

'Essence' (pub. 07.03.16-15:25). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-fourth-curiosity-22>.

Term: Essence

Quote: The essence of a thing consists in its being rendered intelligible by being regarded from a certain general point of view. This gives it an intellectual nutritiousness. For instance, I may be shown a complicated piece of machinery, and while recognizing how many parts of it must or may move together, I may be utterly at a loss to understand it, or to discern what kind of a machine it is until someone tells me what purpose it is intended to subserve. Then I see. That I see gives it a function, an office in the world. But the essence does no more than determine the generic mode of being of the thing.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1907). *The Fourth Curiosity*. MS [R] 200.

References: MS [R] 200:51

Date of 1907

Quote:

Editorial From an alternative draft

Annotations

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URL: <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-fourth-curiosity-22>