Term: Thing

Quote: By a thing I mean an object whose occurrence in any universe of reality or fiction is not *ipso facto* constituted by any law or reason, but is an act, which however agreeable to law and reason, is, as an act, arbitrary. An act takes place *hic et nunc* and cannot be generalized without losing its vitality as act. A generalized act is a law; but a law, without an arbitrary act to carry it out in each instance, remains an impotent formula. It is a legislature without an executive, a judge without a sheriff. Because an act is thus anti-general, and a thing is constituted by an act, a thing is necessarily individual.


References: MS [R] 142:1

Date of Quote: 1899-1900 [c.]

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-notes-topical-geometry-8