PERCEPTION AND IDENTITY

PERCEPTION AND IDENTITY

Essays Presented to A. J. Ayer
with his Replies to them

edited by
G. F. MACDONALD

M

© Graham Macdonald, Michael Dummett, P. F. Strawson,
David Pears, D. M. Armstrong, Charles Taylor, J. L. Mackie,
David Wiggins, John Foster, Richard Wollheim, Peter Unger,
Bernard Williams, Stephan Körner and A. J. Ayer 1979.

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1979 978-0-333-27182-7

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be
reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
without permission.

First published 1979 by
THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
London and Basingstoke
Associated Companies in Delhi, Dublin,
Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Lagos, Melbourne,
New York, Singapore and Tokyo

Typeset by Santype International Limited, Salisbury, Wilts.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Perception and identity.

1. Ayer, Sir Alfred Jules – Knowledge, Theory of
– Addresses, essays, lectures
 2. Knowledge,
Theory of – Addresses, essays, lectures
 3. Ayer, Sir Alfred Jules – Psychology –
Addresses, essays, lectures
 4. Identity
(Psychology) – Addresses, essays, lectures
- I. Macdonald, G F II. Ayer, Sir Alfred Jules
121 B1618.A94

ISBN 978-1-349-04864-9 ISBN 978-1-349-04862-5 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-04862-5

This book is sold subject to the standard conditions
of the Net Book Agreement.

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	GRAHAM MACDONALD	vii
1.	Common Sense and Physics MICHAEL DUMMETT	1
2.	Perception and its Objects P. F. STRAWSON	41
3.	A Comparison between Ayer's Views about the Privileges of Sense-Datum Statements and the Views of Russell and Austin DAVID PEARS	61
4.	Perception, Sense Data and Causality D. M. ARMSTRONG	84
5.	Sense Data Revisited CHARLES TAYLOR	99
6.	A Defence of Induction J. L. MACKIE	113
7.	Ayer on Monism, Pluralism and Essence DAVID WIGGINS	131
8.	In <i>Self</i> -Defence JOHN FOSTER	161
9.	Memory, Experiential Memory and Personal Identity RICHARD WOLLHEIM	186
10.	I Do Not Exist PETER UNGER	235
11.	Another Time, Another Place, Another Person BERNARD WILLIAMS	252
12.	Ayer on Metaphysics STEPHAN KÖRNER	262
13.	Replies A. J. AYER	277
	<i>The Philosophical Works of A. J. Ayer</i>	334
	<i>Bibliography</i>	343
	<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	347
	<i>Index</i>	349

We are grateful to the *Radio Times* and Don Smith for permission to reproduce the photograph of Sir Alfred Ayer on the frontispiece.

Introduction

GRAHAM MACDONALD

The twelve essays in this volume have been collected in honour of Professor Sir A. J. Ayer, who retired from the Wykeham Chair of Logic at the University of Oxford in 1978. It is generally acknowledged that Freddie has been a major figure in twentieth-century analytical philosophy, and the details of his philosophical career are sufficiently well known for it to be unnecessary to repeat the details here. He has, since the publication of *Language, Truth and Logic* in 1936, become internationally renowned for his forceful and rigorous analysis of important topics in philosophy, especially in the areas of epistemology, the philosophical foundations of probability, philosophy of science, and metaphysics. His writing has consistently exhibited an elegance and clarity attained by very few philosophers. In addition Freddie has the pedagogic gifts of patience and understanding, as his many students who have received sympathetic guidance will know.

The contributors to this volume were invited to write on any topic which Freddie has published. This gave them a wide choice, but the collection has benefited by the fact that most of the articles are in the area of either philosophy of perception or identity and personal identity. As a 'Festschrift' it is unusual in that the person honoured was invited to reply to the comments on, and criticisms of his work. It would have been a great pity to miss the opportunity of having Freddie's thoughts about the articles published, and the most appropriate place of publication seemed to be alongside the essays. I would like to thank the contributors for their co-operation and for the care which they took over their articles. Their quality is a fitting tribute to the immense contribution which Freddie has made to philosophy.