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The nature of perception has long been a central question in philosophy. It is of central importance not just for the philosophy of mind, but also for epistemology, metaphysics, aesthetics and the philosophy of science. This volume represents the best of the latest research on perception, with contributions from some of the leading philosophers in the area, including Christopher Peacocke, Brian O'Shaughnessy and Michael Tye. As well as discussing traditional problems, the essays also approach the topic in the light of recent research on mental content and representation. The volume represents a major statement on one of the most debated areas of philosophy.

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# *THE CONTENTS OF EXPERIENCE*

## *Essays on perception*

*edited by* TIM CRANE

*Lecturer in Philosophy, University College London*

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## *Preface*

This volume began its life at a conference on Perception and Perceptual Content at the Centre for Philosophical Studies, King's College London, in May 1990. The essays by Thomas Baldwin, E. J. Lowe, Christopher Peacocke and Michael Tye were first presented at that conference. (The other paper presented at the conference, Richard Sorabji's 'Perceptual Content in Ancient Greek Thought', will appear in print as 'Intentionality and the Physical' in Martha Nussbaum and Amelie Rorty (eds.), *Aristotle's de Anima*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press.) J. J. Valberg's essay is an extract from his book, *The Puzzle of Experience*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press; it is reproduced here with permission. The essays by Michael Martin, Brian O'Shaughnessy, Paul Snowdon and myself were written especially for this volume.

I am very grateful to Richard Sorabji for the original suggestion that I organise the conference, to King's College London for the financial assistance, and to the participants at the conference for making it such a worthwhile and enjoyable occasion.

A number of people have helped me in bringing this volume to publication. Judith Ayling has been an understanding and astute editor from the outset. Bill Brewer and Jonathan Dancy read the typescript for Cambridge University Press, and offered many useful suggestions for improvements. Hugh Mellor generously gave his time and expertise in the preparation of the camera-ready copy. And finally, many thanks to Tabitha Jackson for her patient assistance with the final stages.

*University College London  
July 1991*

*Notes on contributors*

THOMAS BALDWIN is a Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Clare College.

TIM CRANE is a Lecturer in Philosophy at University College London.

E. J. LOWE is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Durham.

MICHAEL MARTIN is a Research Fellow at Christ Church Oxford.

CHRISTOPHER PEACOCKE is the Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Magdalen College.

BRIAN O'SHAUGHNESSY was a Lecturer in Philosophy at King's College London.

PAUL SNOWDON is a Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Exeter College.

MICHAEL TYE is a Professor of Philosophy at Temple University.

J. J. VALBERG is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at University College London.