

'Association by Resemblance' (pub. 26.07.15-15:43). 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-some-consequences-four-incapacities-6>.

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**Term:** Association by Resemblance

**Quote:** ...what goes by the name of the association of images is in reality an association of judgments. The association of ideas is said to proceed according to three principles – those of resemblance, of contiguity, and of causality. But it would be equally true to say that signs denote what they do on the three principles of resemblance, contiguity, and causality. There can be no question that anything *is* a sign of whatever is associated with it by resemblance, by contiguity, or by causality: nor can there be any doubt that any sign recalls the thing signified. So, then, the association of ideas consists in this, that a judgment occasions another judgment, of which it is the sign. Now this is nothing less nor more than inference.

Everything in which we take the least interest creates in us its own particular emotion, however slight this may be. This emotion is a sign and a predicate of the thing. Now, when a thing resembling this thing is presented to us, a similar emotion arises; hence, we immediately infer that the latter is like the former.

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What is here said of association by resemblance is true of all association. All association is by signs.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1868). Some Consequences of Four Incapacities. *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 2, 140-157.

**References:** W 2:237-8; CP 5.307-9

**Date of** 1868

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-some-consequences-four-incapacities-6>