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Ancient Egypt—David P. Silverman, ed. From the time before the Pharaohs to the era of the Ptolomies, this Egyptology survey combines a wealth of visual imagery with scholarly information to convey the cultural wealth of this ancient civilization. The text gravitates toward a broader examination of the Egyptians, ranging from a typical discussion of the cult of the dead and the Pyramids to the marriage practices, medicine, magic, and mathematics prevalent among Egyptians of all socioeconomic levels. OUP, 1997, 256 p., color photos/illus., hardcover, \$35.00.

Humanity's Descent: The Consequences of Ecological Instability—Rick Potts. Adaptation to environmental change caused by climatic extremes, land uplift, and the like has been an essential element of human evolution over millions of years. Potts, an anthropologist at the Smithsonian Institution, asserts that the evolution of animals and plants is guided by the conditions in which they live as well as by the influence of other species. He argues that the environment has always been unstable, and then shows how humans have responded to environmental crises over the ages in creative and increasingly sophisticated ways. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Avon, 1997, 325 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.00.

Korolev: How One Man Masterminded the Soviet Drive to Beat America to the Moon—James Harford. After his release from a Soviet gulag, Sergei Pavlovich Korolev went on to mastermind several of the Soviet Union's space mission gems, including Sputnik. Harford, executive director emeritus of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, uses newly released data to present the intriguing story of Korolev and the inner circle of politicians, cosmonauts, and scientific researchers in the Soviet Union during a time when that country was rife with paranoia. Wiley, 1997, 392 p., b&w photos, hardcover, \$30.00.

Prescription for Profits: How the Pharmaceutical Industry Bankrolled the Unholy Marriage Between Science and Business—Linda Marsa. An investigative reporter contends that the research process is corrupted as researchers and scientists align themselves with pharmaceuticals and biotechnology companies. In this well-documented account, Marsa points to federal funds for AIDS research being funneled into private companies and reveals why the biotech company Genentech suppressed information about the serious side effects of a leading heart medication. She begins by covering the glory years of Crick and Watson, the cure for polio, and other advances seemingly made for the good of humankind rather than the almighty dollar. Scribner, 1997, 304 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$25.00.

Schrödinger's Machines: The Quantum Technology Shaping Everyday Life—Gerald J. Milburn. Milburn outlines a number of mind-bending devices currently being devised as researchers overcome the "weirdness" of quantum mechanics—a field whose applications allow us to manipulate materials at the atomic level. Perhaps computers will someday analyze data in more than one reality at a time and integrate the findings into a single real-world answer, thus creating a new kind of mathematics, or maybe detectors will be sensitive enough to detect a pin dropping on the other side of the world. WH Freeman, 1997, 188 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$21.95.

Searching for Memory: The Brain, the Mind, and the Past—Daniel L. Schacter. In this cogent exploration of the way the brain stores and retrieves information, Schacter explains that what we define as memory is not one, but several different systems that enable us to recall specific events from the past, learn skills, and maintain our general knowledge of the world. The effect of disease on memory and the role memory plays in literature complete this volume, which blends cutting-edge research with fascinating case studies. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Basic, 1997, 398 p., paperback, \$14.00.

Why Flip a Coin?—The Art and Science of Good Decisions—H.W. Lewis. Cereal or eggs? Buy or sell? Press or hold? These are common choices in a never-ending decision-making process, but how does one make the optimum selection? Through a number of brain-teasing problems and real-life scenarios, Lewis spans an array of decision-making issues such as the Prisoner's Dilemma and the Dating Game and then ventures into concepts such as the random walk and its application in the stock market. Wiley, 1997, 206 p., hardcover, \$22.95.

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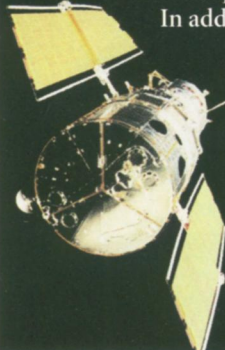
First proposed in 1946, funded and designed in the 1970s, built in the 1980s, launched in 1990, and repaired in 1993, The Hubble Space Telescope has only recently begun performing as it was meant to. In this book we see the first fruits of Hubble's long and difficult journey.

Everywhere it looks, Hubble is discovering new phenomena in space, clearing up old mysteries, and creating new ones. Among its startling recent findings are:

- ▶ Extremely bright stars whose mass could be up to 200 times that of the sun
- ▶ The first direct observation of "core collapse" in a globular cluster (M15)
- ▶ The first genuine brown dwarf candidate, a companion to the star Gliese 229 that appears to be 20 to 50 times the size of Jupiter
- ▶ Confirmation that quasars do indeed reside in galaxies—but not in the kind of galaxies we had always thought
- ▶ Discovery of the second known supermassive black hole at the center of a galaxy—an object in NGC 4621 with a mass roughly a billion times that of the sun. Or is it not a black hole but perhaps a supermassive disk?


In addition, Hubble has given us stunning images of the "stellar nursery" in Orion, the spectacular 1994 comet crash on Jupiter, turbulent weather on Saturn, and dozens of other astonishing sights. This beautiful book explains and recounts the long path that led to Hubble's launching, describes how it is currently being used, and offers a glimpse into the future of telescopes in space.

—from Copernicus



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