Preface.

Delightful and necessary as are our color sensations they leave very imperfect images, because the memory has no system for their identification.

(Any sort of order or system would be an improvement upon the chaotic conditions which now prevail.) As a student, the wish to memorize colors led the writer to construct a color solid some twenty years ago; continued studies of the use and teaching of color as a means of expression, have deepened the belief that in order to grasp and unite such endlessly varied impressions, the mind must possess a graphic image of color relations. Out of this conviction a system has slowly developed which permits any hue to describe its character in terms of its light and its strength. Not only is a single color sensation thus defined, but its relations to all other colors becomes evident.

To measure these qualities it has been necessary to devise special apparatus, which serve to test and correct personal bias in the appreciation of color, and also form a basis for color notation.

Without a system of identification it is useless to dogmatize about harmonious colors, for if the elements of such groups are in doubt, attempts to describe their combination will end in confusion. Before the mind can intelligently unite such complex elements, it must separate and define them.

The aim of these lectures is to build up a clear mental image of color relations, and furnish a stable foundation for their study by means of measured scales.

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