The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science



Searching for Gammas

## Reference tools for information design from Edward R. Tufte

## The Visual Display of Quantitative Information, by Edward R. Tufte.

Explores theory and practice in the design of statistical graphics, charts, maps and tables and offers design solutions in scientific, mass media, business and medical graphics. Contains more than 200 examples of the finest graphical work from 1700 to 1982, including time-series, thematic maps, relational graphics, multivariate designs and high density displays. Covers aesthetics and techniques in data graphical design, use of colors, proportions and scaling, treatment of grids and the comparative effectiveness of sentences, tables and graphics for communicating quantitative information. (Mostly black-and-white and two-color).

— from the publisher

Graphics Press, 1983, 197 pages, 9" x 11", hardcover, \$36.00

## Envisioning Information, by Edward R. Tufte.

Tufte's second book on information design celebrates escapes from the flatland of paper and computer screen, rendering several hundred superb displays of complex data. Revealed here are design strategies for enhancing the dimensionality and density of portrayals of information — techniques exemplified in maps, the manuscripts of Galileo, timetables, notation describing dance movements, aerial photographs, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, electrocardiograms, drawings of Calder and Klee, computer visualizations and a textbook of Euclid's geometry. The principles of information design are universal — like mathematics — and are not tied to unique features of a particular language or culture. Consequently, our examples are widely distributed in space and time: illustrations come from 17 countries and 7 centuries, and, for that matter, 3 planets and 1 star. (Mostly in full-color).

Graphics Press, 1990, 126 pages, 9" x 11", hardcover, \$48.00

— from the publisher

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Praise for The Visual Display of Quantitative Information

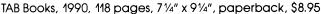
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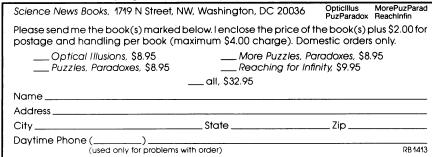
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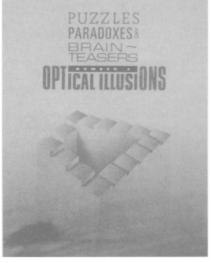
In his latest addition to the successful Puzzles, Paradoxes and Brain Teasers series, Stan Gibilisco delves further into the realm of scientific enigma with an entertaining look at visual illusion. Optical Illusions features an intriguing collection of illustrations that deceive you into seeing sizes, shapes and motions that aren't there — or not seeing what is there!

Offering explanations where he can and thought-provoking speculation on those illusions that remain unsolved. Gibilisco examines these puzzling pictures with his characteristic flair for making the abstract comprehensible. You'll see the bizarre optical effects of:

- The irregularly shaped room
- Water refraction
- Shading and contrast
- Visual blind spots
- Depth and displacement
- Perpetual-motion drawings
- Multiple perspectives
- Color
- The impossible staircase
- Lines and curves
- And much more!

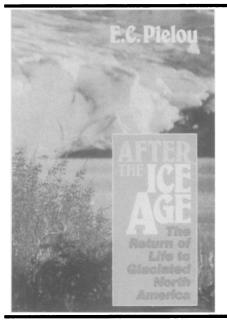






Also available from Stan Gibilisco:

- Puzzles, Paradoxes and Brain Teasers, TAB Books, 1988, 111 pages, 71⁄4" x 91⁄4", paperback, \$8.95
- More Puzzles, Paradoxes and Brain Teasers, TAB Books, 1990, 127 pages, 71/4" x 91/4", paperback, \$8.95
- Reaching for Infinity: Puzzles, Paradoxes and Brain Teasers #3, TAB Books, 1990, 127 pages, 71/4" x 91/4", paperback, \$9.95



Eighteen thousand years ago, an immense sheet of ice thousands of feet thick covered all of present-day Canada and the northernmost United States. As this ice melted and receded over thousands of years, it left behind a strange, barren landscape. *After the Ice Age* is the fascinating story of how a harsh terrain that resembled present-day Antarctica has been transformed gradually into the forests, grasslands and wetlands we know today.

Writing for everyone interested in the natural world, and illustrating her history with more than two hundred drawings and maps, E.C. Pielou recreates the thick ice sheets and massive ice-dammed lakes, the melting ice, and the rising sea that separated North America from Asia. She shows us how soil and vegetation developed together until the soil became deep enough for trees, and how familiar trees such as spruces, pines and maples then invaded. She describes the increasing diversity of animal life, the arrival of mammoths, mastodons and sabertooth cats, and early human settlers' colonization of the land emerging from beneath the ice.

Ours is not a stable world, Pielou reminds us; the land and the processes that shape it are always in a state of change. The ice age that she describes is only the most recent of many cooling cycles that have occurred over geological time. Dire predictions of the "greenhouse effect" notwithstanding, the past revealed in *After the Ice Age* may also be a preview of the distant future.

— from the publisher

1991, 366 pages,

Univ. of Chicago Press, 1991, 366 pages, 6" x 91/4", hardcover, \$24.95

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