**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...


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

**Date of Quote:** 1902 [c.]

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