

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

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## Bad News Bug



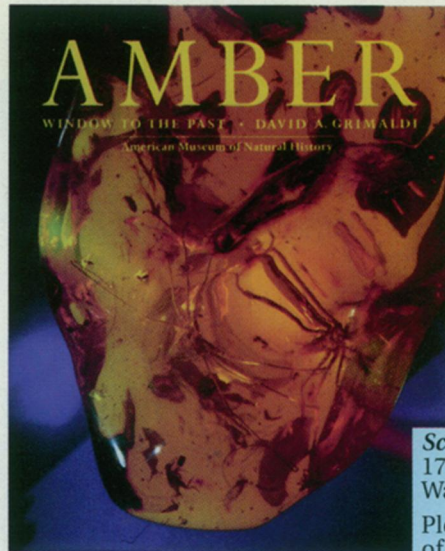
The unique properties of amber (fossilized tree resin) have long intrigued people and never more so than now. Derived from an exhibition mounted by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, *Amber* explores thoroughly the various aspects of this semi-precious substance, from its part in delineating evolutionary history, through study of the folklore surrounding it, to its use in decorative arts and jewelry. The 230 amazingly varied photographs and drawings, 115 in color and many never before published, illuminate the roles of amber in both nature and art.

Author David A. Grimaldi first looks at the origins and properties of amber and discusses how the *inclusions* preserved within it provide clues to the origins and extinctions of flora and fauna, such as the fossilized "stingless" bee that led to a revised dating of the introduction of flowering plants. The study of amber also uncovers fascinating stories of how particular subjects lived and died.

In part two, Dr. Grimaldi traces the appearance of amber in art, beginning with Mesolithic amulets and including Etruscan funerary figures, Renaissance altarpieces and nineteenth-century jewelry, and continuing into this century.

A selected bibliography and index round out this engrossing and readable book, which will delight lovers of science, history, and art as well as anyone intrigued by stories of how we and our world have evolved.

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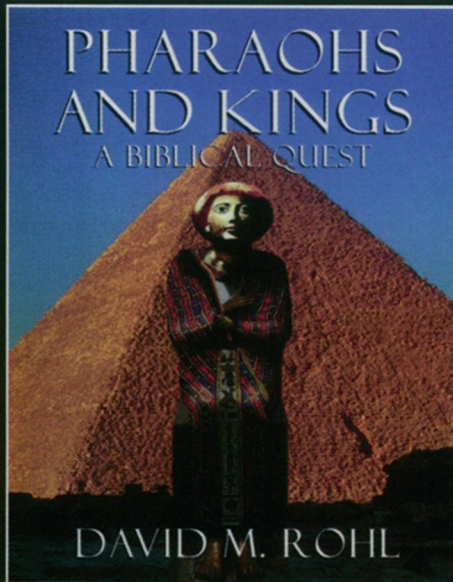
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Egyptologist and ancient historian David Rohl has made a discovery that challenges the modern skeptical view of Old Testament history. His revolutionary theory demonstrates that archaeologists have been looking in the right places for evidence of the Israelites—but in completely the wrong time.

The New Chronology developed in *Pharaohs and Kings* reveals the true historical setting of the biblical epics, providing astonishing archaeological evidence for the existence of the Old Testament's most charismatic personalities. For the first time the lives of Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Saul, David, and Solomon are examined from a historical perspective, as David Rohl explores their cities, palaces, and tombs. *Pharaohs and Kings* unveils such archaeological wonders as the desecrated statue of Joseph in his "coat of many colors," the Israelite city of bondage in Egypt (including graphic evidence of the plagues), and letters from King Saul.

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