Term: Assertion

Quote: ...throughout this essay the word “assertion” will be used to mean a certain kind of communication, and so to denote a performance requiring the coöperation of two parties (though not necessarily two different persons, since one person, for example, may write a memorandum for his own future information); one of these parties, who shall be called the utterer, by an exertion of will renders the other party, who shall be called the interpreter, sensible of certain signs by which he must recognize the fact that the utterer has willed to assert; and in the great majority of cases he will regard it as a real fact. The signs of which the interpreter becomes sensible may be indirect; that is, signs of signs; by which means ever so complex an assertion may be made in a single sign through a “code.”


References: MS [R] 680:22-3

Date of Quote: 1913

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary entry/quote-analysis-trustworthiness-different-kinds-reasonings