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The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time — Jonathan Weiner. While Darwin initially postulated the theory of evolution, few have actually observed it first-hand in living species. Peter and Rosemary Grant, however, have taken up where Darwin began, with the finches he described. In each of the last 20 years, the Grants have returned to the isolated, otherwise uninhabited island of Daphne Major and monitored the changes in every finch of the 13 species occupying the island, changes that occur because of their environment. The Grants have produced data that evolution transpires not over long periods of time, but virtually with the transition of the seasons and with the birth of each new generation. Knopf, 1994, 332 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

Dazzle 'em with Style: The Oral Art of Scientific Presentation — Robert R.H. Anholt. Geared toward students and professionals alike — anyone who is required to present research orally — this guide provides strategies for delivering a compelling and effective speech. From the preparation stages to the structure of the talk and the use of visual aids down to posture and even what to wear, Anholt covers everything one would need to know about oral scientific presentations in any field. WH Freeman, 1994, 200 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$11.95.

e: The Story of a Number — Eli Maor. This survey traces the roots of e, the base of natural logarithms, from the 16th century to the present, providing glimpses along the way of the mathematicians critical to its founding. Maor also explores the relationship of e to music, art, biology, and physics. This material is understandable to anyone with a solid, but not advanced, background in mathematics. Appendixes feature longer, more intricate equations. Princeton U Pr, 1994, 223 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

Galileo: A Life — James Reston Jr. In 1992, the Vatican tendered a belated apology for any suffering Galileo incurred as a result of actions taken against him by churchmen during his life. These actions and the persecution Galileo experienced make up the core of this biography. Reston graphically illuminates the controversy surrounding Galileo's work, the political atmosphere of the time, the numerous challenges he faced, and how he persevered through it all. Many excerpts from Galileo's journals and other writings make this a very personal and authentic story. Harper-Collins, 1994, 319 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

Healing with Food: 281 Nutritional Healing Plans for 50 Common Ailments — Melvyn Werbach. What is good about garlic and bad about caffeine? Garlic helps lower blood pressure, and caffeine is linked to migraines, Werbach reports in this guide dedicated to sorting out the misconceptions from the facts about the value of nutrition in treating and warding off a variety of medical ailments. Originally published in hardcover in 1993. HarperPerennial, 1994, 443 p., paperback, \$12.00.

The Language Instinct: How the Mind Creates Language — Steven Pinker. The Director for Cognitive Neuroscience at MIT and a follower of Noam Chomsky's philosophies of linguistics deduces that language is not learned but is instead a "piece of the biological makeup of our brains." Pinker builds on Chomsky's theories by asserting that children spontaneously develop the ability to speak — a kind of instinct like a spider's ability to spin a web — but that a certain amount of development is needed. Engaging discourse about how babies learn to talk and reinvent language precipitates his ideas about the evolution of language, the intricacies of linguistics, oddities within the English language, and the ability of chimpanzees to learn sign language. Morrow, 1994, 494 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

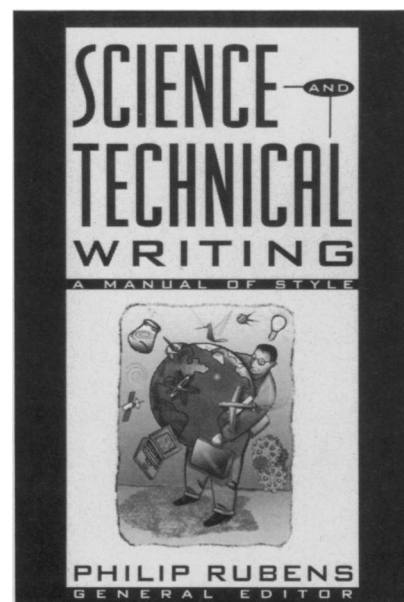
Reading Egyptian Art: A Hieroglyphic Guide to Ancient Egyptian Painting and Sculpture — Richard H. Wilkinson. This encyclopedia of hieroglyphic symbols depicts and translates some of the most common images, thus enabling a layperson to read ancient Egyptian stories. The text is divided into 26 thematic categories covering the basic symbols, details about their significance, and what to look for in order to glean further meaning from the glyphs. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Thames Hudson, 1994, 224 p., b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$16.95.

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