race religion science and technology language and social theory Supported by an introduction to research methods and problems as well as a guide to past and future directions in the field the chapters are also enhanced by a glossary research guide and an annotated bibliography For anyone working in contemporary pragmatism or modern American philosophy more generally this companion provides a practical means of navigating what can sometimes feel like a disparate field Showing where important work continues to be done the tensions that exist and most valuably the exciting new directions the field is taking The Bloomsbury Companion to Pragmatism expands our understanding of the role of pragmatism in 21st century philosophy

Hartmann's Who's who in Occult, Psychic and Spiritual Realms...in the United States and Foreign Countries, 1927 *Metaphysical Club Calendar* Boston Metaphysical Club, 1913 **The Bloomsbury Handbook of Pragmatism** Sami Pihlström, 2024-02-22 Pragmatism provides not just a theoretical perspective on science and inquiry but ways of being in the world of knowing the reality we inhabit Approaching this philosophical tradition as a diverse set of philosophies that it is The Bloomsbury Handbook of Pragmatism introduces many of the ideas and debates at the centre of the field today Focusing on issues in different subject areas this up to date handbook covers current research in aesthetics economics education ethics history law metaphysics politics race religion science and technology language and social theory Supported by an introduction to research methods and problems as well as a guide to past and future directions in the field chapters are enhanced by a how to use guide and glossary Now expanded this edition includes new chapters on pragmatism and various global and regional philosophical traditions as well as feminism and environmental philosophy Showing where important work continues to be done the tensions that exist and most valuably the exciting new directions the field is taking The Bloomsbury Handbook of Pragmatism advances our understanding of the role of pragmatism in 21st century philosophy

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