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Archaeology and Language: The Puzzle of Indo-European Origins — Colin Renfrew. Sheds new light on the links between archaeology and language. Challenges existing beliefs on the origins of language. Renfrew reaches a new conclusion that primitive forms of the Indo-European language were spoken across Europe some thousands of years earlier than was previously thought. Cambridge U Pr, 1988, 346 p., illus., \$29.95.

Bird of Passage: Recollections of a Physicist — Rudolf Peierls. A delightful autobiography by one of the leading physicists of our time, telling of his life, his professional associates and the developments in physics that were a central part of his life. Originally published in hardback in 1985. Princeton U Pr, 1988, 350 p., illus., paper, \$12.50.

Human Gene Therapy — Eve K. Nichols. Based on an October 1986 meeting of experts convened by the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine to provide a discourse on the scientific state-of-the-art of gene therapy, the technical hurdles that remain and the public policy process that will precede any attempts to treat genetic disorders by genetic engineering. Includes a useful glossary. Harvard U Pr, 1988, 251 p., illus., \$22.95, paper, \$9.95.

The Last Extinction — Les Kaufman and Kenneth Mallory, Eds. According to the editors, we are rapidly losing the diversity of life on earth. Their intent is to awaken the public to the issues involved, in the hope that the mass extinction now in progress can be prevented. The book discusses the nature of mass extinctions and the role of people in causing the current one. The plight of the Amazon rain forest is described, as is the ecological situation in North America. Suggests how the public can make a difference and supplies a random sampling of organizations involved in conservation issues. Originally published in hardback in 1986. MIT Pr, 1988, 208 p., illus., paper, \$7.95.

The Mathematical Tourist: Snapshots of Modern Mathematics — Ivars Peterson. The mathematics editor of SCIENCE NEWS provides a well-illustrated, readable "introductory guidebook" to the world of modern mathematics. From the vast enterprise of mathematics, Peterson highlights a number of topics that are on the edge of current mathematical research. WH Freeman, 1988, 240 p., color/b&w illus., \$17.95.

The Metamict State — Roald Hoffmann. Poems by this Nobel laureate in chemistry ranging from "The Devil Teaches Thermodynamics" to "Three Japanese Edo-Period Pots." The metamict state is explained by Hoffmann as "an unusual state of matter, amorphous because of the disruption of the crystal structure by radiation from contained or nearby radioactive atoms." U Presses Fla, 1987, 104 p., \$10.95.

Rodale's Garden Problem Solver: Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs — Jeff Ball. A well-illustrated garden book that addresses more than 700 specific gardening problems as well as giving information on the planting, management, harvesting and storage of common vegetables, fruits and herbs. Discusses in detail insect pests, plant diseases and animal pests and tells how to control each of these. Rodale Pr, 1988, 550 p., illus., \$21.95.

The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence: Listening for Life in the Cosmos — Thomas R. McDonough. A space scientist has written this introduction to SETI, which begins with a history of humans' views — including science fiction — of the possibility of extraterrestrial life in the universe. Sets SETI in context by discussing the origin of life and NASA's exploration of the solar system. Describes various programs searching for extraterrestrial intelligence and discusses the future for SETI. Originally published in hardback in 1987. Wiley, 1988, 244 p., illus., paper, \$14.95.

Toward a New Philosophy of Biology: Observations of an Evolutionist — Ernst Mayr. There is a growing realization, according to the preface, that any sound philosophy of science must do justice to the living world. Mayr then asks, "Is the conceptual framework of biology sufficiently established to be made a part of a philosophy of science?" His essays point out that a great deal of conceptual confusion, or at least vagueness, persists in biology. Mayr's objective in these essays is to provide more clarity toward achieving a satisfying philosophy of biology. Harvard U Pr, 1988, 564 p., \$35.

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