

# Thing

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1899-1900 [c.] | Notes on Topical Geometry | MS [R] 142:1

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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.

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1903 [c.] | P of L | MS [R] 800:10

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A *thing* is whatever that is real as denoted by a subject of a proposition in such an analysis of the proposition that all general characters are separated from the subject [and] thrown into the predicate.