

# The Mediterranean Was a Desert

A Voyage of the *Glomar Challenger*

By Kenneth J. Hsü

*The Mediterranean Was a Desert* is Kenneth Hsü's firsthand account of one of the most fascinating deep-sea drilling cruises ever launched. This voyage, Leg 13 of the *D/V Glomar Challenger*, was undertaken in 1970 and led to a spectacular geological headline: the hypothesis that about five and a half million years ago the Mediterranean Sea was a desert.

— from the publisher

Princeton Univ. Press, 1983, 197 pages, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", paperback, \$8.95  
ISBN 0-691-02406-5

"... we met huge success, hitting basement just there and collecting enough samples to allow our colleagues on land eventually to determine its age. They concluded that the ash and the underlying volcanic rock were about 20 million years old. There had been a chain of volcanoes here then, which had spat out ash that had accumulated to layers hundreds of meters thick. Later the Valencia Trough was submerged under a deep sea, and skeletons of floating animals and plants were sedimented to form oozes. The Mediterranean eventually dried up, and layers of evaporites were deposited over the whole basin. Gravels and sands were transported by rivers draining the newly emerged volcanic mountains, forming the gravelly deposits we had found at the previous site. Finally, at the beginning of Pliocene, some 5 million years ago, the Strait of Gibraltar opened and the sea came back; and deep-sea oozes were again deposited in the flooded Mediterranean basins."

— from the book

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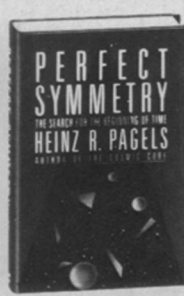

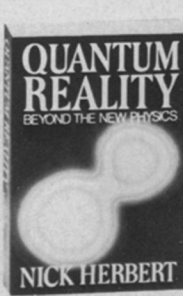


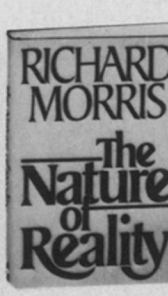
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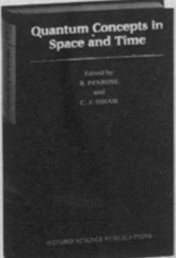

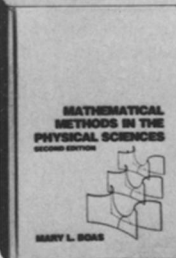
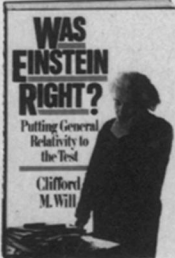

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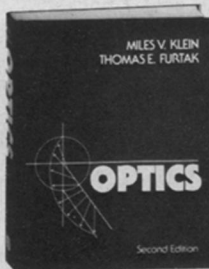

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