Term: Scholastic Realism

Quote: But it follows that since no cognition of ours is absolutely determinate, generals must have a real existence. Now this scholastic realism is usually set down as a belief in metaphysical fictions. But, in fact, a realist is simply one who knows no more recondite reality than that which is represented in a true representation. Since, therefore, the word “man” is true of something, that which “man” means is real. The nominalist must admit that man is truly applicable to something; but he believes that there is beneath this a thing in itself, an incognizable reality. His is the metaphysical figment.


References: W 2:239, CP 5.312

Date of Quote: 1868

URL: http://www.commens.org(dictionary/entryquote-some-consequences-four-incapacities-4

Commens: Digital Companion to C. S. Peirce (http://www.commens.org)