

## Books

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**Ben Franklin Stilled the Waves: An Informal History of Pouring Oil on Water with Reflections on the Ups and Downs of Scientific Life in General**—Charles Tanford. The author traces the changes in the nature of scientific inquiry since Ben Franklin poured oil onto a pond and observed that "it spreads instantly many feet around . . . as to be invisible, except in its effect of smoothing the waves." Subsequent generations of scientists moved this experiment into the laboratory and applied its results to physics, chemistry and biology. Through discussions of surface tension, hydrophobic molecules and oil chemistry, Tanford reveals the changing attitudes and evolving status of science and scientists. Duke U Pr, 1989, 227 p., illus., hardcover, \$33.50.

**The Cosmic Inquirers: Modern Telescopes and Their Makers**—Wallace Tucker and Karen Tucker. Tells of astronomers' efforts to promote, design and build the instruments of modern astronomical research, such as the Very Large Array, the Einstein X-Ray Observatory and the Infrared Astronomy Satellite. Describes the demands the scientific community places on experimenters, as well as researchers' struggles with Congress, NASA and their colleagues to obtain support and funding. Includes past achievements and future promise for the telescopes. Originally published in hardcover in 1986. Harvard U Pr, 1989, 221 p., illus., paperback, \$10.95.

**The Elements**—John Emsley. Hard-to-find-in-one-place data about the chemical elements are succinctly combined in this handbook for students, chemists, physicists, journalists or anyone who needs to know if the symbol for magnesium is Mn or Mg. Also describes each element's chemical properties, where and when it was discovered, the origin of the name, the crystal structure, the oxidation states and more. The handbook is organized alphabetically. Oxford U Pr, 1989, 256 p. (plus periodic table), hardcover, \$49.95, paperback, \$19.95.

**Oasis in Space: Earth History from the Beginning**—Preston Cloud. This leading geologist traces Earth's history from the creation of our sun to the present. Intended for the general reader interested in how this clement and bounteous planet came to have the properties that make it an oasis in space and a haven for humankind. Originally published in hardcover in 1988. Norton, 1989, 508 p., color/b&w illus., paperback, \$18.95.

**Parental Loss and Achievement**—Marvin Eisenstadt, et al. A psychiatrist, psychologist, psychoanalyst and historian examine, from their different professional perspectives, whether orphans hold a dominant position among historically eminent individuals. They probe into the pasts of leaders from politics, science, art and music to address the issues of genius and parental loss, whether orphans possess a special drive for power and how orphans react to deprivation and other factors. The case histories make fascinating reading while detailed charts supply technical support. Intl Univ Pr, 1989, 338 p., hardcover, \$35.00.

**Perennials for American Gardens**—Ruth Rogers Clausen and Nicolas H. Ekstrom. Describes, in encyclopedic style and with color photographs, more than 400 genera and several thousand perennial species, cultivars and hybrids that grow in North America. Gives botanical facts, horticultural hints, design tips and ecological considerations and is intended for nursery operators, landscape architects, serious amateur gardeners and students of ornamental horticulture. The book focuses on the characteristics of the plant material, not on gardening techniques. Random, 1989, 631 p., color illus., hardcover, \$35.00.

**Philosophical Consequences of Quantum Theory: Reflections on Bell's Theorem**—James T. Cushing and Ernan McMullin, Eds. These papers, collected from a 1987 conference focusing on John S. Bell's celebrated 1964 theorem, examine the philosophical issues posed by quantum theory. The book introduces Bell's theorem so that readers can understand the papers, but it is not a technical overview of the theorem or of quantum mechanics. Notre Dame Pr, 1989, 314 p., illus., paperback, \$19.95.

**Wild Britain: A Traveler's and Naturalist's Guide**—Douglas Botting. Intended for the traveler with an interest in bird watching, backpacking or simply viewing nature, this full-color guide tells where to go, when to go, how to get there, where to stay and what there is to see in the wild parts of England, Scotland and Wales. P-H, 1989, 224 p., color & b/w illus., paperback, \$13.95.

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