# Books

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**Archimedes' Revenge: The Joys and Perils of Mathematics** — Paul Hoffman. In readable essays, the author sketches for the nonmathematician the range and scope of mathematics. Hoffman gives a glimpse of some of the things mathematicians, pure and applied, actually do. He conveys a sense of the limits of mathematical knowledge, noting that such knowledge can be limited by the newness of a field or by the extraordinary difficulty of certain mathematical problems. Originally published in hardcover by Norton in 1988. Fawcett, 1989, 274 p., illus., paperback, $4.95.

**The Breakthrough: The Race for the Superconductor** — Robert M. Hazen. The author was part of Paul Chu's team that was involved in the race to isolate, identify and characterize the new material Chu had discovered while trying to surpass the superconducting properties of the copper-bearing oxide superconductor that had been announced in January 1986. This book, the author says, "is an insider's view of the scientific process, spiced with the inevitable foibles of intense personalities and the machinations spawned of rivalry. . . . The book focuses primarily on the intensive research efforts." Paperback edition is updated with a new afterword. Originally published in hardcover by S&S in 1988. Ballantine, 1989, 277 p., illus., paperback, $4.95.

**Computer Viruses, Worms, Data Diddlers, Killer Programs, and Other Threats to Your System: What They Are, How They Work, and How to Defend Your PC, Mac or Mainframe** — John McAfee. The chairman of the Computer Virus Industry Association offers practical explanations and advice about the different kinds of computer viruses and how they work, including source code samples from famous viruses; suggested defenses against a virus attack; available antidote software; and information on worms, Trojan horses and other system threats. Written for people who use computers. St Martin, 1989, 235 p., charts & graphs, paperback, $16.95.

**A Natural History of Domesticated Animals** — Juliet Clutton-Brock. Presents the archaeological and historical evidence for early mammal domestication. The author explores how humans have manipulated the lives of other mammals since the Ice Age: how the cat came to be a common pet, why the domesticated horse remains closely related to its wild ancestors, when camels were domesticated and whether there are any wild ones left. Beautifully illustrated, this book is for the scientist or general reader. Originally published in hardcover by the British Museum in 1987. U of Tex Pr, 1989, 208 p., color & b/w illus., paperback, $20.95.

**Roadside Geology of Idaho** — David Alt and Donald W. Hyndman. Explores the range of formations in this geologically diverse state, from the sedimentary formations of the panhandle to the central Idaho batholith to the impact craters of the Snake River Plain and the active faults of the Basin and Range province. Mountain Pr, 1989, 393 p., illus., paperback, $14.95.

**Seeing Voices** — Oliver Sacks. The author of *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* explores deaf culture, especially sign language, as a way of learning how language is linked to humanity and the consequences of living without language. As in his other books, Sacks relies on compelling case histories from his and others' neurology practices to present his points. He takes a close look at the student uprising in the spring of 1988 demanding a deaf president at Gallaudet University. U of Calif Pr, 1989, 180 p., hardcover, $15.95.

**Superstrings and the Search for the Theory of Everything** — F. David Peat. For the general reader with no knowledge of mathematics, the author explains the development of the superstring theory and its meaning to the physical sciences. Superstring theory states that all matter in the universe is composed of minuscule strings. It has been called "the theory of everything" because it seems to explain all physical phenomena. The author describes the theories preceding superstring and why this theory is now making headlines. Includes a glossary of terms. Originally published in hardcover in 1988. Contemp Bks, 1989, 362 p., illus., paperback, $10.95.

**Through the Telescope: A Guide for the Amateur Astronomer** — Michael R. Porcellino. Written for beginners who have just acquired a telescope and want to know what it will do, as well as for those who already know their way around the skies and want to do more with a small telescope. A complete overview of the equipment available, what is really needed to see what, how amateurs can contribute to professional astronomy and how to make stargazing a lifelong hobby. Tab Bks, 1989, 342 p., illus., paperback, $18.95.