













facts

reliable



Ludwik  
Fleck

Genesis and  
Development of a  
Scientific Fact



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*Edited by Thaddeus J. Trenn and Robert K. Merton*

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*Foreword by Thomas S. Kuhn*

# FLECK AND FACTS

- He isolates two particular kinds of these supposedly **reliable facts**: everyday ones, which we assume are external to ourselves and not shaped by our internal perceptions, and facts associated with classical physics.
- He sees a more valid potential for understanding a fact by exploring medicine, a science particularly open to interpretation.





# THOUGHT STYLE AND COLLECTIVES

- **Thought collectives** are "a community of persons mutually exchanging ideas or maintaining intellectual interaction."
- They are "the special 'carrier' for the historical development of any field of thought."
- This field of thought itself is defined by Fleck as **thought style**.
- A **thought collective** exists anytime two or more people exchange thoughts, and individuals belong to multiple thought collectives at any given time.

