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**Ada, the Enchantress of Numbers: A Selection from the Letters of Lord Byron's Daughter and Her Description of the First Computer** — Betty Alexandra Toole, narrator and editor. Through the letters of Augusta Ada Byron, the author reveals the life of the woman for whom a computer software language was named and who was one of the first to write programs for computer pioneer Charles Babbage's Analytical Engines, the precursors to the modern digital computer. Strawberry Pr CA, 1992, 439 p., hardcover, \$29.95.

**The Consumer's Dictionary of Household, Yard and Office Chemicals** — Ruth Winter. The author details toxic and beneficial chemicals in common products and offers examples of products that contain allergens, poisons, and cancer-causing agents. She describes products that have the same ingredients used in chemical warfare, as well as disinfectants, toilet bowl cleaners, and laundry detergents that contain complex mixtures of synthetic compounds harmful to water quality and the environment. She also describes a pesticide used in food packaging and in pet, house, and yard aerosol products that poses a significant leukemia hazard. Crown, 1992, 329 p., paperback, \$12.00.

**Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity Revisited: The Unraveling of the American Dream** — William Ophuls and A. Stephen Boyan Jr. The author of *Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity* and a political scientist contend that forestalling ecological bankruptcy will require a radical overhaul of U.S. priorities and policies. They support their argument with recent data on overpopulation, food shortages, pollution, shrinking energy resources, and developments such as the destruction of the rain forests, global warming, and broad demographic changes. W H Freeman, 1992, 379 p., paperback, \$14.95.

**In the Spirit of the Earth: Rethinking History and Time** — Calvin Luther Martin. A historian describes how the shift from hunting and gathering to farming and animal domestication resulted in food surpluses, a population boom, and the emergence of priestly classes and ruling elites. Martin argues that notions of order, progress, a "chosen people," and linear time persuade us that the world is ours to improve, exploit, and even destroy. Without calling for a return to the hunter-gatherer state, he suggests that we need to rediscover the wisdom of less presumptuous ideas of nature. Johns Hopkins, 1992, 157 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

**The Livable Cities Almanac** — John Tepper Marlin. The author of numerous books on urban health rates 100 U.S. cities, basing his ratings on seven variables: death rates, public safety, economic health, environment, health services, recreation, and school-health education and services. HarperCollins, 1992, 416 p., paperback, \$14.00.

**Of Kinkajous, Capybaras, Horned Beetles, Seladangs, and the Oddest and Most Wonderful Mammals, Insects, Birds, and Plants of Our World** — by Jeanne K. Hanson and Deane Morrison. The authors, both science writers, offer nature lovers an introduction to some of Earth's most unusual flora and fauna and answers to such questions as "Do lemmings really commit suicide?" and "Do piranhas actually eat people?" Includes descriptions of carnivorous mushrooms, creatures that never sleep, and the flower-strewn sanctuary into which the male bowerbird entices his mate. Published in hardcover in 1991. HarperCollins, 1992, 285 p., black and white illus., paperback, \$9.00.

**Rendezvous in Space: The Science of Comets** — John C. Brandt and Robert D. Chapman. Two space scientists reveal how long-held assumptions about comet behavior and composition were rendered obsolete by data from the 1985-86 return of Comet Halley. Includes information on comet watching, plotting orbits and positions, reporting a new comet, and sources for keeping up with ongoing and future comet studies. W H Freeman, 1992, 290 p., hardcover, \$23.95.

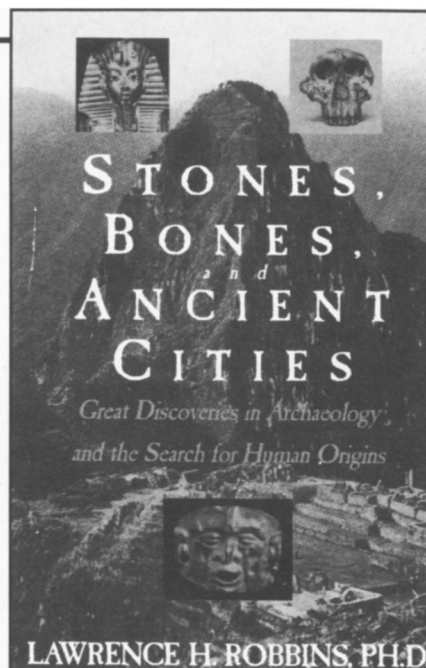
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—from the publisher



**LAWRENCE H. ROBBINS, PH.D.**

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