

Books

Books is an editorial service for readers' information. To order any book listed or any U.S. book in print, please remit retail price, plus \$2.00 postage and handling charge for each book, to **Science News Books**, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. To place Visa or MasterCard orders, call 1-800-544-4565. All books sent postpaid. Domestic orders only. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

The Book of Waves: Form and Beauty on the Ocean — Drew Kampion. A celebration of the ocean wave phenomenon, this spectacular collection of images captures the strength and romance of ocean waves. In a brief opening section, Kampion explains and illustrates the science behind the interaction of land and ocean — the origins of waves, their life cycles, their breaking patterns and how objects move within them. He concludes with a gallery of color photographs supplemented with wave-inspired quotations from literary figures. Originally published in hardcover in 1989. R Rinehart Inc, 1991, approx. 200 pages, color illus., paperback, \$29.95.

Chasing the Dragon's Tail: The Struggle to Save Thailand's Wild Cats — Alan Rabinowitz. One of the world's foremost experts on large cats shares his adventures in the forests of Thailand and the streets of Bangkok, which he describes as the world's largest center for illegal wildlife trade. As he works to preserve Thailand's exotic wildlife, Rabinowitz encounters angry poachers, narrowly escapes from his own leopard trap, participates in an opium council and fights fire-ant infestations, elephant stampedes and an unwanted marriage to the daughter of a tribal chief. Doubleday, 1991, 233 p., illus., hardcover, \$22.50.

Chemical Deception: The Toxic Threat to Health and the Environment — Marc Lappé. Lappé, a professor of health policy, reviews recent toxicology findings to support his premise that society's dependence on chemicals has created a major public health crisis. Writing for lay readers, he refutes commonly held beliefs, including assumptions that the risk from cancer-causing agents is remote, that tap water is safe, that toxins are innocuous at low concentrations and that human-made toxins are not as dangerous as natural ones. Sierra, 1991, 360 p., hardcover, \$27.00.

Kid Fitness: A Complete Shape-Up Program From Birth Through High School — Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper. This fitness specialist has designed a program to get children interested in increasing their energy levels and lowering their risk of disease during adulthood. A valuable guide for parents concerned about their children's well-being. Foreword by Arnold Schwarzenegger. Bantam, 1991, 416 p., illus., hardcover, \$19.50.

The Magic Machine: A Handbook of Computer Sorcery — A.K. Dewdney. This collection of computer adventures, drawn from SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN's popular "Computer Recreations" column, ranges from brain teasers to practical scientific applications. Provides directions for writing 28 different programs accessible to readers with moderate programming skills, including programs to generate the Julia and Mandelbrot sets and one that draws raindrops on a pond's surface. Originally published in hardcover in 1990. W H Freeman, 1991, 357 p., color plates/b&w illus., paperback, \$15.95.

Principles of Geology, Volume III — Charles Lyell. A facsimile of Lyell's classic text as it originally appeared in 1883, now available in paperback for the first time. In Volume III, Lyell discusses his method of reconstructing the geologic past based on present geologic processes, defining four periods of the Tertiary and arguing that deposits from that time demonstrate the uniformity of geologic processes throughout the Tertiary and earlier periods of earth history. U of Chicago Pr, 1991, approx. 550 p., illus., paperback, \$17.95.

The Vital Machine: A Study of Technology and Organic Life — David F. Channell. Tackling topics ranging from artificial intelligence to genetic engineering, Channell examines the history of our relationship with technology and addresses ethical issues that undermine our most fundamental beliefs about what it means to be human. He argues that we cling to an outmoded distinction between organic life and machines; between the mechanical view that even organisms are machines and the organic view that even machines are organisms. Channell invites his readers to consider a third view, combining science and philosophy for a more complex understanding of the universe. Oxford U Pr, 1991, 192 p., illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

To order by phone from
Science News Books, call:
1-800-544-4565
(Visa or MasterCard Only)

A FOREST OF KINGS

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE ANCIENT MAYA

LINDA SCHELE
AND
DAVID FREIDEL

Morrow, 1990, 542 pages,
7" x 10", paperback, \$15.00



The recent interpretation of Maya hieroglyphs has given us the first written history of the New World as it existed before the European invasion. *A Forest of Kings* is the story of Maya kingship, from the beginning of its institution and the first great pyramid builders two thousand years ago to the decline of Maya civilization and its destruction by the Spanish. Here the great historic rulers of Precolumbian civilization come to life again with the rediscovery of their language. At its height, Maya civilization flourished under great kings like Shield-Jaguar, who ruled for more than sixty years, expanding his kingdom and building some of the most impressive works of architecture in the ancient world. Long placed on a mist-shrouded pedestal as austere, peaceful stargazers, the Maya elites are now known to have been the rulers of populous, aggressive city-states.

Kingship was the primary political and religious institution of the ancient Maya and unified the Maya view of art, politics, war and religion. The Maya were at once highly civilized, skilled in architecture and astronomy, and, to us, violent and barbaric, engaging in ritual bloodletting and many wars.

The true artistry of the Maya glyphs and artifacts is evident in the 24-page color section. In addition, Maya history is brought clearly to life through the more than 250 illustrations, maps and charts that are found throughout the text.

— from the publisher

Science News Books

1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

ForestKings

Please send _____ copy(ies) of **A Forest of Kings**. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling (total \$17.00) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____

(used only for problems with order)

RB1555

