

*The American Journal of Semiotics* (ISSN 0277-7126) is a peer-reviewed research publication of the Semiotic Society of America. The journal is normally published on a quarterly basis, with occasional combined issues according to circumstance. An individual subscription to the journal includes membership in the Semiotic Society of America. All communications concerning subscriptions, including changes of address, should be addressed to:

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Graphic design on spine by Steven Skaggs 2005; acrostic of semiotic congeners by Brooke Williams Deely 1987.

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This distinction between “source works”, tied to the lifetime of the text’s author, and “access volumes”, which may or may not be the same as the source work, is the basis for the principal distinctive feature of SSA Style, namely, the **historical layering of sources**. This principle of historical layering was adopted for its simplicity compatible with the informational content demanded by all existing reference styles, while at the same time *improving upon those styles by uniquely establishing a chronologically invariant reference base* across all editions and disciplines, in accord with the inherently interdisciplinary nature of semiotics itself.

References historically layered enable the reader to see at a glance the time dimension of the discourse, much as a geologist is able to see in layers of rock the history of the earth. In general, *manuscript submissions are expected to be submitted conscientiously prepared in accord with the historical layering principle*, and to be complete as far as the scholarly intent and state of the knowledge of a field allows. Full version of Style Sheet available in *The American Journal of Semiotics* 4.3–4 (1986), 193–215, and in the *Semiotics 1984 Proceedings* volume, pp. 715–739. An abbreviated version is on-line at <http://www.uwf.edu/tprewitt/SSAstyle.htm>.

A second unique feature of SSA Style concerns **punctuation placement**. Respecting the *purpose* of quotation marks, which is *to show what was actually said or written*, the **rule for punctuation** is: punctuation which belongs to the source cited belongs inside quotation marks; otherwise punctuation belongs after the closing of the quotation marks. (Thus, the SSA Style Sheet opts for logic over custom by eschewing the standard but arbitrary practice of putting all punctuation marks inside of quotation marks.) Please note this well, for, as Peirce best called to our attention, logic is required for thought to be disciplined, especially in matters where an arbitrary bad habit of ignoring logic has taken root.

