Term: Hypostatic Abstraction

Quote: We shall [...] do much to relieve the stem “abstract” from staggering under the double burden of conveying the idea of prescission as well as the unrelated and very important idea of the creation of ens rationis out of an ἔπος πτερόεν – to filch the phrase to furnish a name for an expression of non-substantive thought – an operation that has been treated as a subject of ridicule – this hypostatic abstraction – but which gives mathematics half its power.


References: EP 2:352; CP 5.449

Date of Quote: 1905

Editorial Annotations: From EP 2: The Greek means “winged word”

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-issues-pragmaticism-16