

'Thirdness' (pub. 18.03.18-17:53). 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-letters-mario-calderoni-1>.

---

**Term:** Thirdness

**Quote:** I find that there are in the phaneron,  
[—]

3<sup>rd</sup>, elements each of which is as it is *to* a second and *for* a third, that is, its very being, as phaneron, consists in its bringing that second and that third into relationship. Such an element I call a *Tertian* element.

You naturally expect Quartan elements, [and] so forth. But I not merely *opine*, but can strictly *demonstrate* that every quartan part of a phaneron is reducible to a combination of Tertian elements. You might thoughtlessly ask why then a Tertian part cannot be reduced to a combination of a Secundan elements. But a moment's reflection will show that this is a senseless and purely verbal suggestion, inasmuch as *combination* is already a Tertian idea.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1905). *Letters to Mario Calderoni*. MS [R] L67.

**References:** MS [R] L67:18-19

**Date of** 1905

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-mario-calderoni-1>