

'Maxim of Pragmatism' (pub. 14.03.18-13:23). 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-brief-intellectual-autobiography-charles-sanders-peirce-2>.

Term: Maxim of Pragmatism

Quote: ...the principle he called *pragmatism*, that is, that every concept (in contrast to qualities of feeling, images, experiences, etc.) is definable in terms of a possible purpose of conduct under hypothetical general conditions, and that from this can be deduced the best rule for rendering ideas clear, namely, "Consider what effects that *might conceivably* have practical bearings we conceive the object of our conception to have: then, our concept of those effects is the *whole* concept in question." But since P not only admits the difference between a commensurable and an incommensurable length, but has specially insisted upon abnumerable (abzählbar) multitudes [...] it is evident that he understands "conceivably practical bearings" in a peculiarly wide sense.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1983). A Brief Intellectual Autobiography by Charles Sanders Peirce. *The American Journal of Semiotics*, 2(1-2), 61-83.

References: Peirce, 1983, pp. 66-67; MS [R] L107:7-8

Date of 1904

Quote:

Editorial This quote has been taken from Kenneth Laine Ketner's 1983 reconstruction of

Annotations Peirce's 'Autobiography'

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