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**Abstract:** The article presents an examination into the intellectual career of the philosopher George Santayana, highlighting questions of influence from his contemporary Charles S. Peirce in the early 20th century. Introductory comments are given noting the similarities held by the two philosophers regarding the topics of semantics and symbolic knowledge. Focus is given to the significance of Peirce's 1903 Harvard University lecture, wherein it is asserted that Peirce introduced Santayana to ontology. Conclusions are also provided questioning whether Peirce directly influenced Santayana or merely initiated his work within the field.

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