

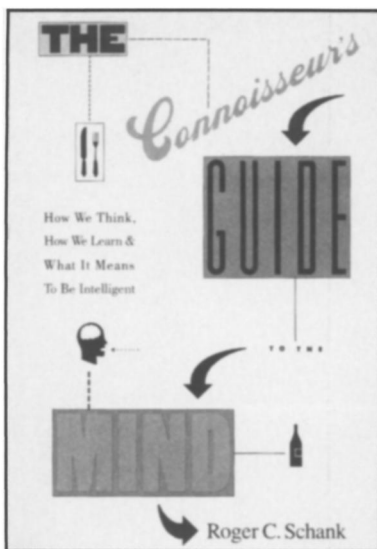
The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

December 7, 1991  
Vol. 140, No. 23  
Pages 369-384



## *A Vanishing Breed?*



Roger Schank loves to eat and drink. He also loves to think about eating and drinking. Most of all, he loves to think about thinking about eating and drinking. And in *The Connoisseur's Guide to the Mind* he takes us on an idiosyncratic tour of restaurants and wineries in order to explain how we think and how we learn.

By showing what we do when we read a menu, select a wine, sample a dish, argue with a waiter or recall a favorite meal, this fascinating and accessible book illustrates what kinds of mental operations we perform, why we do what we do and how we remember — in general, what it means to be intelligent. With wit and insight, Schank re-

veals the importance of stereotypes in learning, the role of stories in explanation, the significance of "default fillers," the problem of "inference explosion," and the relationship of expectations and predictions to understanding.

Through lively anecdotes on topics ranging from three-star restaurants to Burger King, from vintage champagnes to jug wine, *The Connoisseur's Guide to the Mind* helps us comprehend the mental processes we have used throughout our lives without ever really thinking about them. Provocative, instructive and amusing, *The Connoisseur's Guide to the Mind* is an adventure in learning for diners, drinkers and readers.

—from the publisher

Summit Books, 1991, 272 pages, 5 3/4" x 8 3/4", hardcover, \$20.00

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1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *The Connoisseur's Guide to the Mind*. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$20.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling (total \$22.00) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

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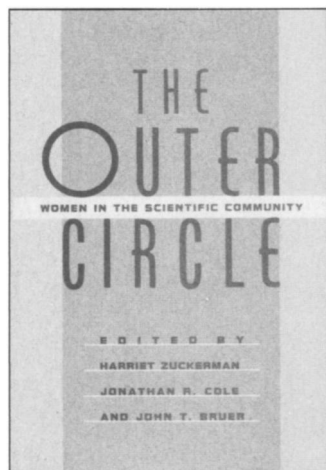
"Reading *The Connoisseur's Guide to the Mind* is like watching a close-up magician: Even though you follow everything he does, you have no way of predicting where he's going with his magic, or, once the trick has come off, how he did it. All you know is that you've observed a master at work, learned something, and had one hell of a good time in the process."

—Richard Restak, M.D.,  
author of *The Brain*, *The Mind*

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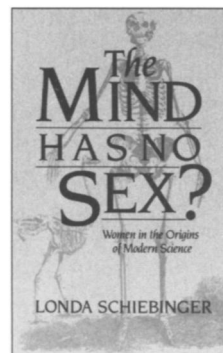


Science, historically, has been a man's field. With few exceptions, well-educated, eminently capable women scientists have traditionally been relegated to less influential positions, working as laboratory assistants or assistant professors while their male counterparts receive tenure, recognition and salary increases.

*The Outer Circle: Women in the Scientific Community* is a groundbreaking sociological study of the place of women in the largely male-dominated world of modern-day science. Why do women publish roughly half as much as comparable male colleagues? Are women's scientific careers hindered by the demands of family life? How big a role does sexism play in the workplace? Are women less productive in the laboratory? Are men better at theoretical reasoning than women?

In what they call "a theory of limited differences," Jonathan R. Cole and Burton Singer reveal how the very small disparities at every stage of a woman scientist's career combine to create a subtle yet virtually unassailable barrier to success. Their controversial theory is certain to alter the perception of women in science and all other professions as well.

—from the publisher



Harvard Univ. Press, 1989, 355 pages, 6" x 9", paperback, \$12.95

In this rich and comprehensive history of women's contributions to the development of early modern science, Londa Schiebinger unearths the forgotten heritage of women scientists and probes the cultural and historical forces that continue to shape the course of scientific scholarship and knowledge.

—from the publisher

W. W. Norton, 1991, 351 pages, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$24.95

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"It is a beautifully detailed portrayal, alternately amusing, astonishing, dismaying, and painful, of 'how real men and women participated in [early modern] science' and what difference it made — to them, to science, and our general idea of sexual difference."

—New York Review of Books



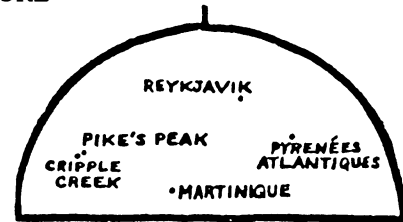
# The Trigonometric Travelogue

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Gerstell sits on the beach watching the airplanes land. She remembers noticing in her childhood that the sound source always seems to be behind the airplane. Today she uses her thumb to measure the angle between the two. Making reasonable assumptions about the speed of sound, she explains her conclusion that the airplane must be going 130 mph. Then she phones the airport. Eventually someone tells her that a 747 does 140 mph just before landing. She feels very pleased.

- condensation of a section of the book



If a Satellite Appears On the Horizons Of	Its Altitude Above Earth's Surface Is At Least
Katmandu and Timbuktu	1,250 miles
Timbuktu and Dien Bien Phu	2,080 miles
Dien Bien Phu and Kalamazoo	3,530 miles
Kalamazoo and Lima, Peru	500 miles
Lima, Peru and Katmandu	16,000 miles

The Trigonometric Travelogue \* 5½ x 8½, 192 p, hardbound  
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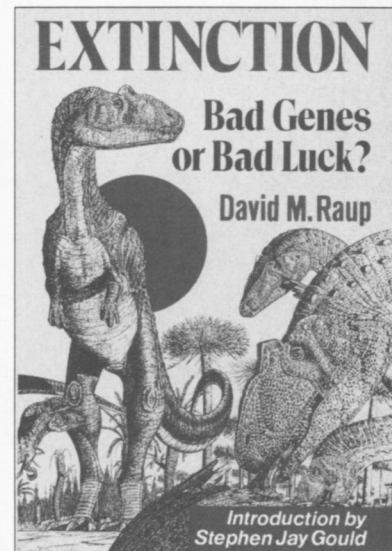
*Extinction: Bad Genes or Bad Luck?* is an accessible primer for an exciting and rapidly expanding field of study: the extinction of species on Earth.

In the geologic record, there are five major mass extinctions—the “Big Five.” The most famous happened at the end of the Cretaceous Period, when the dinosaurs and two-thirds of all marine animal species were wiped out, opening the door for the age of mammals and the rise of *Homo sapiens*. Using this example as a springboard, David M. Raup leaps into an engaging discussion of the theories, assumptions and difficulties associated with the science of species extinction.

From the traditional theory of climate change to the controversial meteorite impact theory, Raup carefully investigates each possibility, providing statistical evidence based on computer analysis to support his conclusions. At the end of the journey, Raup has put forward the best science of the day to answer the question posed in the title: do species survive or die through any inherent fault—bad genes—or through the sheer bad luck of the randomness of life? Here is an answer to be pondered by all who live in an anthropomorphic and egocentric world.

— from the publisher

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— Clark R. Chapman  
 Planetary Science Institute

“Fans of Stephen Jay Gould will find a similarly fluent and friendly lecture style here.”

— Publishers Weekly

W.W. Norton, 1991, 210 pages, 5¼" x 8½", hardcover, \$19.95