

The Sachertorte Algorithm and Other Antidotes to Computer Anxiety

By John Shore

Computer anxiety stems from the newness of computers, their apparent complexity and their threat to the status quo (found most often in the workplace, where employees fear their own obsolescence or an inability to adapt to office or factory automation). But Shore cites more important and less obvious causes, such as technological intimidation, the basic differences between people and computers and faulty assumptions that people make about the correctness of computer outputs. He explains what computers are, how they work, what they can and cannot do and how they interact with their users. Shore debunks common myths, and he comments brilliantly on current computer technology and the technical challenges of the future.

Viking, 1985, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", 270 pages, hardcover, \$16.95

The Universal Machine: Confessions of a Technological Optimist

By Pamela McCorduck

Boldly argues that the computer is the most civilized and human machine ever invented, since it amplifies the human property that has always served us best — our own intelligence, our ability to manipulate symbols.

In a series of intimate reflections, McCorduck examines the causes for hope as well as despair to be found in the strains of transition as the world moves from one culture to the next and demonstrates the computer's potentialities for

crisis mediation,
diplomacy and peace,
for educating the Third
World, and in art and
literature.

McGraw-Hill, 1985, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", 305 pages, hardcover, \$16.95

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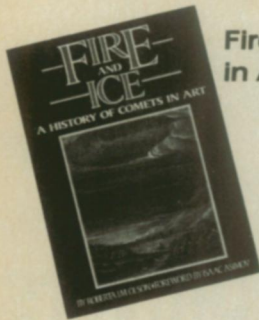
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Comet Books



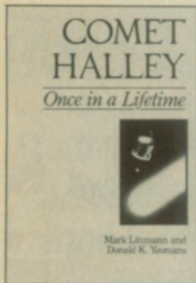
Fire and Ice: A History of Comets in Art Roberta J. M. Olson

The remarkable illustrations have been assembled over the past decade by noted art historian Roberta J. M. Olson. Many of them published for the first time, these examples of comet art are diverse: Some are whimsical or

satirical, while others are deeply religious, obsessive, even apocalyptic.

Among the "comet artists" represented are the anonymous weavers of the Bayeux Tapestry, illustrators of medieval manuscripts and treatises, and the early astronomers. Included are works of Raphael, Giotto, Dürer, Blake, Van Gogh, Kandinsky and Mirò, plus satirical works by Hogarth, Rowlandson, Grandville, Cruikshank and Daumier.

Walker & Co., 1985, 6½" x 10", 134 pages, hardcover, \$24.95. [A]



Comet Halley: Once in a Lifetime Mark Littmann and Donald K. Yeomans

On February 9, 1986, Comet Halley will reach its perihelion or closest approach to the Sun: 54.5 million miles. It will be traveling 34 miles per second, the equivalent of flying from New York to Los Angeles in just over one minute. Gases,

mostly water vapor, will boil off the comet's icy nucleus at the rate of one million tons per day. The whereabouts of the comet on a monthly basis from November 1985 to June 1986 are given along with suggestions for when and where to look for the comet in the sky.

Am. Chem. Society, 1985, 6½" x 10", 175 pages, hardcover, \$19.95. [B]

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Halley's Comet Donald Tattersfield

This book is uniquely enhanced by the inclusion of six microcomputer programs (for the Commodore 64, TRS-80 and Apple II), which allow you to explore the passage of the comet graphically and to compute its position in the sky from wherever you are on any given date, at any given time — day or night — as it passes near to the earth in 1985-6.

With this book, readers can actively participate in the comet's appearance: Tattersfield shows exactly how and where both to see and photograph it.

Basil, Blackwell, 1985, 5½" x 10¾", 175 pages, hardcover, \$12.95. [C]



The Mystery of Comets (Smithsonian Library of the Solar System) Fred L. Whipple

Carries us step by step from the exciting time when Newton formulated gravity and made the first prediction of a comet's heady glimpse of exploits still to



by step from the when Sir Isaac related the law of Edmond Halley correct prediction, up to a extraterrestrial come — the

space missions to Halley's comet and the first landing on a comet, tentatively planned for 1995. In the course of this journey of discovery, Whipple describes in detail how he arrived at his own model of the origin and nature of comets, the "dirty snowball" theory — now accepted as the basis of modern cometary science. In so doing, he addresses basic but long elusive questions about comets: Are they members of our solar system or interstellar nomads from unknown regions of outer space? Do comets die? Why do some comets seemingly defy gravity? What is the landscape of a comet like? Why does the head of a comet change when it draws near the sun?

Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985, 6" x 9", 276 pages, hardcover, \$24.95. [D]