'Icon' (pub. 28.04.13-19:49). 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-logical-tracts-no-2-existential-graphs-eulers-diagrams-and-logical-algebra-5.

Term: Icon

Quote: An icon is a representamen of what it represents and for the mind that interprets it as such, by virtue of its being an immediate image, that is to say by virtue of characters which belong to it in itself as a sensible object, and which it would possess just the same were there no object in nature that it resembled, and though it never were interpreted as a sign. It is of the nature of an appearance, and as such, strictly speaking, exists only in consciousness, although for convenience in ordinary parlance and when extreme precision is not called for, we extend the term *icon* to the outward objects which excite in consciousness the image itself. A geometrical diagram is a good example of an icon. A pure icon can convey no positive or factual information; for it affords no assurance that there is any such thing in nature. But it is of the utmost value for enabling its interpreter to study what would be the character of such an object in case any such did exist. Geometry sufficiently illustrates that.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1903 [c.]). *Logical Tracts. No. 2. On Existential Graphs, Euler's Diagrams, and Logical Algebra*. MS [R] 492.

References: CP 4.447

Date of Quote: 1903 [c.]

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-logical-tracts-no-2-existential-graphs-eulers-diagrams-and-logical-algebra-5