**Term:** Collateral Observation  
**Quote:** All that part of the understanding of the Sign which the Interpreting Mind has needed collateral observation for is outside the Interpretant. I do not mean by “collateral observation” acquaintance with the system of signs. What is so gathered is not COLLATERAL. It is on the contrary the prerequisite for getting any idea signified by the sign. But by collateral observation, I mean previous acquaintance with what the sign denotes.


**References:** EP 2:494  
**Date of Quote:** 1909-02-26  
**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-william-james-23