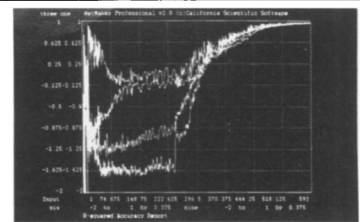# Books

The Beginnings of Western Science: The European Scientific Tradition in Philosophical, Religious, and Institutional Context, 600 B.C. to A.D. 1450 — David C. Lindberg. Chronicles the emergence of scientific ideas, practices and institutions from pre-Socratic Greek philosophy to late-medieval scholasticism, covering developments in mathematics, astronomy, mechanics, optics, alchemy, natural history and medicine. Illustrated with photographs, maps and drawings. For scholars and nonspecialists alike. U of Chicago Pr, 1992, 455 p., paperback, $19.95.

Environmental Vacations: Volunteer Projects to Save the Planet — Stephanie Ocko. A guide to environmental vacations helping scientists in their field work, on land and at sea, as well as helping people in need. Describes experiences of scientists and volunteers, outlines several typical science projects and offers medical advice and information about traveling in high-risk areas. Includes advice on cost, who your companions will be and how to make the arrangements. For anyone interested in work projects, with the emphasis on *work*. These are not luxurious, poolside getaways. John Muir, 1992, 248 p., paperback, $16.95.

A Green History of the World: The Environment and the Collapse of Great Civilizations — Clive Ponting. With detailed descriptions of Sumeria, the Roman Empire, ancient Egypt, Easter Island and pre-Columbian North America, the author describes the exploitation of Earth's resources, the ecological breakdown and the ultimate collapse of civilizations throughout human history. For readers of world history and environmental issues. St Martin, 1992, 432 p., hardcover, $24.95.

The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan — Robert Kanigel. In 1913, mathematician G.H. Hardy received a letter from an unschooled Indian clerk regarding several ideas about numbers and realized it was the work of a genius. The author describes how this genius, Ramanujan, left the temples and slums of Madras and traveled to Cambridge University, where he tested his theories alongside Hardy. WSP, 1991, 438 p., paperback, $12.00.

Stones, Bones, and Ancient Cities: Great Discoveries in Archaeology and the Search for Human Origins — Lawrence H. Robbins. A professor of anthropology describes several dozen discoveries, including King Tutankhamen's tomb, the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, China's buried clay army of Qin-Shi-Huang, and the lost cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. He profiles the people involved in the discoveries and shows how the modern disciplines of anthropology, archaeology and paleoanthropology work to reveal previously unknown truths. St Martin, 1992, 304 p., paperback, $10.95.