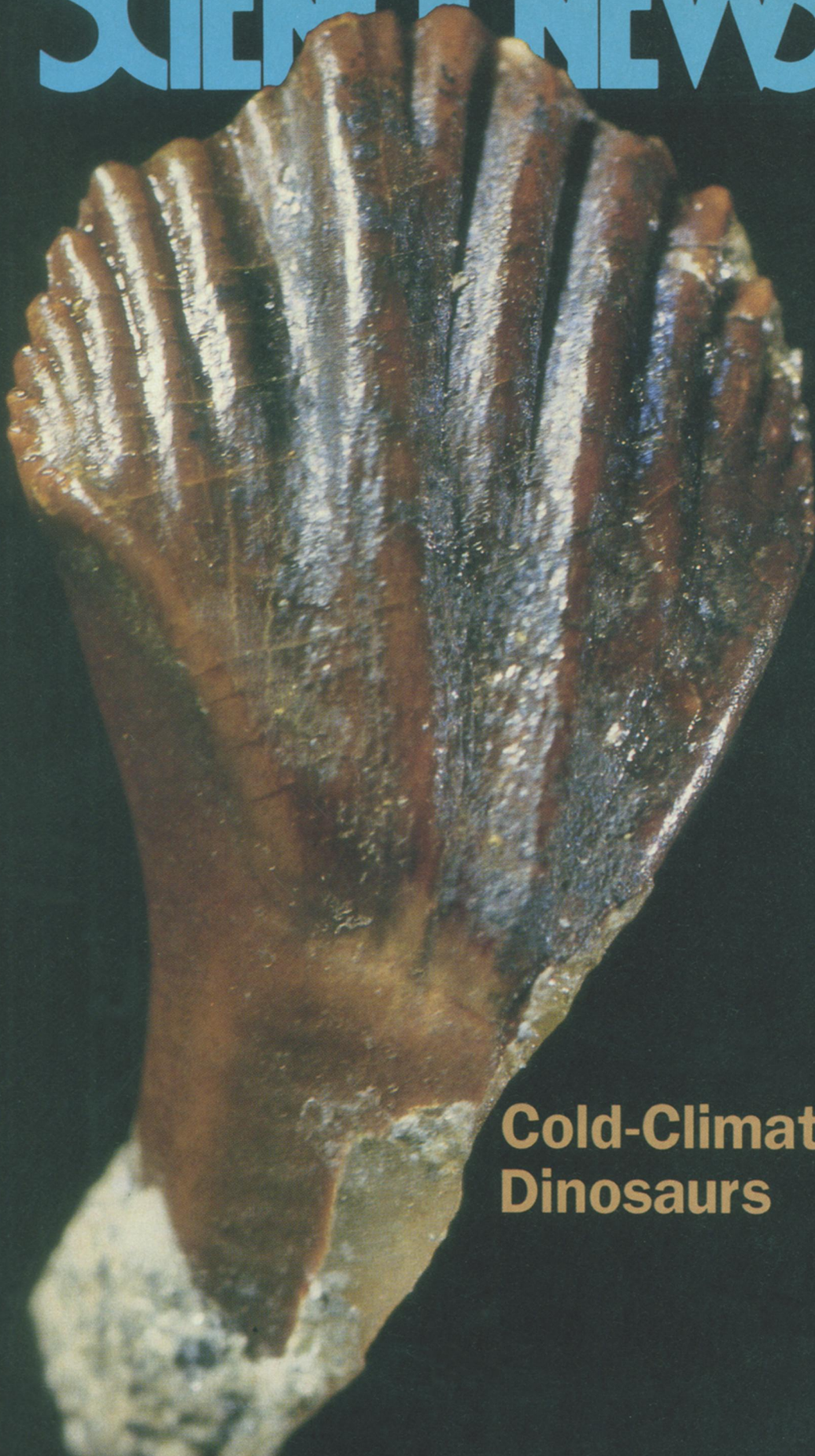


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Cold-Climate Dinosaurs



Quantum Electrodynamics

The strange theory of light and matter

By Richard P. Feynman

Princeton Univ. Press, 1986, 158 pages, 9" x 6",
hardcover, \$18.50 ISBN 0-691-08388-6

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Renowned theoretical physicist, the late Richard Feynman, presents the forbiddingly named theory of quantum electrodynamics with the clarity, accuracy and completeness that have made his lectures famous. He begins with a discussion on the reflection of monochromatic light, followed by one on electrons and their interactions. Finally he explains how the theory of quantum electrodynamics helps in the understanding of quarks, gluons and other major terms of current physics; he also discusses the relation of quantum electrodynamics to the rest of physics. Assuming little scientific background of his readers, Feynman describes the interaction of light and electrons, which underlies almost everything we observe in the physical world.

— from the publisher

"The theory of quantum electrodynamics describes Nature as absurd from the point of view of common sense. And it agrees fully with experiment. So I hope you can accept Nature as She is — absurd."

— from the book

He solved the mystery of liquid helium and was commissioned to paint a naked (female) toreador, asked to crack many of the most "secure" safes at Los Alamos during development of the atomic bomb and played a skillful frigdeira in a Brazilian samba band, explained physics to "monster minds" like Einstein, Von Neumann and Pauli and accompanied ballet on the bongo drums, was judged both mentally deficient by a United States Army psychiatrist and worthy of the Nobel Prize by the Swedish Academy.

Feynman's life has in fact been a series of combustible combinations, improbable happenings made possible by his unique mixture of high intelligence, unlimited curiosity, eternal skepticism and raging chutzpah.

The origin of the title of this book is an example of the satire contained within: *"Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!"* was the dean's wife's reply when Feynman, having tea at the dean's home as a naive Princeton graduate student, asked for *both* cream and lemon in his tea.

Bantam,
1986, 322 pages,
7" x 4",
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