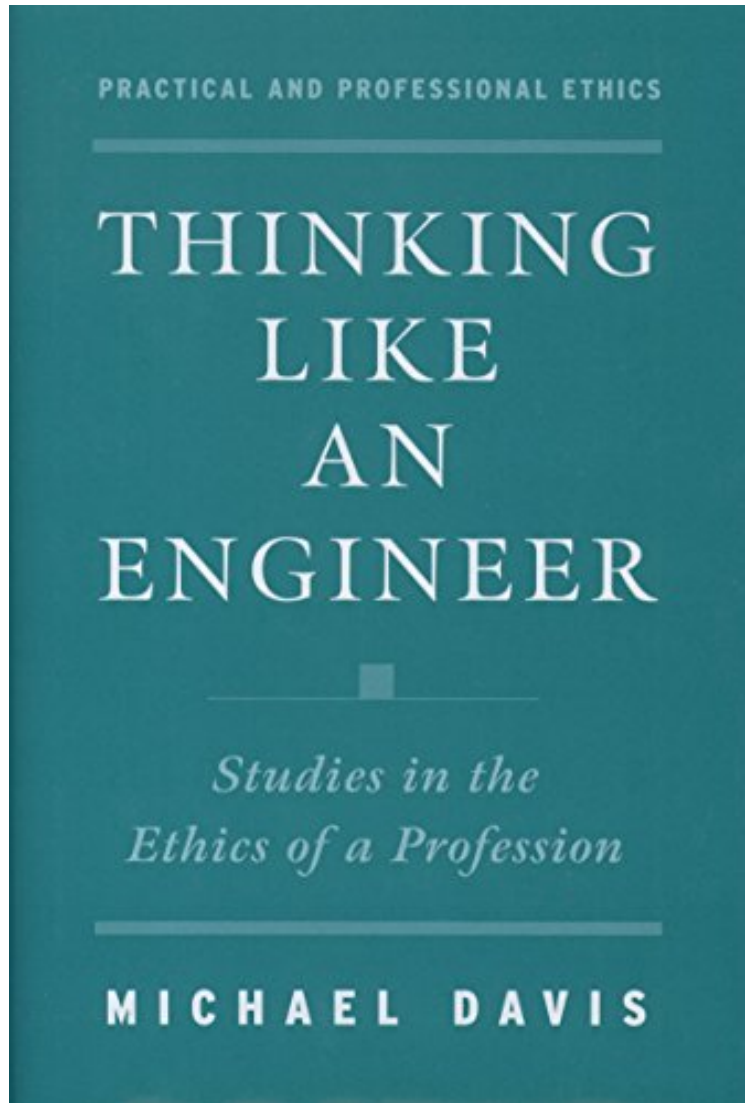


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Henry, the late Sidgwick
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Henry, the late Sidgwick : Practical Ethics: A Collection of Addresses and Essays (Practical and Professional Ethics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Practical Ethics: A Collection of Addresses and Essays (Practical and Professional Ethics):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A non-engineer gets to the core of engineeringBy Marina Pantazidou"Thinking Like an Engineer" is a significant contribution mainly, from my perspective as an engineer, because it can help every engineer appreciate deeper her own work and the engineering community she belongs. "Thinking Like an Engineer" is a contribution both in engineering ethics (by shedding light to codes of professional

conduct for engineers) and in the philosophy of engineering. With this book, the philosopher author has set a very high goal: he aims at describing the thinking of an engineer in a way that the engineers themselves will recognize as authentic. The fact that he succeeds admirably in achieving his goal, together with some parts of the book, point to two very important attributes of the author. First, his conviction that the higher calling of philosophy (and philosophers!) is to express deep truths we, the non-philosophers, have not managed to express in words, while at some unspoken level we recognize them as truths. Second, his genuine interest in engineering and engineers, whom he has understood with the incisiveness of a philosopher and the objectivity of an outside observer, for the purpose not of piling publications read among his own colleagues, but of offering something useful to the community of engineers he loves and studies. I include below an excerpt from the preface of the book, which is characteristic of the incisiveness of its author: Knowledge, though of course part of what makes an engineer, is only a part. At least as important is the way the knower moves (or, at least, is supposed to move) from knowledge to action. That movement from knowledge to action is the "thinking" of my title. We, engineers, are very lucky to have Michael Davis stumble upon us and decide to stay with us. In the epilogue of his book, Davis puts forward four questions for the social sciences, partly as the obligatory "further research needed", partly as a genuine invitation to them to study engineering and engineers: What is engineering? What do engineers do? How do engineering decisions get made? What can engineers do? (i.e., what is the measure of the engineer's autonomy?) I wish and hope that the social scientists who will respond to the invitation will also share Davis's goal of sounding authentic to engineers.

A classic work in the field of practical and professional ethics, this collection of nine essays by English philosopher and educator Henry Sidgwick (1838-1900) was first published in 1898 and forms a vital complement to Sidgwick's major treatise on moral theory, *The Methods of Ethics*. Reissued here as Volume One in a new series sponsored by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, the book is composed chiefly of addresses to members of two ethical societies that Sidgwick helped to found in Cambridge and London in the 1880s. Clear, taut, and lively, these essays demonstrate the compassion and calm reasonableness that Sidgwick brought to all his writings. As Sidgwick explains in his opening essay, the societies he addressed aimed to allow academics, professionals, and others to pursue joint efforts at reaching "some results of value for practical guidance and life." Sidgwick hoped that members might discuss such questions as when, if ever, public officials might be justified in lying or in breaking promises, whether scientists could legitimately inflict suffering on animals for research purposes, when nations might have just cause in going to war, and a score of other issues of ethics in public and private life still debated a century later. This valuable reissue returns *Practical Ethics* to its rightful place in Sidgwick's oeuvre. Noted ethicist Sissela Bok provides a superb Introduction, ranging over the course of Sidgwick's life and career and underscoring the relevance of *Practical Ethics* to contemporary debate. She writes: "Practical Ethics, the last book that Henry Sidgwick published before his death in 1900, contains the distillation of a lifetime of reflection on ethics and on what it would take for ethical debate to be 'really of use in the solution of practical questions.'" This rich, engaging work is essential reading for all concerned with the relationship between ethical theory and practice, and with the questions that have driven the study of professional ethics in recent years.

"For those interested in the problematical ethics of engineers and engineering managers, this is a book worthy of contemplation."--*Technology and Culture*
About the Author Michael Davis is at Illinois Institute of Technology.