

## **C.S. Peirce's Precursors to *Laws of Form***

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**Abstract:** What Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914) called “the alpha part” of his “existential graphs” for logic quite precisely prefigures a number of features of G. Spencer-Brown’s notational system in his book *Laws of Form* (1969). These two systems are compared and contrasted with each other and also with Euler-Venn diagrams. The significance of *Laws of Form* to other disciplines, in particular epistemology and the possibility of a metaphysical and even mystical understanding of knowledge, is discussed. Also, a modification is proposed of one of Peirce’s typographical notations to give it *Laws of Form*-like properties.

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