

FOREWORD

In his "The Communicability and Operantcy of Self," William Stephenson discusses the continuity of his concept of the self with the views of Kurt Koffka, the Gestalt psychologist with whom Stephenson was acquainted--initially during Stephenson's years as a physicist at Durham University, and later as a psychologist at Oxford University. The self for Stephenson, as with Koffka, is situationally-embedded and intimately linked with meaning, but perceptual concepts are foregone in favor of communicability. These ideas are rendered substantial in a single case, with operant factor structure providing "documentation in multidimensional space of the obvious truth that an individual is central to his own subjectivity."

In "Mind and Meaning," Professor Duijker advances a complementary perspective in his philosophical reactions to Stephenson's "General Theory of Communication," a 1978 paper presented at the University of Amsterdam, and which is scheduled to appear in revised form in *Communication Yearbook IV*, ed. D. Nimmo (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction/International Communication Assn., 1980). Professor Duijker agrees with Stephenson in most important respects (e.g., on the distinction between information and communication, on the situational context of meaning, etc.) while in other instances proposing amendments (e.g., mind as "interpretative potential" rather than "communicability"). Professor Duijker has, since 1948, been Professor of Psychology at the University of Amsterdam. Co-editor of the *Netherlands Journal of Psychology* and of several psychological monograph series, he is also co-editor of the *International Directory of Psychologists* (1966) and of the *Trilingual Dictionary of Psychology* (1975), both under the auspices of the International Union of Psychological Science. His main interests include communication, motivation and general behavior theory ("human ethology"). He is author of numerous books and papers published in the Netherlands.