

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

April 19, 1997  
Vol. 151, No. 16  
Pages 233-248

**Interviews  
with the Past**





**To order by  
phone, call:**  
**1-800-544-4565**  
(Visa or MasterCard only)  
In DC area: 202-331-9653  
E-mail:  
snbooks@scisvc.org  
Fax: 202-785-1242

AN ALLEGORY OF QUANTUM PHYSICS

# Alice in Quantumland

Robert Gilmore



Copernicus, 1995, 184 pages,  
6 1/4" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$18.00

**Y**OU'VE HEARD ABOUT ALICE'S ADVENTURES THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS. Well, Alice is about to embark on another amazing journey. She's going to shrink again—to the size of a nuclear particle—but she's not going down the rabbit hole. She's headed for Quantumland.

And what is Quantumland? Think of it as an intellectual amusement park smaller than an atom, where every ride, game, and attraction demonstrates a different aspect of quantum mechanics. In this masterful blend of fantasy and science, Robert Gilmore uses the allegory of Alice's travels to make the uncertainty principle, Pauli's principle, high-energy particle physics, and other crucial parts of quantum theory accessible and exciting.

Once in Quantumland, Alice experiences various quantum effects (at one point going backward in time and running into herself). She also meets a number of strange characters who help her (and you) understand the nature of the quantum world. There is:

♥ the **Uncertain Accountant**, whose attempts to balance the books at the Heisenberg Energy Bank are being flummoxed by energy fluctuations;

♥ the **Three Quark Brothers**, who take Alice around the floor in one of the Castle Rutherford's famous Collider Dances;

♥ the **Emperor**, whose conscious mind makes his new clothes real; and more.

Cleverly conceived and written, and delightfully illustrated, *Alice in Quantumland* brings some crucial yet often elusive scientific concepts within reach of the everyday reader. You don't need to know much about mathematics to follow our heroine's escapades. All you need is a taste for intellectual adventure and healthy curiosity about the world around us.



—from Copernicus



**Science News Books**  
1719 N Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20036

AliceQuantH

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *Alice in Quantumland*. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$18.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling for each book (total \$20.00). Domestic orders only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

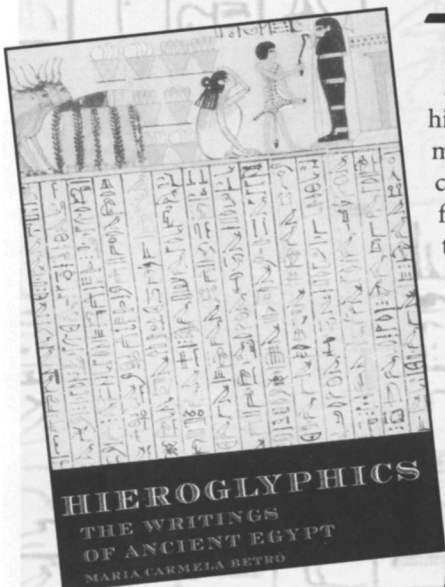
City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(used only for problems with order) RB2697



Abbeville Press, 1997, 251 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/2"  
hardcover, \$29.95

**Order by phone for faster service!**  
**1-800-544-4565**  
(Visa or MasterCard Only)

In DC area: 202-331-9653

E-mail: snbooks@scisvc.org

Fax: 202-785-1242

**T**his complete handbook reveals the secrets of the hieroglyphic writing of the Nile Valley, which provides a still-vivid snapshot of the gods, the people, and the everyday life of the Ancient Egyptians. Both literal and highly lyrical, hieroglyphics bring alive a distant world with descriptions of the natural environment, the art, the society, the religious beliefs, and even the philosophical basis of a culture that flourished 5,000 years ago. Presenting and explaining almost 600 of the figures used in the classic phase of Egypt's "sacred writing," this fascinating volume traces the origins and the meaning of each sign, as well as its graphic style. An opening essay reveals the secrets of the hieroglyphic system, including its development and its structural characteristics, and emphasizes the sacred, evocative, even magical power of the form, which—unlike our own abstract alphabet—is immediate and expressive. A complete glossary, a bibliography, and an index make this book invaluable to the casual reader as well as the student and the specialist.

—from Abbeville Press



**Science News Books**  
1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

HieroglyphH

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *Hieroglyphics*. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$29.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling for each book (total \$31.95). Domestic orders only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(used only for problems with order)

RB2695

