

'Icon' (pub. 19.01.15-15:30). 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-reasons-rules-6>.

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**Term:** Icon

**Quote:** An *icon* is a pure image, not necessarily visual. Being a pure image it involves no profession of being a sign; because such profession would be a sign not of the nature of an image. There is no known cause making it an image of its object; for if there were it would in part have a significant character of the Indexical type. [—] All icons, from mirror-images to algebraic formulae, are much alike, committing themselves to nothing at all, yet the source of all our information. They play in knowledge a part iconized by that played in evolution, according to the Darwinian theory, by fortuitous variations in reproduction.

It will be observed that an *Icon* represents whatever object it may represent by virtue of its own quality, and determines whatever interpretant it may determine by virtue of its own quality...

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1902 [c.]). *Reason's Rules*. MS [R] 599.

**References:** MS [R] 599:41-43

**Date of** 1902 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-reasons-rules-6>