

## Books

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**Biokit: A Journey to Life** — Joël de Rosnay. A zany, cartoon introduction to the mechanics of molecular genetics. The book comes with cardboard models of amino acids, nucleotides and ribosomes and a circular decoder for translating the genetic code. These models can be used to demonstrate the basic processes of genetic engineering. ADAMA Bks, 1984, 48 p., color illus., \$12.95.

**The Chip: How Two Americans Invented the Microchip and Launched a Revolution** — T.R. Reid. The story of the microelectronics revolution and of engineer Jack Kilby and physicist Robert Noyce, the two men who independently invented the integrated circuit. Although the microchip and the computer are the subject of the book, the emphasis is on the human brain and its creativity. S&S 1984, 243 p., illus., \$15.95.

**Green Inheritance: The World Wildlife Fund Book of Plants** — Anthony Huxley, foreword by David Attenborough. A beautifully illustrated celebration of plants. The aim of the book is to show how rewarding our green inheritance is to human beings, "to demonstrate the wonder and worth of plants, and their great potential, to explain why they cannot take any more punishment and to point out how those that remain can be saved." Doubleday, 1985, 193 p., color/b&w illus., \$19.95.

**Lost at the Frontier: U.S. Science and Technology Policy Adrift** — Deborah Shapley and Rustum Roy. Assesses American science policy from Vannevar Bush's report in the mid-1940s and prescribes remedies for what the authors feel are the current problems. The first of these is that U.S. science should be reorganized to give equal weight to undirected basic research, purposive basic research, applied science, engineering and technology. The second is that there should be a change of scientists' values to stress the interconnections among disciplines and institutions and "across artificial barriers and obstacles now separating basic and applied science, engineering and technology." A number of prominent scientists have provided here responses to the issues raised. ISI Pr, 1985, 223 p., charts & graphs, \$19.95, paper, \$13.95.

**Monkeys and Apes** — Gotthart Berger, photographs by Erich Tylinek, translated from the German by Dorothy Jaeschke. This order of mammals comprises great variety of form ranging from the tree shrews no bigger than a rat to the gorilla that weighs up to 550 pounds. All families of the primate order except man are covered in this beautifully illustrated book. Arco, 1985, 240 p., color/b&w illus., \$24.95.

**The Nature of Selection: Evolutionary Theory in Philosophical Focus** — Elliott Sober. An analysis of the evolutionary concepts of natural selection, fitness and adaptation. Provides an introduction to philosophical and biological problems in evolutionary theory. MIT Pr, 1984, 383 p., charts & graphs, \$25.

**Numberplay** — Gyles Brandreth. A book about numbers in all their diverse manifestations written by one who feels "the joy of numbers is that they are so full of surprises." Includes hundreds of fascinating games with numbers. Rawson Assocs, 1984, 191 p., \$14.95, paper, \$8.95.

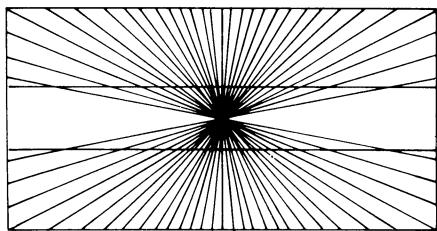
**Science: Its History and Development Among the World's Culture** — Colin A. Ronan. An overview of the development of science and scientific thought throughout the world, from early times to the present. Concentrates on those developments in science that have brought about a conceptual change, rather than a technical one. First published in the U.S. in hardback in 1983. Facts on File, 1985, 543 p., illus., paper, \$14.95.

**State of the World 1985: A Worldwatch Institute Report on Progress Toward a Sustainable Society** — Lester R. Brown et al. An assessment dealing with the basic issues of energy, environment, food, population and economic trends. This integrative document cuts across disciplines and fields of interest. Population-induced climate change is one of the foci of this year's volume (see SN: 2/23/85, p. 118). Norton, 1985, 301 p., \$18.95, paper, \$8.95.

**Young Children Learning** — Barbara Tizard and Martin Hughes. Provides insight into the way young children think, talk and learn, especially from their mothers. The book describes a British research study in which 4-year-old girls were tape-recorded talking to their mothers at home and their teachers at nursery school. Harvard U Pr, 1984, 286 p., \$15.

**Paradox:** 1. An act, statement or phenomenon that disagrees with common sense. 2. In logic, a valid argument which cannot be assigned a truth value. 3. In print, a fascinating excursion into the fun house of your mind.

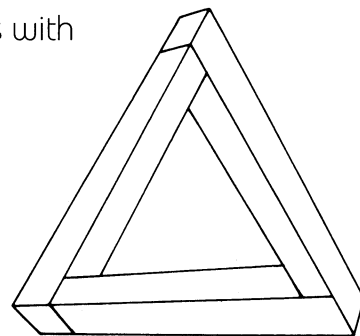
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# The PARADOXICON

by Nicholas Falletta

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Doubleday, 1983, 230 pages, 8½" x 5½", hardcover, \$14.95.