

EINSTEIN'S DREAM

THE SEARCH FOR A UNIFIED THEORY OF THE UNIVERSE

By Barry Parker

The two major theories — quantum theory and relativity theory — have created the greatest riddle of modern physics: Why should there be two distinctly different theories to explain the universe? Shouldn't the ultimate answer lie in one unified theory? Einstein and many of his colleagues believed so and it was their dream to find the single theory that would explain all the phenomena of the universe.

Einstein's Dream vividly depicts the central figures of modern physics — their achievements and disappointments — recreating the excitement of this quest for a grand unified theory of the universe.

— from the publisher

Plenum, 1986, 287 pages, 8½" x 5¾", hardcover, \$18.95

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Notebooks of the Mind

Explorations in Thinking

Vera John-Steiner

How do creative people engage in thinking? For answers to that question, Vera John-Steiner studied talented and experienced thinkers at work. In all, she interviewed over fifty men and women prominent in the humanities, arts and sciences, including Jessica Mitford, Aaron Copland, Eliot Feld, Nina Byers and Basil Bernstein. She also read letters, diaries and autobiographies of numerous others important in those fields, among them Albert Einstein, Julian Huxley, Diego Rivera, Leo Tolstoy and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. John-Steiner's wide-ranging study of the psychology of creativity gives special attention to its development. She shows that the mastery of thinking often begins in childhood. During those formative years, a person's drive to know and to imagine is encouraged by a knowledgeable adult. An apprenticeship occurs in which youngsters begin to turn their creative intensity toward sustained and productive thinking. Concurrent with the lengthy and varied apprenticeships is the evolution of different languages of thought, or the ways in which ideas emerge and are transformed into creative breakthroughs. Productive thought doesn't follow a uniform pattern; instead, each person's ideas take form in images, movement or inner speech. These modes of thinking are discussed in detail, along with the ways in which ideas are turned from private to public form, from condensed fragments to fully developed expressions.

— from the publisher

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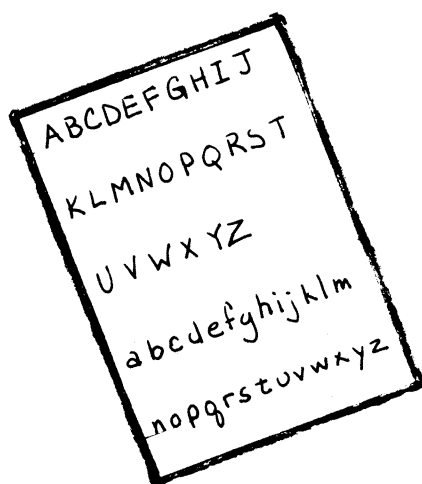
Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1985, 264 pages, 9 1/2" x 6 1/2", hardcover, \$19.95

"The special appeal of the book is that Vera John-Steiner finds common patterns linking creative thought in various fields of art and science, without reducing these patterns to any single scheme. She recognizes instead the wide diversity of personalities, backgrounds and modes of thought that can give rise to creative achievements."

— Frederic L. Holmes
Professor, Yale University

The Alphabet Effect

By
Robert K. Logan



Wm. Morrow, 1986, 272 pages,
8½" × 5¾", hardcover, \$16.95

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A study of the evolution of writing systems and the dramatic role the phonetic alphabet has played in the development of Western civilization. Tracing the evolution of writing from notched bones and sticks to today's modern systems, Logan explores the interrelationships between the evolution of writing and documentation and broader patterns of intellectual and cultural development on a global level: In the West, where the wholly abstract phonetic alphabet came into general use, civilization evolved along rational, scientific and primarily monotheistic lines. In the East, particularly in China, a more concrete, pictographic writing system prevailed. Here civilization took on a markedly holistic, intuitive and polytheistic character.

According to Logan's thesis, the fundamental cultural differences between East and West are being swept aside by the advent of mass communication and the use of the computer. Not only has the planet become a "global village" but new electronic literacy requires holistic thinking. The long era of cultural and intellectual isolation has passed, and future generations are likely to witness the fusion of Eastern and Western modes of thought, to the enormous benefit of mankind.

—*from the publisher*