Term: Icon

Quote: Of signs there are two different degenerate forms. But though I give them this disparaging name, they are of the greatest utility, and serve purposes that genuine signs could not. The more degenerate of the two forms (as I look upon it) is the icon. This is defined as a sign of which the character that fits it to become a sign of the sort that it is, is simply inherent in it as a quality of it. [—]

An icon is a sign fit to be used as such because it possesses the quality signified.


References: EP 2:306-7

Date of Quote: 1904 [c.]

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-new-elements-kaina-stoiceia-4