



A. Kirschmann  
Director of the Psychological  
Department

### **AUGUST KIRSCHMANN (1860-1932)**

August Kirschmann replaced James Mark Baldwin as director of the Psychological Laboratory at the University of Toronto. When Kirschmann took over in 1893 the laboratory consisted of only four rooms in the west wing of University College. By 1900, Kirschmann expanded the laboratory to include sixteen rooms and several more instruments for demonstration and experiments.

Kirschmann studied under Wilhelm Wundt at Leipzig and was Wundt's fifth Ph.D student. In the 1890's experimentalists frequently cited Kirschmann's intensive study of control apparatus in Wundt's laboratory (Külpe and Kirschmann, 1890). At U of T, Kirschmann acquired international fame for his work on colour perception. The Kirschmann Colour-Mixer became standard equipment in every psychological laboratory. When Kirschmann arrived in Toronto he did not speak English, and could not lecture in his first year. By 1900 Kirschmann and his graduate students established an in-house publication, the *University of Toronto Studies, Psychological Series*.

In 1909 Kirschmann left U of T for Germany. A series of unfortunate circumstances, including, poor health, lack of money and the first World War, prevented him from ever returning to Canada. (Myers, 1982; Slater)

#### *References*

Külpe, Beschrieben von O., and A. Kirschmann. (1890). Ein Aparat zur Controle Zeitmessender Instrumente, *Philosophische Studien*, 8: 145.

Kirschmann, August (1892). Some Effects of Contrast, *American Journal of Psychology*, 4, 542-557.

Kirschmann, August (1896) Colour Saturation and its Quantitative Relations, *American Journal of Psychology*, 7, 385-404.

Kirschmann, August (1898). The Representation of Shades and Tints of Colour by Rotating Disks, *American Journal of Psychology*, 9.

Kirschmann, August (1898). The Function of Indirect Vision and the Use of Smoked and Coloured Glasses, *Transactions of the Canadian Institute*.

Kirschmann, August (1900). Concepts and laws of aesthetics. *University of Toronto Studies, Psychological Series*, 1, 100-200.

Kirschmann, August (1903). Deception and Reality. *American Journal of Psychology*, 14, commemorative no., 24-41.

Kirschmann, August (1903). On Parallel Curves (And Consequently on the Alaska Boundary Dispute). *University Of Toronto Monthly*, 4, 46-50.

Kirschmann, August (1904). The Decimal System of Notation - A Relic of Savagery. *University Of Toronto Monthly*, 4, 224-228.

Myers, C. R. (1982). Psychology at Toronto. In M. J. Wright & C. R. Myers (eds.) *A History Of Academic Psychology in Canada* (pp. 68-99) Toronto: C. F. Hogrefe

Slater, John. *A History of the Philosophy Department at the University of Toronto*.