

Quiddities *An Intermittently Philosophical Dictionary*

Moving from A (alphabet) to Z (zero), *Quiddities* roams through more than eighty topics, each providing a full measure of piquant thought, wordplay and wisdom, couched in easy and elegant prose — “Quine at his unbuttoned best,” in critic Donald Davidson’s words. Philosophy, language and mathematics are the subjects most fully represented; titles of entries include belief, communication, free will, idiotisms, longitude and latitude, marks, prizes, Latin pronunciation, tolerance, trinity. Even the more technical entries are larded with homely lore, anecdote and whimsical humor.

— from the publisher

“Mr. Quine, who has in his time changed the face of symbolic logic and ordinary language philosophy, here turns his mind to standard philosophical subjects such as free will, to topics in number theory and to matters of language. He has spent a lifetime making things clear, and the 85 mini-essays collected here are models of clarity in the discussion of difficult ideas.”

— Washington Post

By W. V. Quine

Harvard Univ. Press, 1987, 249 pages, 9 1/4" x 6 1/4", hardcover, \$20.00
ISBN 0-674-74351-2

Science News Books
1719 N St., NW, Washington, DC 20036

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From Stone Axes to Silicon Chips



TREVOR I. WILLIAMS

Facts on File, 1987, 352 pages, 8 1/2" x 11", hardcover, \$35.00 ISBN 0-8160-1788-3

In *The History of Invention*, Williams traces the sociological evolution of “the inventor.” He depicts the earliest inventors as anonymous contributors. Weapons and tools carved from bone and stone, such as the slingshot dating back to the Paleolithic Era and the development of the wheel in Mesopotamia, are attributed to specific time periods. The second wave of inventors stresses the importance of the individual as inventor, including such men as Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell and Benjamin Franklin. And, finally, Williams shows how we are moving toward a new period of anonymity as today’s technological advances are made by groups of scientists and teams of researchers inside laboratories and large corporations.

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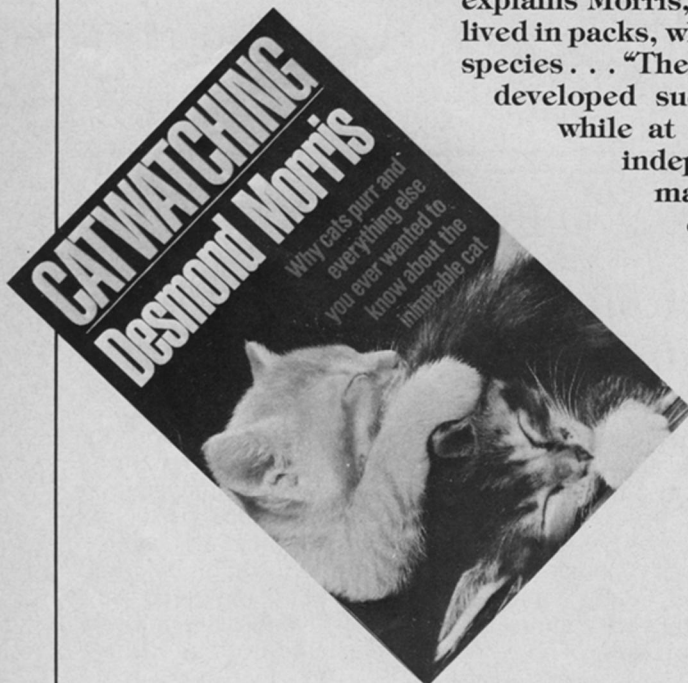


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