

'Collateral Observation' (pub. 07.01.15-18:34). 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-william-james-23>.

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**Term:** Collateral Observation

**Quote:** All that part of the understanding of the Sign which the Interpreting Mind has needed collateral observation for is outside the Interpretant. I do not mean by "collateral observation" acquaintance with the system of signs. What is so gathered is *not* COLLATERAL. It is on the contrary the prerequisite for getting any idea signified by the sign. But by collateral observation, I mean previous acquaintance with what the sign denotes.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1897-1909). *Letters to William James*. L [R] 224.

**References:** EP 2:494

**Date of** 1909-02-26

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-william-james-23>