

'Association by Resemblance' (pub. 26.07.15-15:56). 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-grand-logic-book-i-reasoning-general-introduction-association-ideas-3>.

Term: Association by Resemblance

Quote: As experience clusters certain ideas into *sets*, so does the mind too, by its occult nature, cluster certain ideas into *sets*. These sets have various forms of connection. The simplest are sets of things all on one footing and agreeing in each belonging to the set. Such a set is a *class*. The clustering of ideas into *classes* is the simplest form which the association of ideas by the occult nature of ideas, or of the mind, can take. Now, just as in association by contiguity an idea calls up the idea of the *set* in which experience has placed it, and thence one of the other ideas of that set, so in association by resemblance an idea calls up the idea of the *set* in which the mind's occult virtue places it, and that conception perhaps gives, owing to some other circumstance, another of the particular ideas of the same set. Everybody has heard in conversation a person remark, "What you say puts me in mind of a similar occurrence." That is suggestion by resemblance. Association by contrast is a case of association by resemblance, which is so called after its most prominent variety. Suggestion by resemblance means, let it be repeated, the indirect suggestion by one idea of another which has, by virtue of the occult nature of ideas or of the mind, been associated with it into one set. All the suggestions of pure mathematics, of which there is a vast body, are associations by resemblance.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1893 [c.]). *Grand Logic: Book I. Of Reasoning in General. Introduction. The Association of Ideas*. MS [R] 400.

References: CP 7.392

Date of 1893 [c.]

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