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## Letters

### Fiscal forerunner

Maybe it is so obvious that the author didn't think it worth mentioning, but it would appear that the clay tokens described in "Tokens of Plenty" (SN: 12/24&31/88, p.408) were also an immediate forerunner to the concepts of money and coinage.

The article does mention that there were focal points for the storage of tokens. With someone storing the tokens there was undoubtedly the concept of borrowing, and of lending as well.

Bernard F. Mayoff  
Richardson, Tex.

### In defense of rat research

Thank you for the attention paid to our paper presented at the Neuroscience meeting in Toronto ("Beating the MSG clock," SN: 11/26/88, p.350; Letters, SN: 1/7/89, p.3).

Our research group has contributed to the

## This Week

- 100 Astronomers Glimpse Birth of a Pulsar
- 100 First 3-D image of AIDS virus protein
- 101 Stone blades yield early cultivation clues
- 101 Semiconductor devices transfer like decals
- 102 Antifreezes in fish work quite similarly
- 102 Stratospheric winds alter day's length
- 102 Study refines diet's link to breast cancer
- 103 Bush's first budget: Still very Reaganesque

## Research Notes

- 110 Biology
- 110 Biomedicine
- 111 Environment

## Articles

- 104 Dioxin: Paper's Trace
- 108 The Finishing Touch

Cover: As has been the case on each of the roughly 500,000 Steinway pianos made over the last 135 years, this keyboard is largely handmade. The same goes for just about every other feature inside and outside the pianos. But the human touch may soon get a helping hand from a robot. Mechanical engineers are developing a "robot rubber" that may replace some of the human furniture-finishers who make the piano cases smooth and shiny. (Photo: Steinway & Sons)



## Departments

- 99 Letters
- 109 Books

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understanding of the mechanisms by which convulsive phenomena are produced in animal models representing various types of human epilepsy. Some of these types still cause disability and even death throughout the world.

The larger the body of information available regarding the mechanisms of production of convulsions, their relationships with cyclic metabolic variations, and the mechanisms of new antiepileptic compounds including their side effects, the more rational would be the clinical management and treatment of epileptic patients in the future.

In carrying out our experiments in laboratory animals, we carefully observe the policies provided by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, edited by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service and National Institutes of Health; and the *Biomedical Investigator's Handbook for Researchers Using Animal Models*, edited by the Foundation for Biomedical

Research in Washington, D.C.

I would advise Miss Noeldner and other overreacting people to read *NEUROSCIENCE NEWSLETTER*, March/April 1988, and *SCIENCE*, Nov. 11, regarding the use of animals in biomedical research.

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99