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FOREWORD

In 1980, the authors proposed in *The Psychological Review* a theory on verbal thinking-aloud protocols as data, and provided substantial empirical support for the theory. The response to this article was so lively, and the interest in protocols that it revealed so widespread that we decided to enlarge our inquiry into a book. The book would make the theory as explicit and rigorous as possible, would explore the empirical evidence more thoroughly than we could in a single journal article, and would discuss the techniques of protocol analysis. This is that book.

The ideas set forth in this book have taken form over many years, beginning with a brief meeting between the authors in the Spring of 1975. Many people have spent countless hours discussing these issues with us in these years, and we would especially like to acknowledge William Chase, Gunnar Goude, and Robert Neches. A number of colleagues and friends have been kind enough to read drafts of the book and offer their suggestions for improving it. Among them are Micki Chi, Donald Fiske Allen Newell, Stelan Ohlsson, Gary Olson, Richard Nisbett, and Ed Smith. We wish to thank them warmly and at the same time absolve them from responsibility for infelicities of the product.

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