Term: Firstness

Quote: A Firstness is exemplified in every quality of a total feeling. It is perfectly simple and without parts; and everything has its quality. Thus the tragedy of King Lear has its Firstness, its flavor *sui generis*. That wherein all such qualities agree is universal Firstness, the very being of Firstness. The word *possibility* fits it, except that possibility implies a relation to what exists, while universal Firstness is the mode of being of itself. That is why a new word was required for it. Otherwise, “possibility” would have answered the purpose.


References: CP 1.531

Date of Quote: 1903

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-csp-lowell-lectures-1903-2nd-part-3rd-draught-lecture-iii