

'Thing' (pub. 12.01.15-17:01). 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-notes-topical-geometry-8>.

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**Term:** Thing

**Quote:** By a *thing* I mean an object whose occurrence in any universe of reality or fiction is not *ipso facto* constituted by any law or reason, but is an act, which however agreeable to law and reason, is, as an act, arbitrary. An act takes place *hic et nunc* and cannot be generalized without losing its vitality as act. a generalized act is a law; but a law, without an arbitrary act to carry it out in each instance, remains an impotent formula. It is a legislature without an executive, a judge without a sheriff. Because an act is thus anti-general, and a thing is constituted by an act, a thing is necessarily individual.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1899-1900 [c.]). *Notes on Topical Geometry*. MS [R] 142.

**References:** MS [R] 142:1

**Date of** 1899-1900 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-notes-topical-geometry-8>