

Degenerate Secondness

1903 | CSP's Lowell Lectures of 1903. 2nd Part of 3rd Draught of Lecture III | CP 1.535

Now we found the genuine and degenerate forms of Secondness by considering the full ideas of first and second. Then the genuine Secondness was found to be reaction, where first and second are both true seconds and the Secondness is something distinct from them, while in degenerate Secondness, or mere reference, the first is a mere first never attaining full Secondness.

1905 | Letters to Mario Calderoni | MS [R] L67:32-33

...that Secundarity which consists in one man's having a stature of 6 feet and another man's having a stature of 5 feet is a degenerate Secundarity, since each would be just what he is if the other were not there, and would be Second in the same way to a merely possible but non-existent man.