

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

December 16, 1989
Vol. 136, No. 25
Pages 385-400



'Chipping' Into Addiction

Reality's Mirror:

Exploring the Mathematics of Symmetry

By Bryan Bunch

From a snowflake to a Bach partita, a triglyceride molecule to a Shakespearean sonnet, there is handedness and direction in the way things evolve and are put together. This property of matter and energy is known as symmetry, and according to the scientific view of things, there is an intrinsic balance and order in everything, even, paradoxically, chaos.

Reality's Mirror explores symmetry in a mathematical context and illustrates its pervasiveness in the works of nature and humankind. In an engaging, often amusing style, it acquaints you with the subject from the ground up, beginning with the simple concept of line symmetry and expanding to encompass symmetry in the life sciences, art, music, psychology, and anthropology.

— from the publisher

Science News Books
1719 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

RealMirror

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *Reality's Mirror*. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$19.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling (total \$21.95) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

Name _____

Address _____

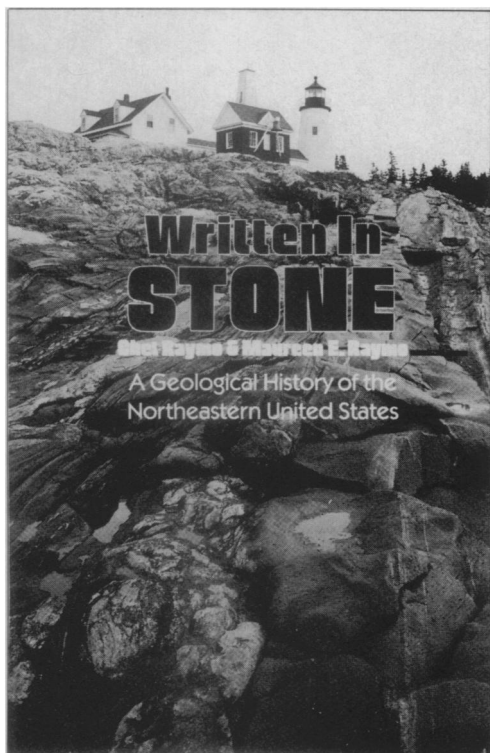
State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # (_____) _____
(used only for problems with order) RB1163

"Bryan Bunch's ambidextrous mind leaps with ease from biology to physics as he explores the question of symmetry and handedness in the universe. An excellent treatment of the pervasiveness of symmetry in nature and an admirable weaving of common threads from many diverse fields."

— Dr. Eugene F. Mallove
Chief Science Writer
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Wiley, 1989, 286 pages, 9 1/4" x 6", hardcover, \$19.95



Globe-Pequot, 1989, 163 pages, 8 3/4" x 5 1/2", hardcover, \$18.95 ISBN 0-87106-680-7

Written in Stone traces one particular grain of our planet — the northeastern United States — across 500 million years of geological history to reveal the dynamic face and forces of the Earth that have shaped this familiar landscape. From New Jersey north to Maine, from the Adirondacks east to Cape Cod, *Written in Stone* reads the history of this region in sand and stones, ponds and valleys, hills and ridges. The story is a masterful translation of the dramas that preceded and created the horizons we know today. The authors explore the tearing down and reconstruction of land; mass extinctions; fossil records; past climates; the birth of oceans; the dynamics of evolution; the rifting of the ocean floor; the movement of glaciers; the evolution of plants and animals; and the coming of humans. The book describes how earthquakes are a window into the geologic past. It explains the Northeast's oldest and youngest features. It draws fascinating comparisons between present-day East Africa and the Northeast of the Triassic Period. It locates the path of the glaciers in the drumlins of the Boston area, the eskers of Maine and the kettle holes of Cape Cod. Presented in a nontechnical, engaging style, this book will captivate the interested layperson and refresh the professional.

— from the publisher

Science News Books
1719 N St., NW, Washington, DC 20036

Please send _____ copy(ies) of *Written in Stone*. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$18.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling (total \$20.95) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

RB1161