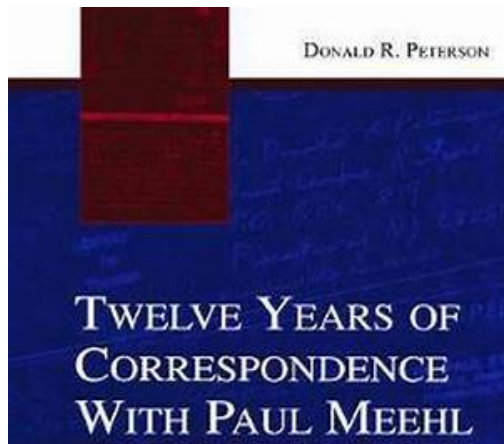


Twelve Years of Correspondence With Paul Meehl: Tough Notes From a Gentle Genius By Donald R. Peterson

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In 1996 Division 12 of the APA presented Centennial Awards to two psychologists who were considered to have made the greatest lifetime contributions to the discipline One of those individuals was Paul Meehl Dr Meehl s writings on research methodology and mental illness influenced generations of researchers and psychotherapists Twelve Years of Correspondence With Paul Meehl is composed mainly of letters between Drs Paul Meehl and Donald Peterson during the final 12 years of Meehl s life After Meehl s death Dr Peterson revisited their correspondence and found a remarkable order in it One topic flowed into another With some connective explanatory text the letters shaped themselves into a book The correspondence forms a story of the relationship between an extraordinary mentor and his student as well as a dialogue between two eminent psychologists The letters explore penetrating questions and underlying arguments about some of the most recalcitrant issues that scientists and practitioners encounter in their efforts to understand the human condition Paul Meehl contributed notably to seven philosophy of science learning schizophrenia clinical and research training personality assessment taxometrics and clinical versus statistical prediction The letters touch on each of these areas and examine some issues thoroughly than either Meehl or Peterson had done in any other writings The book includes an extensive set of endnotes that identify the many works that are referred to in the letters as well as explanatory comments This intimate look at Paul Meehl s way of thinking will appeal to graduate students and professionals in such diverse fields as psychology psychiatry biology sociology law education and philosophy Twelve Years of Correspondence With Paul Meehl Tough Notes From a Gentle Geniusthis professor student pair corresponded until the professor passed away they discussed philosophy than most psychologists Peterson discussed his activity in training letters always give good behind the scenes information 212 .