Terms in His Own Words. New Edition. Retrieved from

Term: Selective
Quote: ... a selective cannot be used without being attached to a Ligature, and
Ligatures without Selectives will express all that Selectives with Ligatures
express. The second aim, to make the representations as iconical as possible, is
likewise missed; since Ligatures are far more iconic than Selectives. For the
comparison of the above figures shows that a Selective can only serve its
purpose through a special habit of interpretation that is otherwise needless in
the system, and that makes the Selective a Symbol and not an Icon; while a
Ligature expresses the same thing as a necessary consequence regarding each
sizeable dot as an Icon of what we call an “individual object”; and it must be
such an Icon if we are to regard an invisible mathematical point as an Icon of
the strict individual, absolutely determinate in all respects, which imagination
cannot realize. Meantime, the fact that a special convention (a clause of the
fourth) is required to distinguish a Selective from an ordinary univalent Spot
constitutes a second infraction of the purpose of simplicity.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1906). Prolegomena to an Apology for Pragmaticism. The Monist,
16, 492-546.

References: CP 4.561n1

Date of Quote: 1905

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-prolegomena-apology-pragmaticism-4