

Jacket illustration: The famous flamingo, adapted from J. J. Audubon's *Birds of America*.

Norton, 1985, 476 pages.
8½" x 5½". hardcover, \$17.95

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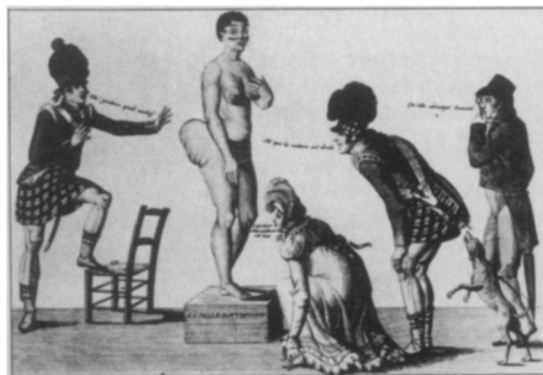
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A satiric French print of 1812 commenting on the British fascination with the Hottentot Venus.



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—David Quammen, in a review for *The New York Times*.

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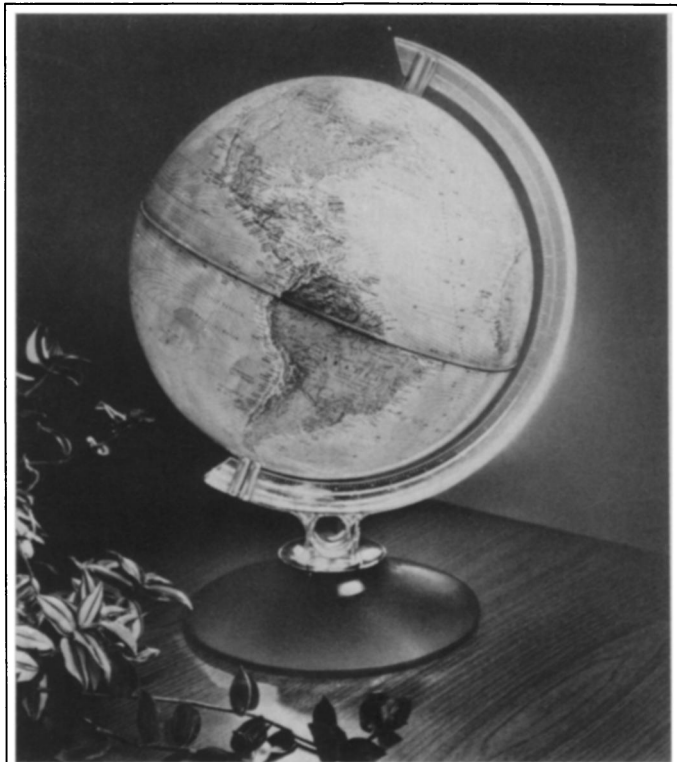
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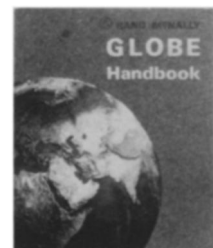
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A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE WIND

By LYELL WATSON

A fascinating survey of the geography, biology, physics, sociology, physiology, psychology, history and philosophy of the wind. Watson shows how winds provide the circulatory and nervous systems of the planet, distributing warmth, making soil and generally bringing the world to life. There are chapters on wind sensitivity, including the creation of a new Beaufort scale of wind forces, an entertaining dictionary of winds, and a look at how the *föhn*, *mistral*, *sirocco*, *Santa Ana* and other "ill winds" alter human body chemistry and psychology to an extent that can lead to disease, suicide and even murder. The historical section recalls how trade winds have shaped imperial destinies and how the dramatic winds of war determined the outcome of the conflict between the Greeks and Persians, the Mongol invasion of Japan and the fate of the Spanish Armada.

"For wind, which is nothing but a lot of air wrapped around some microscopic inclusions, packs a surprising punch and strikes some sneaky blows. . . . The process began at the Tacoma Narrows Bridge on the morning of November 8th with a wind of sixty kilometres an hour, just strong enough to blow foam off the tops of waves and make the local fishermen think twice about going out. But this was sufficient to get under the roadway of the central section of the bridge and start it oscillating up and down. Before long, it began to 'gallop' . . . sending frightened drivers fleeing on foot from their abandoned, but by no means stationary, cars.

This lengthwise deformation continued for two hours, until the wind increased slightly to sixty-seven kilometres and introduced a new factor into the equation. The bridge began to twist, turning the roadway through forty-five degrees like a corkscrew, spilling cars down into the Sound. The structure had developed a 'Karman Vortex,' which is the engineering equivalent of hysteria.

Quite independently of the wind, the bridge began to excite itself, until the wavelength of movement was exactly equal to the width of the roadway, setting up a resonance that coincided with the structure's own natural frequency. Three hours after the wind and movement began, the bridge collapsed into the waters far below." — from the book

Wm. Morrow & Co., 1984, 384 pages, 9½" x 6½", hardcover, \$19.95

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