An icon is a representamen which fulfills the function of a representamen by virtue of a character which it possesses in itself, and would possess just the same though its object did not exist. Thus, the statue of a centaur is not, it is true, a representamen if there be no such thing as a centaur. Still, if it represents a centaur, it is by virtue of its shape; and this shape it will have, just as much, whether there be a centaur or not.

References: CP 5.73
Date of Quote: 1903
URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-harvard-lectures-pragmatism-lecture-iii-5