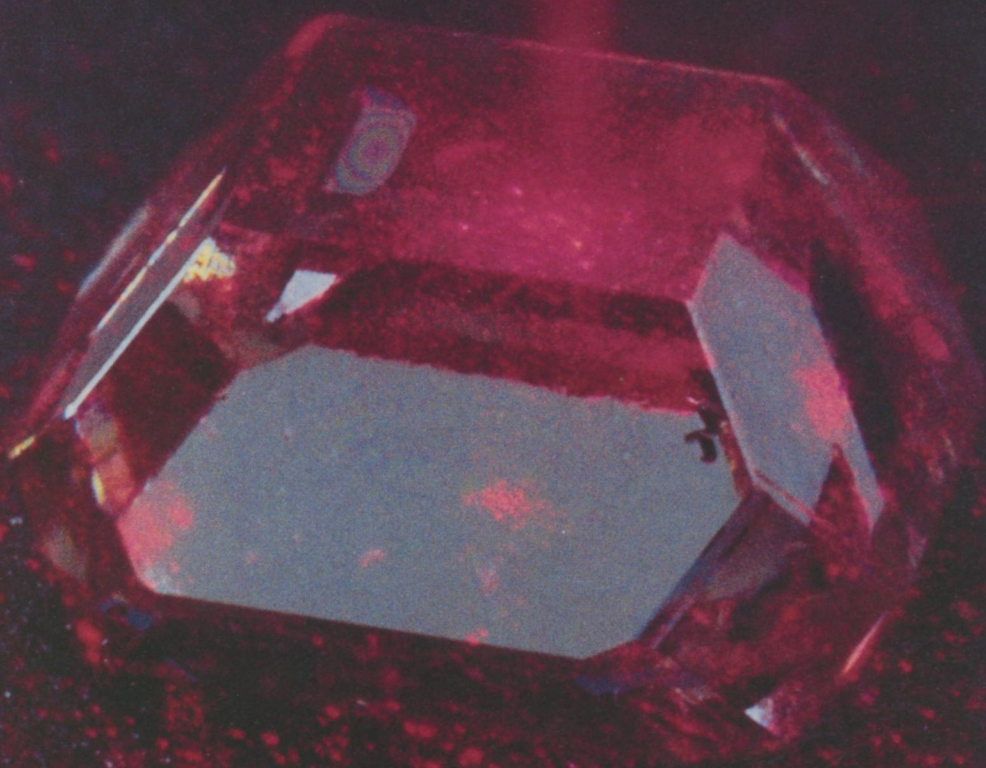


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

August 4, 1990
Vol. 138, No. 5
Pages 65-80

Diamond Alchemy





Crystals

By Ian F. Mercer

Crystals are all around you. As natural structures of billions of atoms, crystals conform to only a few basic three dimensional patterns. Yet they are found as minerals in great variety — in caves and mines, in seas and volcanoes. Crystals are also growing between the stars; and inside you. With over 150 color pictures, this book will reveal the many surprises hidden in your crystal world.

—from the publisher

Crystals: Harvard Univ. Press, 1990, 60 pages, 8 1/4" x 8", paperback, \$9.95

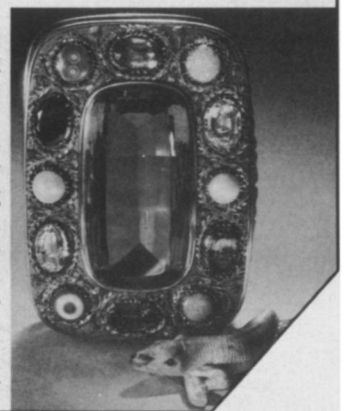
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By Christine Wood & Roger Harding

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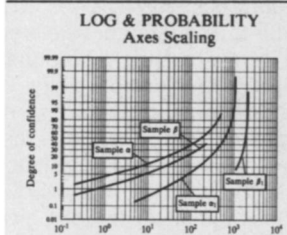
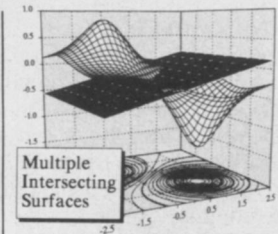
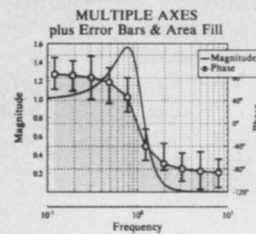
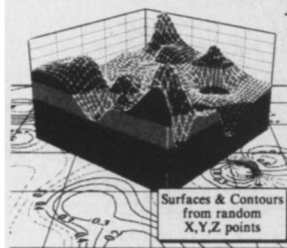


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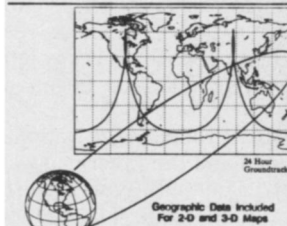
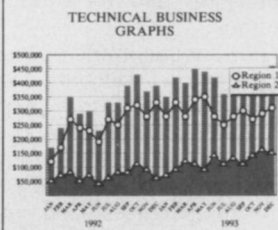
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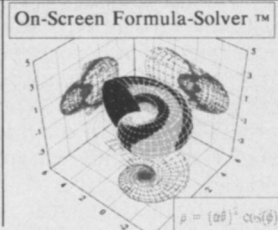


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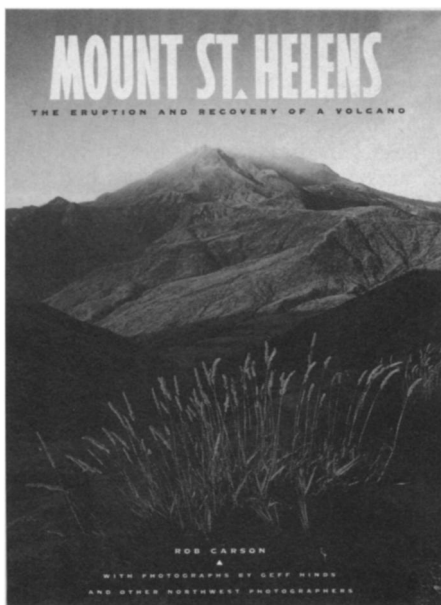


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Sasquatch Bks, 1990, 160pages, 11½" x 8¾", paperback, \$19.95

On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens exploded with the force of more than 27,000 atom bombs. In a few hours, 234 square miles of forest lands were destroyed. Virtually all life on the mountain disappeared. When the ash settled, the once-picturesque scene was a desolate, uninhabitable wasteland.

In the past decade the mountain has once again been transformed. The slopes of the crater are bursting with new life. Delicate wildflowers have pushed their way through a foot of ash to find the sun, and creatures of all sizes — from spiders to pocket gophers to Roosevelt elk — have reclaimed the area. Mountain lakes are once again clear, cold and filled with aquatic life.

After the eruption, the desert-like landscape of Mount St. Helens and the surrounding blast zone presented a virtual "clean slate" for scientific research. The mountain offers one of the world's most extraordinary field sites for scientific study and is host to more than 500 concurrent research projects. In the last ten years scientists have advanced and proven many significant theories — not only about volcanic evolution, but about the very beginnings of life itself.

In text and over 200 full-color and black-and-white photographs, *Mount St. Helens* chronicles the evolution of the disaster and recovery.

— from the publisher

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A Natural History of the Senses

By Diane Ackerman

"Her catalog of the senses is itself a sensuous journey, with prose rich in imagery and rhythm. Ackerman's book is a provocative and entertaining treat whose details will bestir the reader's imagination."

— Library Journal

A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE SENSES is a guidebook exploring the "origin and evolution of the senses, how they vary from culture to culture, their range and reputation, their folklore and science, the sensory idioms we use to speak of the world, and some special topics" such as:

- "Just as Westerners donate their organs after death, a Japanese wearing the work of a grand tattoo master may donate his skin to a museum or university. Tokyo University has three hundred such masterpieces framed."
- "In a Harvard laboratory, doctors cut up small patches of skin, treat it with enzymes, then spread it onto a culture medium. In 24 days, enough skin will be produced to cover an entire human body."
- "When the explorer Dr. Livingston died in Africa, his organs were apparently eaten by two of his native followers as a way to absorb his strength and courage."
- "Adults have about 10,000 taste buds grouped by theme (salt, sour, sweet, bitter), at various sites in the mouth. Parrots only about 400, cows 25,000. What are they tasting? Maybe a cow needs that many to enjoy a relentless diet of grass."

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Random, 1990, 331 pages, 9½" x 6½", hardcover, \$19.95