

## **Volkmann's Vision**

### **Hans Strasburger & Nicholas J. Wade**

Alfred Wilhelm Volkmann (1801–1877) was a German physiologist and anatomist who contributed enormously to vision research – to perception, psychophysics, anatomy, and physiology. He studied medicine together with his friends Gustav Theodor Fechner (1801–1887) and Rudolf Lotze (1817–1881) in Leipzig, and held professorships in Dorpat (now Tartu), Estonia, and Halle, Germany. Most of his work has not been translated to English which is why we are in the process of preparing a translation of his first book (“Neue Beiträge zur Physiologie des Gesichtssinnes”, Leipzig, 1836). Its twenty chapters plus appendix and thirty-three figures cover a wide range of topics in vision, including retinal histology, the mind-body problem, direction rays and visual angle, upright vision, Scheiner's experiment, visual direction, binocular single vision, accommodation and its coupling with vergence, distinct vs. sharp vision, and the size of the blur circle. We present a few examples selected from this long list.

**Key words:** history of science, mind-body, visual angle, blur, binocular vision

150 words