

# Books

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**The Death of Innocents: A True Story of Murder, Medicine, and High-Stakes Science**—Richard Firstman and Jamie Talan. Firstman and Talan's headline-grabbing book reveals how faulty science and sensational news stories combined to enable a woman to disguise infanticide as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). They show how a study published in *PEDIATRICS* in 1972 basically excused an upstate New York woman of the murders of five of her children on the grounds that SIDS is a genetic phenomenon. This case lays the foundation for the authors' examination of other instances of infanticide shrouded by SIDS, as well as the latest data on the causes of SIDS and the use of medical evidence in criminal proceedings. Bantam, 1997, 632 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

**Fermat's Enigma: The Epic Quest to Solve the World's Greatest Mathematical Problem**—Simon Singh. For nearly 350 years, mathematicians puzzled over what was initially a scribble in the margin of a book:  $x^n + y^n = z^n$  has no possible solution where  $n$  represents any number greater than 2. The theorem was particularly intriguing because its author—Pierre de Fermat—claimed to have a proof yet had neglected to write it down. Singh's study of the quest to solve "Fermat's Last Theorem" examines the work of everyone before and including Andrew Wiles, who eventually broke the code. Walker, 1997, 315 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$23.00.

**Huxley: From Devil's Disciple to Evolution's High Priest**—Adrian Desmond. While Charles Darwin put forward the idea of evolution, it was Huxley who took it to the people. Raised in a dockside slum of London, Huxley challenged the Victorian way of life. He introduced the word "agnostic" and was a president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In this exhaustive biography, Desmond puts the reader in the time and place in which Huxley lived and struggled to create change and impart his ideas. Originally published in the UK in 1994. Addison-Wesley, 1997, 820 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$37.50.

**Journey Through the Ice Age**—Paul G. Bahn and Jean Vertut. Dedicated to cave art, this stunning book features hundreds of color photographs of images etched into walls, as well as freestanding sculptures and portable items of Paleolithic peoples. Both past and current theories about what the images represent are presented without favoring any one interpretation over another. Spanning western European to newly revealed Russian caves, this work imparts an understanding of prehistoric life, the methods by which such pictures and artifacts were constructed, and what they represent. Originally published under the title *Images of the Ice Age*, the text is completely updated. U CA Pr, 1997, 240 p., color photos, hardcover, \$39.95.

**Traces of the Past: Unraveling the Secrets of Archaeology Through Chemistry**—Joseph B. Lambert. Archaeologists turn the stones, but it is the chemists who date and reconstruct the materials of ancient peoples and times. Chemistry enables scientists to confirm the diets of prehistoric Europeans and the geographic origin of marble in a Greek statue. Beginning with stones and escalating to the more complex realms of food, glass, and heavy metals, Lambert reveals how chemists are able to answer questions about the past and about our chemical heritage. Addison-Wesley, 1997, 319 p., color plates/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$30.00.

**Understanding Your Child's Temperament**—William B. Carey. How can one sibling be easily pacified while the other is impossible to soothe and quiet? The director of behavioral pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia argues that it all stems from a child's temperament, which is made up of nine inborn traits. The goal is not to change these behaviors but to learn to recognize them and work constructively to cope with them and reduce stress. Macmillan, 1997, 228 p., hardcover, \$23.95.

**Vulture: Nature's Ghastly Gourmet**—Wayne Grady. The vulture is the Oscar Grouch of the avian world, exhibiting an untidy nest, bad breath, and an instinct for scavenging. However, according to Grady, this creature is unfairly maligned. He points to its ability to glide for miles without exerting any energy and its rich history and wide appreciation among ancient civilizations. Grady's focus is on the history and habits of seven vultures. A visually appealing book, *Vultures* is laden with color photographs of the birds. Sierra Club Bks, 1997, 110 p., color photos, hardcover, \$22.50.

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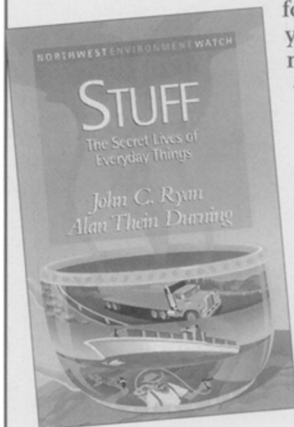
food, clothes, and even your toys, your world will never look the same. —from Northwest Environment Watch

Do you know your stuff?

1. Bicycle
2. Cheeseburger
3. Newsprint
4. Coffee
5. Aluminum
6. Computer chip
7. Cotton

- A. It takes 700 gallons of water to make.
- B. The world's second largest legal export
- C. The U.S. consumes 70% of the world supply
- D. The most efficient transport vehicle ever invented
- E. So energy intensive it is called "congealed electricity"
- F. Making it generates 4,500 times its weight in waste
- G. 10% of the world pesticides used on it

Northwest Environment Watch, 1997, 86 pages, 5 1/8" x 8 1/8", paperback, \$9.95



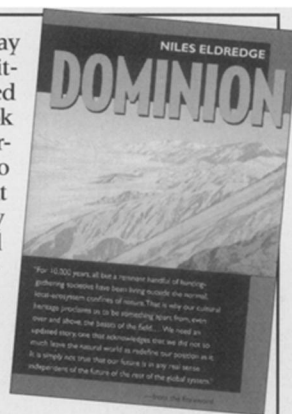
"**D**ominion is a personal essay on the human career written by a well-established paleontologist... Eldredge's book attempts to deflect some of our inner-directed consciousness outward, to take dominion not over the earth but over ourselves. He believes the only way to that goal is through population control, and he is probably right."

—Meredith F. Small, *Scientific American*

Overpopulation, depletion of natural resources, hunting of species to extinction: Paleontologist Niles Eldredge questions the long-term survival of humans, given our propensity for living beyond our ecological means. In *Dominion*, he reviews the relationship between biological and cultural evolution, showing how the agricultural revolution freed humans from dependence on local ecosystems and allowed us to assert our dominion over other animals. Unless we quickly change our homocentric ways, however, we'll irretrievably destroy our own habitat. —from University of California Press

University of California Press, 1997, 190 pages, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", paperback, \$11.95

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ANSWERS: 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B, 5-E, 6-F, 7-G