

## FOREWORD

The problem of perception is one of understanding the way in which the organism transforms, organizes, and structures information arising from the world in sense data or memory. With this definition of perception in mind, the aims of this treatise are to bring together essential aspects of the very large, diverse, and widely scattered literature on human perception and to give a précis of the state of knowledge in every area of perception. It is aimed at the psychologist in particular and at the natural scientist in general. A given topic is covered in a comprehensive survey in which fundamental facts and concepts are presented and important leads to journals and monographs of the specialized literature are provided. Perception is considered in its broadest sense. Therefore, the work will treat a wide range of experimental and theoretical work.

This ten-volume treatise is divided into two sections. Section One deals with the fundamentals of perceptual systems. It is comprised of six volumes covering (1) historical and philosophical roots of perception, (2) psychophysical judgment and measurement, (3) the biology of perceptual systems, (4) hearing, (5) seeing, and (6) which is divided into two books (A) tasting and smelling and (B) feeling and hurting.

Section Two, comprising four volumes, will cover the perceiving organism, taking up the wider view and generally ignoring specialty boundaries. The major areas include (7) language and speech, (8) perceptual coding of space, time, and objects, including sensory memory systems and the relations between verbal and perceptual codes, (9) perceptual processing mechanisms, such as attention, search, selection, pattern recognition, and perceptual learning, (10) perceptual ecology, which considers the perceiving organism in cultural context, and so includes aesthetics, art, music, architecture, cinema, gastronomy, perfumery, and the special perceptual worlds of the blind and of the deaf.

The "Handbook of Perception" should serve as a basic source and reference work for all in the arts or sciences, indeed for all who are interested in human perception.

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