

NOTES ON SEMANTICS

RUDOLF CARNAP

EDITORIAL PREFACE

During the spring semester of 1955, Carnap conducted at the University of California at Los Angeles a seminar on semantics. For this purpose, he distributed *Notes on Semantics*, comprising fifty-two hectographed pages plus three pages of bibliography. In June 1955, he sent copies of these *Notes* to "some friends and colleagues".

For a similar seminar conducted in the same place during the fall semester of 1959, Carnap revised nearly one-half of these *Notes*, including the bibliography, and added an erratum sheet. He again subsequently, in February 1960, sent the revised version to friends and colleagues.

Though most of the material presented in these notes was, at the time of their preparation, not new, relative to the material contained in Carnap's books *Introduction to Semantics* and *Meaning and Necessity*, they did contain a number of important innovations as well as many improvements over previous formulations given in those books. Some of these innovations and improvements were made use of by Carnap, and partly further elaborated, in sections nine and ten of his *Replies and Expositions* in *The Philosophy of Rudolf Carnap* (P.A. Schilpp, ed.), 1963, pp. 889-905.

Many of us have tried to persuade Carnap to publish the *Notes*, since we felt that they contained a clear, though, by their nature, rather concise, presentation of his latest thinking on semantics. However, being immersed in his work on inductive logic and in writing the *Replies and Expositions*, he somehow never seemed to have found the time for this kind of work. Since we remain convinced of the importance of Carnap's conception of semantics, as exhibited in the *Notes*, they are now published here, with the permission of his daughter and trustee, Mrs. Hanna Thost, essentially in the revised form of 1959, with some misprints corrected, and some minor technical changes made in the bibliography.

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