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Ancient Light: Our Changing View of the Universe — Alan Lightman. In this accurate and up-to-date review for the lay reader, the author of *Origins: The Lives and Worlds of Modern Cosmologists* chronicles the development of cosmology from the early Babylonians through recent discoveries and remaining questions. Lightman's concise discussion profiles key findings and figures in the field, past and present. Harvard UPr, 1991, 170 p., illus., hardcover, \$18.95.

Art & Physics: Parallel Visions in Space, Time & Light — Leonard Shlain. Shlain traces historical developments in physics and art, primarily the visual arts, in order to support his controversial premise that, in presenting new ways to view the world, revolutionary artists prefigured the great discoveries of physics, which formulated new ways of thinking about the world. He features artists such as Giotto, della Francesca, Manet, Monet, Picasso and Pollock and ties their work in with Galileo's and Newton's mechanics, Einstein's theory of relativity and cutting-edge cosmological findings. Shlain draws on evolutionary theory, split-brain research, philosophy and mythology to explain how artists could have anticipated physicists' discoveries on so many occasions. Extensively illustrated with diagrams and reproductions of much of the art discussed. Morrow, 1991, 480 p., illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

Aztecs — Inga Clendinnen. An in-depth examination of the extraordinary culture of the Aztecs in their last unthreatened years. This historian focuses on their sensational practice of ritualized human sacrifice and explains for the general reader what such seemingly incongruous behavior meant in the context of the routines and daily experiences of the Aztecs; how it fit into the emotional, aesthetic and moral framework of ordinary, everyday life. Cambridge U Pr, 1991, 398 p., color plates, hardcover, \$29.95.

Many Moons: The Myth and Magic, Fact and Fantasy Of Our Nearest Heavenly Body — Diana Brueton. An enthralling and attractive celebration of the science and symbolism of the moon throughout the ages. From astrology to astronomy, Brueton explains how the moon and its mysteries have affected our myths, legends, superstitions, art and more, supplementing her discussion with references to poetry and literature and hundreds of historic illustrations, photographs and diagrams, many in color. Prentice Hall Pr, 1991, 256 p., color/b&w illus., hardcover, \$23.00.

The New Hacker's Dictionary — Eric Raymond, Ed. Are you thrown off by terms such as raster burn, cruffy and humma? This comprehensive guide to the remarkable slang used by computer hackers is more than just a dictionary. Its entertaining definitions, appendixes and accompanying cartoons also explore the hacker culture, unveiling hacker myths, jokes and taboos and explaining some of the fascinating intricacies of hacker jargon construction. Assumes a basic understanding of computer terminology. MIT Pr, 1991, 433 p., illus., paperback, \$10.95.

Viruses — Arnold J. Levine. Though viruses appear to be the simplest life forms on Earth, they pose a major health threat to humans. Levine surveys the advances made in virology since scientists first isolated a virus in 1892, and examines how much remains to be learned. Topics covered include the natural history of viruses, how they spread, how they evolve and how they affect their animal, plant or bacterial hosts. Written for the general reader and generously supplemented with color diagrams and illustrations. W H Freeman, 1991, 240 p., color illus., hardcover, \$32.95.

Where the Mind Meets the Body — Harris Dienstfrey. The editor of *ADVANCES*, a quarterly journal on developments in the field of mind-body health, reviews for the general reader the results of seven major research projects on how the mind affects the body's health. Those investigations address type A behavior, the relaxation response, biofeedback, psychoneuroimmunology, neuropeptides and their receptors, hypnosis and imagery. HarperCollins, 1991, 154 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

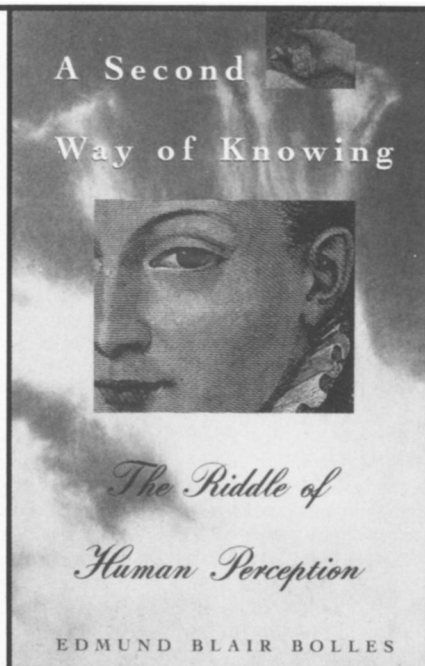
Why We Eat What We Eat: How the Encounter Between the New World and the Old Changed the Way Everyone on the Planet Eats — Raymond Sokolov. A lively and informative history of the culinary exchange that followed the opening of trade routes between Europe and the Americas. This book will turn upside down your idea of "traditional" cuisine: Before 1492, Italians had no tomatoes for sauce and Mexicans had no cheese for quesadillas or chicken for tacos. Summit Bks, 1991, 254 p., hardcover, \$22.00.

In this richly told narrative of ideas, Edmund Blair Bolles shares with readers his voyage of discovery to the center of the mystery of human perception, the act of knowing what our senses have discovered. It is a fascinating journey, full of surprises and unexpected challenges to popular assumptions. Why, for example, is an optical illusion that fools us perfectly apparent to tribesmen of another culture? Why don't our eyes see the world the way a camera does? Only a few years ago, it was widely believed that computers would soon be able to duplicate all the functions of the human brain. Why have those expectations been unfulfilled? And why will the next generation of computers, even more sophisticated than the last, be equally unable to simulate human consciousness with any degree of accuracy?

These are only a few of the thought-provoking questions raised in this journey to the frontiers of our knowledge of perception. None of the answers is obvious, but with Bolles as a friendly and inquisitive guide to this largely uncharted territory, the reader arrives at the state-of-the-art perceptual question: Does objective external reality exist, or is it all in our minds?

—from the publisher

Prentice Hall Press, 1991, 212 pages, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", hardcover, \$18.95



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Perception seems simple, but it is three times a mystery:

- Though it is fundamental to daily life, our science has no idea how it works, or even how it might work.
- The world we perceive with our senses is unlike the world that physicists describe.
- The world we are so sure is out there seems to depend on an interior construction of our own.