

# Books

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**The Astronomers** — Donald Goldsmith. An in-depth exploration of the history and status of cosmology. Goldsmith's clear explanations, well supplemented with photographs and diagrams, probe the workings and origins of the sun and other stars, the concept of an expanding universe, the mystery of dark matter, the exploration of our solar system, recent findings about quasars and the deep-space explosions of supernovas, and much more. Written as a companion to the PBS series "The Astronomers." Originally published in hardcover in 1991. St. Martin, 1993, 332 p., color plates, b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$14.95.

**The Creative Loop: How the Brain Makes a Mind** — Erich Harth. The physicist who wrote *Windows of the Mind* contends here that creativity and consciousness may be contingent on feedback loops in the brain, whereby images received at one level are necessary building blocks for what happens at the next level. Harth is quick to refute the notion that this theory would lead to the feasibility of "human robots," arguing that perceptions vary greatly among individuals and that people fundamentally look to imitate and invent in order to know more about themselves. Addison-Wesley, 1993, 196 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$21.00.

**Dinosaur Hunters: Eccentric Amateurs and Obsessed Professionals** — David A.E. Spalding. This book examines the lives and work of dinosaur hunters around the world, beginning with the first documented discovery of a dinosaur fossil, in 1677, and the initial confusion about the origins of these petrified bones. (Some believed they were "nature's attempts to form organs" and called the first such bone a "stony scrotum.") Presenting his saga as an adventure through time, Spalding includes actual writings of the discoverers, giving the reader a sense of being there. Prima Pub, 1993, 310 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

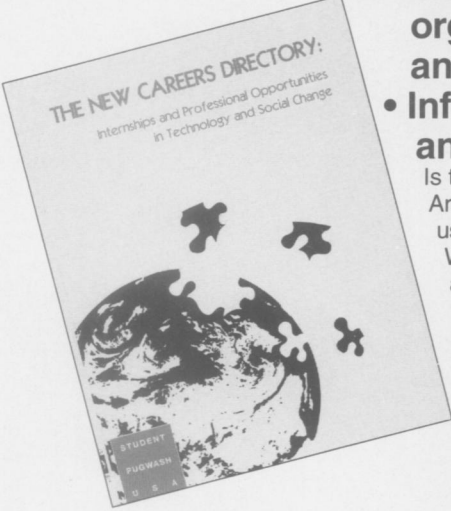
**Fearful Symmetry: Is God a Geometer?** — Ian Stewart and Martin Golubitsky. The authors of *Does God Play Dice?* explore the world of symmetry, asking two basic questions: What is symmetry, and where did it go? They examine many natural patterns in an attempt to prove that God is indeed a geometer. By investigating the process of symmetry-breaking, they reveal that nonpatterns — from cat movements to snow crystals — often turn out to be patterns if you know how to look at them. A number of natural patterns are dissected here in order to show the impressive implications of an understanding of symmetry. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Penguin Bks, 1993, 287 p., b&w photos and illus., color plates, paperback, \$12.50.

**Fear of Physics: A Guide for the Perplexed** — Lawrence M. Krauss. A professor who teaches a course titled "Physics for Poets" demystifies some baffling fundamental principles of modern physics, making them accessible to readers who may find today's research intimidating. Krauss shows how the mundane principles of life fit together with complicated theories of the physical world: If, for instance, you're trying to determine the volume of a cow, think of the animal as two spheres connected by a rod, and reason from there. A solid introduction to what is often an elusive topic. Basic, 1993, 206 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$20.00.

**Predicting the Future** — Leo Howe and Alan Wain, eds. Compiled from a lecture series at Darwin College in 1991, this collection of essays addresses issues regarding predictions for the fate and future of the universe on both a grand and small scale. Eight authors address eight diverse topics that include Stephen Hawking on the future of the universe; Frank Hahn on economics; Ian Kennedy on medicine; and Ian Stewart on chaos. Leo Howe begins with an introduction called "Predicting the Future." Cambridge UP, 1993, 195 p., b&w illus. and photos, hardcover, \$29.95.

**Virus Hunting: AIDS, Cancer, and the Human Retrovirus** — Robert Gallo. A leading AIDS researcher tells a story of scientific discovery, focusing mainly on work conducted by his team in the Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology at the National Cancer Institute. Gallo also discusses the political and moral challenges of such work. Originally published in hardcover in 1991. Basic, 1993, 352 p., b&w plates, paperback, \$15.00.

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*—from the Introduction*

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