

# BOOK REVIEWS

R. Bruce Lindsay

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912

*The opinions expressed are those of the individual reviewers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial Board of this Journal.*

## Sensation and Perception

S. Cohen, C. Porac and L. M. Ward

*Academic, New York, 1978.*

*xii + 439 pp. Price \$14.95.*

This introductory textbook is written in a simple, engaging style. Every device is utilized to stimulate the student's interest, from amusing anecdotes at the beginning of the chapters, to "demonstration boxes" which describe simple experiments for the reader to conduct. The book is lavishly illustrated and includes eight color plates. The authors have striven hard for clarity. The terms are well defined in the body of the text, and these definitions are supplemented by a glossary.

The general plan of the book is as follows. The first two chapters present the basic psychophysical techniques of measurement. The next three describe the physiology of the sensory pathways: one chapter is devoted to vision, another to audition and a third to the lower senses. The four chapters which follow deal with the processing of basic sensory qualities. The next four are concerned with perception of space, time, motion, form, and size. Four more chapters deal with attentional processes, learning, development and individual differences. The last chapter provides a synthesis.

On the whole the coverage is broad and the treatment up to date. However, a fuller treatment of auditory phenomena could have been given. In particular, very little space is devoted to higher level auditory processing. There is almost no discussion of auditory perception as a function of sequential context, except for the case of speech. Yet analogous issues in vision are treated in detail.

Despite these reservations the book is highly recommended as an introductory text on sensory and perceptual processing. The issues dealt with are interesting and challenging. The book is extremely readable and should be enthusiastically received by the student.

DIANA DEUTSCH

*University of California, San Diego*

*La Jolla, California 92093*

## Acoustic Emission: A Bibliography with Abstracts

Thomas P. Drouillard

*Plenum, New York, 1979.*

*xix + 787 pp. Price: \$95.00.*

*Acoustic Emission, A Bibliography with Abstracts* is exactly that: a bibliography with abstracts—1996 of them filling 775 pages! The Introduction covers only nine additional pages, and the Preface covers three pages. The purpose of the bibliography is "... to list all of the known literature on acoustic emission in a single volume." It is "... intended to serve as a reference to the literature for those interested in the acoustic emission phenomenon, for those engaged in

materials research, and for those interested in applying acoustic emission as a nondestructive testing method."

Although the preface states that, "It provides an invaluable reference to source material for both undergraduate and graduate students interested in the subjects of acoustic emission, microseismic activity, and nondestructive testing," this point is arguable, since approximately half of the references list technical reports, patents, etc. which usually are not available to a student.

Nevertheless, the author has performed a great service for those interested in acoustic emission by assembling references to the world literature on the subject and translating titles and abstracts not only from French, German, Japanese, Russian, etc., but also in at least one case (abstract 1399) from Slovenian!

To make searching the abstracts easier, the final pages comprise a seven-page list of journals, a twenty-page author index, and a twenty-seven page subject index.

To list all of the known *published* literature on any subject is a momentous undertaking. To list all of the known literature, both published and unpublished, on acoustic emission is a correspondingly greater task. The size of the book indicates to this reviewer that Mr. Drouillard probably has achieved his objective and truly has listed all of the known literature.

M. A. BREAZEALE

*Department of Physics*

*The University of Tennessee*

*Knoxville, Tennessee 37916*

## Acousto-optics

J. Sapriel

*Wiley, New York, 1979.*

*xv + 126 pp. Price \$20.00.*

This is an English translation of the volume *L'Acoustique-Optique* by the same author, published in 1976 and reviewed in JASA [61, 1109 (1977)]. In the translation the text has remained substantively unchanged. The figures have all been redrawn, leading to somewhat clearer graphs in some cases. Some references have been updated. Two unnumbered references have been added, and the introductory preface has been shortened somewhat. The principal feature differentiating the translation from the original version is an appendix containing answers to all the problems. This may be helpful to some users. The reviewer sees no reason to modify the comments in his review of the French version.

WALTER G. MAYER

*Georgetown University*

*Washington, D.C. 20057*