

Books

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Beluga: A Farewell to Whales—Pierre Béland. An inhabitant of the Saint Lawrence River in northern North America since the last glacial melt some 10,000 years ago, the beluga whale is one of the most intriguing and perceptive animals on the planet, says Béland. But mass harvesting wiped out much of the species and by 1979 belugas were classified as endangered. Now, a new plague—toxins, which are evident in their blubber—has reduced their numbers to only a few hundred. Filled with anecdotes and facts about the beluga, such as the modeling of echolocation systems for U.S. Navy submarines on these whales, this celebration of their life may also serve as their epitaph. Lyons & Burford, 1996, 224 p., color plates and b&w photos, hardcover, \$25.00.

Driving Force: The Natural Magic of Magnets—James D. Livingston. This exposé reveals the pervasive use of magnetism in technology—magnets are in, as well as on, our refrigerators, for example—and its presence in the natural world. Livingston reports on fundamentals of magnetism and how magnets have been improved. The history of lodestones and the discovery of magnetite in aquatic bacteria exemplify the wide range of this treatise. A variety of forms that magnets take in everything from maglev (for magnetically levitated) trains and particle accelerators to compact disc players and computer monitors are itemized. HUP, 1996, 311 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

Egypt: Splendors of an Ancient Civilization—Alberto Siliotti. Laden with exquisite color photographs and illustrations, this visual tour of the ancient Egyptian civilization encompasses more than 5,000 years of history from the first pharaohs to the modern Arab republic. Background and commentary about artifacts and archaeological sites from Tanis to Abu Simbel enhance the illustrations, which include site plans. The objects recovered at each site are placed so as to be appreciated in their original settings. This oversized book also features foldouts of the Nile, timelines, and reconstructions of the tombs of Tutankhamun and Queen Nefertari. Thames Hudson, 1996, 290 p., color photos and illus., hardcover, \$50.00.

Good News About High Blood Pressure: How to Take Control of Hypertension and Your Life—Thomas Pickering. A professor and researcher affiliated with the Cornell School of Medicine explores advances in hypertension research. Designed for sufferers as well as people seeking to ward off the ailment, the book presents current treatments and hazards of high blood pressure and analyzes some alternative therapies now being tried. Pickering provides some background about high blood pressure and its myriad treatments and assesses the debates about "good" and "bad" cholesterol and low-salt diets. S&S, 1996, 334 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

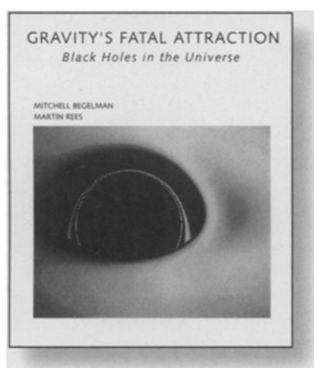
The Historical Atlas of the Earth: A Visual Celebration of Earth's Physical Past—Roger Osborne and Donald Tarling, eds. Students seeking a general overview of earth science will benefit from this survey of the cataclysmic events most influential in the histories of various life-forms and in the formation of minerals, mountains, and metals. State-of-the-art paleogeographic maps illustrate the movement of landmasses. H Holt & Co, 1996, 192 p., color photos and illus., hardcover, \$45.00.

Understanding and Training Your Dog or Puppy—H. Ellen Whitely. Whitely uses her knowledge of canine communication and behavior to help owners refine canine behavior. She examines dogs through various stages of life, focusing mostly on the formative years. Later chapters address a multitude of problems including everything from excessive barking to eating disorders. Crown Pub Grp, 1996, 272 p., paperback, \$15.00.

The Wisdom of the Bones: In Search of Human Origins—Alan Walker and Pat Shipman. A lead researcher in the discovery of Nariokotome boy, one of the most complete specimens of *Homo erectus* ever discovered, provides a first-hand account of this dig, as well as a look at how information about the lives of hominids is gleaned in laboratories. Nariokotome boy is an example of the hominids known as the "missing link" between apes and humans. With the help of anthropologist Shipman, Walker controversially contends that while this boy was probably one of the first hominids to spread to other continents and was adept adapting to climatic change, he could not speak. Knopf, 1996, 338 p., hardcover, \$26.00.

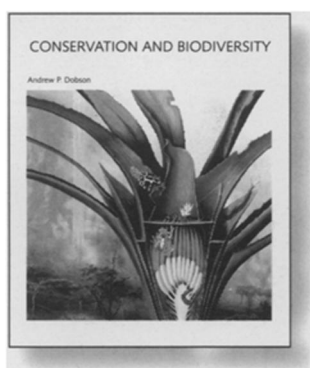
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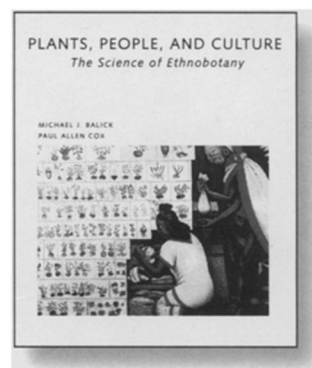
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