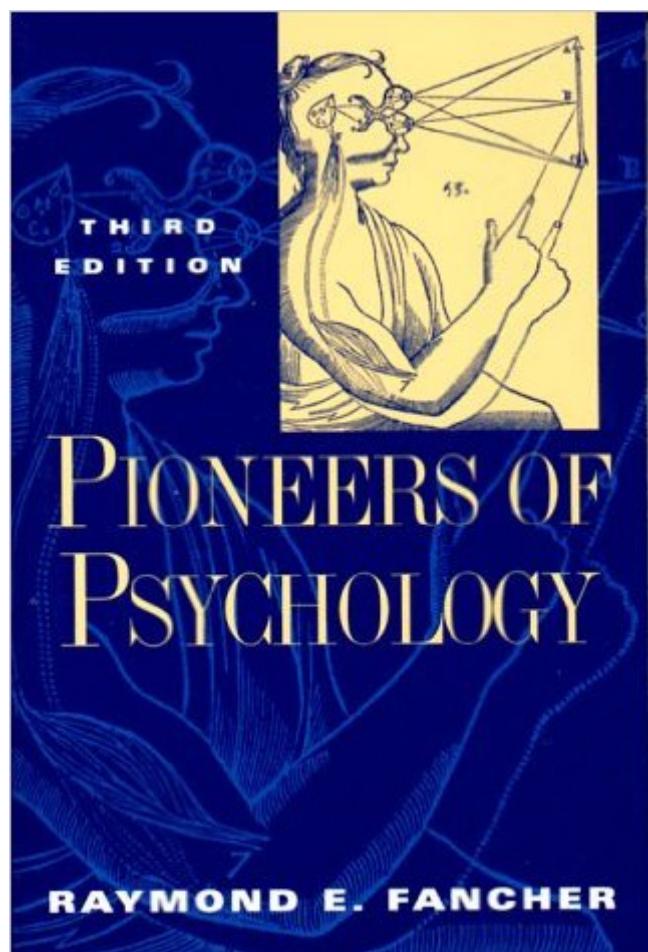


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Pioneers Of Psychology



Synopsis

Modern psychology draws on more than three centuries of research and speculation-invariably original, often daring, at times misguided. In this Third Edition of Pioneers of Psychology, Professor Fancher again traces the evolution of this influential science through the personal triumphs and disappointments of a fascinating gallery of individuals, from Descartes, Gall, and Kant to James, Piaget, and Skinner.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I heartily recommend Raymond Fancher's "Pioneers of Psychology" for anyone interested in a theoretically-oriented history of the discipline (and if that isn't your interest, then this may not be the book for you--but that wouldn't be the book's fault). Fancher's book is divided into 13 chapters. The first four cover moderist philosophers of mind like Descartes, Locke and Leibniz, review early brain anatomists from Gall to Penfield, and then return to philosophy with an excellent chapter on Kant, Helmholtz and Fencher. The middle chapters chronicle the beginnings of experimental and Gestalt psychology, the influence of Darwin and the beginnings of evolutionary psychology, the contributions of Galton and William James, the principle figures and discoveries of behaviorism, and wrap up with a chapter on mesmerism, hypnotism and its early practitioners and applications. The last three chapters tackle Freudian psychoanalysis, developmental psychology, and artificial intelligence. In short, the book covers a good chunk of ground. Each chapter is uniform in length (about 35-40 pages) and typically begins with an anecdotal and biographical approach to the principle figure(s) addressed in the chapter. This strategy makes for engaging reading, even if it

somewhat breaks up the linearity of the developments and milestones subsequently covered by the remainder of the chapter. It also limits the details Fancher can address to what can be surveyed in the remaining 25 or so pages of each chapter. In most cases this isn't a problem, but a few of the chapters would have benefited by adding a bit more discussion at the end, even if it resulted in a chapter or two being longer than the rest.

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