

## Books

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**The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright**—Neil Levine. Each chapter of this stunning, authoritative tome is centered on one of Wright's most prominent works. Sections on Fallingwater, Taliesin East and West, Hollyhock, the Guggenheim, and others not only provide insight into how Wright evolved professionally through several eras, but also serve as a backdrop for the events of his personal life and the various transitions he weathered through his 90 years, which rendered him an icon of modern architecture in the United States and abroad. Heavily illustrated, this book shows Wright's affinity for nature and his influence in this regard on many other architects. Princeton U Pr, 1996, 524 p., color and b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$85.00.

**Basic Physics: A Self-Teaching Guide**—Karl F. Kuhn. Part of a series of self-teaching guides, the second edition of this book will prove useful for anyone who needs a refresher in basic physics or wants to gain an understanding of fundamental principles, perhaps in conjunction with a class. Mathematical equations appear in optional sections, and each chapter begins with a statement of objectives, helping the reader to focus on a particular area. The guide is interactive in that it asks questions after explaining each concept; the answers are provided immediately below the questions. Wiley, 1996, 301 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.

**On the Rocks: Earth Science for Everyone**—John S. Dickey Jr. This overview of geology also encompasses the vast wealth of fields that have emerged from it, including geophysics and geochemistry, in order to provide an understanding of Earth's composition and evolution. Throughout, Dickey explains such concepts as how diamonds are formed, what meteorites are made of and how they "impact" Earth, and why stardust plays a role in Earth's origin. Wiley, 1996, 252 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.

**Peterson's Top Colleges for Science: A Guide to Leading Four-Year Programs in the Biological, Chemical, Geological, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences**—David Davis-Van Atta, ed. More than 190 colleges featuring strong undergraduate science programs are profiled. Information about degrees, faculty size, price, and financial aid is enhanced with breakdowns of each scientific department and data regarding the availability of lab facilities, on-line access, speaker series, specialized equipment, and the career and research paths of graduates. Peterson's, 1996, 314 p., paperback, \$24.95.

**Sun, Earth, and Sky**—Kenneth R. Lang. This narrative presents a wealth of information, garnered through technological advances in satellite-borne telescopes and space probes, about the composition of the sun and its effects on the solar system in general and on Earth's atmosphere. Early chapters delve into helioseismology—the influence of the sun's internal structure on its surface oscillations—and go on to describe the sun's corona, the Van Allen radiation belts, and Earth's climate. Spr-Verlag, 1995, 282 p., color and b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$34.95.

**Why We Get Sick: The New Science of Darwinian Medicine**—Randolph M. Nesse and George C. Williams. Troubled by the seemingly inexplicable paradoxes of human ailments—such as why we have immune systems that recognize a million foreign proteins, yet we still succumb to pneumonia—the authors draw on the principles of evolutionary biology to formulate a new way of looking at medicine: Darwinian medicine. Nesse, a psychiatrist, and Williams, an ecologist, use this evolutionary approach to offer a new perspective on human vulnerability and to explain how and why we respond to injury and illness. Originally published in hardcover in 1994. Vin, 1996, 290 p., paperback, \$13.00.

**Vital Dust: The Origin and Evolution of Life on Earth**—Christian de Duve. In an effort to retrace the 4-billion-year history of life on Earth, from the first biomolecules to the human mind and beyond, Nobel biochemist de Duve takes the reader through seven successive ages corresponding to seven levels of complexity. Arguing that life is the product of deterministic forces and that it will arise again if these conditions repeat themselves, he systematically weaves his way through his seven ages. He shows that chemical forces put life on track but that other mechanisms led inexorably to greater complexity and biodiversity. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Basic, 1996, 362 p., paperback, \$14.00.

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