

## Books

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**The Big Splash: A Scientific Discovery That Revolutionizes the Way We View the Origin of Life, the Water We Drink, the Death of the Dinosaurs, the Creation of the Oceans, the Nature of the Cosmos, and the Very Future of the Earth Itself** — Louis A. Frank with Patrick Huyghe. Frank, a physicist, argues that Earth's surface water comes not from volcanic eruptions but from small comets that vaporize in the planet's atmosphere. This contentious report also addresses the scientific community's reaction to such an unorthodox idea. Birch Ln Pr, 1990, 255 p., color plates, hardcover, \$21.95.

**The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Fossils** — Giovanni Pinna. In this extensively illustrated resource, significant fossil finds are arranged and reviewed according to their taxonomic classification. Begins with an explanation of how fossilization occurs, how fossils are dated and classified, and their importance as scientific clues to Earth's history. Concludes with a glossary and a list of further reading. The semitechnical text, supplemented with more than 1,300 full-color photographs and illustrations, should interest amateur paleontologists while also providing a quick reference for professionals. Originally published in Italian in 1985. Facts on File, 1990, 240 p., color/b&w illus., hardcover, \$35.00.

**The Invisible Invaders: The Story of the Emerging Age of Viruses** — Peter Radetsky. An engaging, nontechnical exploration of viruses and of the history of viral research, from the 19th-century discovery of the smallpox vaccine to recent work on major human viruses such as influenza, hepatitis, cancer viruses, herpesviruses and the AIDS-causing HIV. Radetsky highlights the field's leading scientists and examines the controversy accompanying their searches for treatments, preventions and cures. Little Brown, 1991, 415 p., illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

**Medical Tests and Diagnostic Procedures: A Patient's Guide to Just What the Doctor Ordered** — Philip Shtasel. How does a CAT scan work? What's a mediastinoscopy? Is it uncomfortable? How long does it take? Will someone be in the room with me? This patient's handbook explains diagnostic procedures performed in 16 medical specialties, including ophthalmology, pulmonology and gynecology. An empathetic resource for anyone faced with, or intrigued by, the bewildering array of modern diagnostic tests. Originally published in hardcover in 1990. Harper-Collins, 1991, 316 p., charts, paperback, \$10.95.

**Plastics: America's Packaging Dilemma** — Nancy Wolf and Ellen Feldman. A multifaceted, nontechnical introduction to plastic — how it is made, how it is used, its role in the U.S. economy, and the advantages and disadvantages of disposal options ranging from incineration to recycling. Island Pr, 1991, 131 p., paperback, \$12.95.

**Tell Me A Story: A New Look at Real and Artificial Memory** — Roger C. Shank. This expert on artificial intelligence offers an intriguing elucidation of his contention that we, as individuals, assess the intelligence of others by evaluating the "stories" they recount in conversation and by judging the relevance of those stories to the discussion at hand. Intelligence, which is closely linked to understanding, thus becomes a matter of making creative connections, accurately indexing and storing experiences, and selectively recalling relevant information. Under this definition, a computer capable of intelligent behavior may be one that, though unable to play chess or solve math problems, possesses a large collection of interesting stories that it can relate at appropriate times. Scribners, 1991, 253 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

**Wild Malaysia: The Wildlife and Scenery of Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah** — Gerald Cubitt and Junaidi Payne. Lavishly illustrated with more than 400 color photographs, this is a spectacular tribute to Malaysia and its diverse array of exotic wildlife. Malaysia's tropical islands, capped with rain forests and encircled by coral reefs, are as untouched by modern development as any on Earth, and this book captures their pristine beauty. The text is informal and educational, describing such topics as climate, topography, human inhabitants, natural history and conservation efforts. Produced in association with the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Malaysia. MIT Pr, 1990, 208 p., color/b&w illus., hardcover, \$35.00.

Drawing on his considerable experience as historian and journalist in the Middle East, Peter Mansfield explores the region's social, political and historical aspects — from the pre-Islamic nomads of Arabia, the life of Muhammad and the rise of Arab power that followed, to the Western colonial period, the tragedy of Palestine and the modern Arab renaissance, reinforced by the power of oil. He shows how the consequences of centuries of struggle for dominance between Christendom and the Islamic world survive to this day in various forms.

An important section of the book surveys the Arab countries in gazetteer fashion. The final section considers the Arabs themselves, their characteristics, aspirations and future.

—from the publisher

Penguin, 1985, 527 pages, 5" x 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>", paperback, \$8.95

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Arabs

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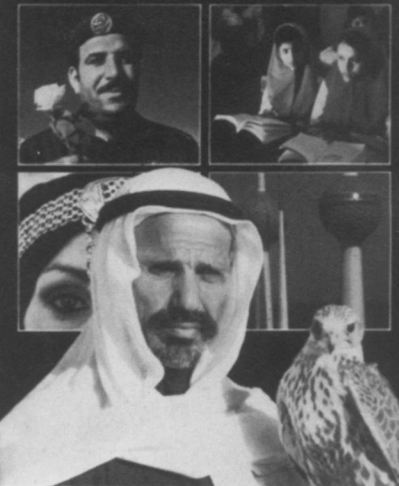
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## PETER MANSFIELD THE ARABS NEW EDITION

"Should be studied by anyone who wants to know about the Arab world and how the Arabs have become what they are today" — *Sunday Times*



First edition originally published in the United States in 1977 under the title *The Arab World: A Comprehensive History*.