



Heinrich Hertz Classical Physicist, Modern Philosopher Boston Studies in the Philosophy and History of Science

By -

Springer. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 324 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.8in. The sub-title of this symposium is accurate and, in a curious way, promises more than it states: Classical Physicist, Modern Philosopher. Heinrich Hertz, as the consummate experimentalist of 19th century technique and as brilliant clarifying critic of physical theory of his time, achieved one of the fulfillments but at the same time opened one of the transition points of classical physics. Thus, in his popular lecture On the Relations Between Light and Electricity at Heidelberg in the Fall of 1889, Hertz identified the ether as henceforth the most fundamental problem of physics, as the conceptual mystery but also the key to understanding mass, electricity, and gravity. Of Hertz's demonstration of electric waves, Helmholtz told the Physical Society of Berlin: Gentlemen! I have to communicate to you today the most important physical discovery of the century. Hertz, philosophizing in his direct, lucid, pithy style, once wrote We have to imagine. Perhaps this is metaphysics on the horizon In the early pages of his Principles of Mechanics, we read A doubt which makes an impression on our mind cannot be removed by calling it metaphysical: every thoughtful...



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