

# Ernst Mayr

## TOWARD A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

Observations of an Evolutionist



Harvard U. Press, 1988, 564 pages, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2", paperback, \$14.95  
ISBN 0-674-89666-1

In this beautifully presented book, Ernst Mayr, a professor emeritus of zoology at Harvard, argues that biologists must heed the analyses of philosophers, and philosophers must acknowledge the discoveries of biologists, if both are to achieve a full understanding of living organisms. Attempting to strengthen the bridge between biology and philosophy, Mayr offers 28 essays that help clear up the vagueness that persists in biology and proposes a new direction for the philosophy of biology.

"Mayr's power to discern biological connections and also to identify the telling example should excite unqualified admiration . . .

*Toward a New Philosophy of Biology* is a book to be developed, to be argued with, a book whose margins should be filled with excited scribbles."  
—Nature

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enough open space to provide for the unforeseen auto accident.

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### Fuller foresight?

It is gratifying, but not too surprising, to see that science once again seems to be confirming predictions made by Buckminster Fuller in the mid-1970s and before. In "Building Matter From a Dozen Blocks" (SN: 10/21/89, p.260), researchers seem to be well on their way to concluding that there are three and only three families of fundamental particles out of which the stuff of the Universe (a word Fuller always capitalized) is made.

In 1975, Fuller wrote, "There are only three possible omnisymmetrical, omnitriangulated, least-effort structural systems in nature." He went on to describe the combinations, rotations and permutations of the tetrahedron, octahedron and icosahedron, which form the basis for the three-and-only-three structural systems. His descriptions begin to sound more and more like the families of quarks, leptons and neutrinos reported in SCIENCE NEWS.

Robert G. Chester  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

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