Term: Sign

Quote: A *Sign* [...] is anything which represents something else, its *Object*, to any mind that can *Interpret* it so. More explicitly, the Sign is something that appears, in place of its Object, which does not appear for itself, (at least, not in the respect in which the Sign appears;) so that the Sign [...] is, as it were, the *species*, or appearance, virtually or figuratively speaking, emanating from the Object, and capable of producing upon an intelligent being an effect that will [...] be called the *Interpretant* of the Sign, and effect which is recognized as due, in some sense[,] to the Object; and it is in producing the Interpretant so that it is referred to the Object, that the Sign fulfills the function its fitness for which constitutes it a “*Sign*.”


References: MS [R] 640:7-8

Date of Quote: 1909

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-essays-meaning-preface