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The Book of the Spider: A Compendium of Arachno-Facts and Eight-Legged Lore-Paul Hillyard. Miss Muffet is perhaps the most famous arachnophobe, but at the other end of the spectrum are people like the Piaroa Indians, who collect the largest tarantulas and eat them. While devoting

some space to the physiology and habits of spiders, Hillyard concentrates his attentions on the myths surrounding spiders and on human interactions with them, including how arachnids can help people forecast the weather or dress a wound. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Avon, 1998, 218 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.00.



Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs-Philip J. Currie and Kevin Padian, eds. More than 275 articles by leading researchers, each versed in a specific aspect of dinosaur minutiae, document the rise and fall of these prehistoric creatures. Broken into nine categories-kinds, groups

and related taxa, biology, environments, important localities, geologic effects, institutions of study, expeditions, and research techniques-this exhaustive body of research authoritatively surveys all of our dinosaur knowledge to date. Cross-references between articles unite the text. Academic Pr. 1997, 869 p., color plates/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$124.95.



For Good Measure: The Most Complete Guide to Weights and Measures and Their Metric Equivalents-William D. Johnstone. Exactly how wide is a hairbreadth? What's a fuss? How far is a postal mile? How is volume measured in Switzerland? Answers to these and many more questions are found

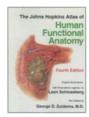
within this international guidebook. Linear, nautical, electrical, and viscosity units are catalogued; even poetic measurements are compiled here. Where appropriate, measurements are translated into both the metric and the U.S. customary systems. NTC Pub Grp, 1998, 328 p., paperback, \$12.95.



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The Gastrointestinal Sourcebook-M. Sara Rosenthal. A tour of the gastrointestinal system accompanied by details of human digestion prefaces discussion of various indicators of trouble. This source discusses which symptoms point to long term problems, what ailments strike the intestines, and the common procedures

and remedies for those problems. Preventive medicine, a bibliography, and resources conclude the book. Lowell Hse, 1997, 204 p., hardcover, \$26.00.



The Johns Hopkins Atlas of **Human Functional Anato**my-Leon Schlossberg and George D. Zuidema. Quite a bit more advanced than the "hip bone's connected to the thigh bone . . . " of the famous children's song, this atlas nonetheless provides an easi-

ly understood introduction to the inner workings of the human body. With emphasis on function as well as structure, this beautifully illustrated guide maps anatomical systems and organs. Every diagram is accompanied by text detailing how these systems work. Johns Hopkins, 1997, 166 p., color illus., paperback, \$22.95.



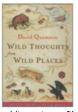
Machine Beauty: Elegance and the Heart of Technology-David Gelernter. In the eye of this computer scientist, beauty is the mating of simplicity with power. A Bauhaus chair and the Hoover Dam are just two examples of his idea of beauty at play. Many people believe that technology is the bane of beauty and that com-

puters are the leading example. Gelernter asserts that the quest for beauty drives the computer revolution. Furthermore, if software programs are designed with the casual computer user in mind, then the subsequent innovation of the user will translate into elegance. His discussion of the rise and fall of Macintosh helps define his argument. Basic, 1998, 166 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$20.00.



Taking Wing: Archaeopteryx and the Evolution of Bird Flight-Pat Shipman. In the recent spate of books on this topic, authors have presented their particular viewpoints on how avian flight evolved. Shipman's comprehensive and compelling account spans the many sides and history of this study

since the discovery of the fossil Archaeopteryx nearly 140 years ago. An accomplished anthropologist and a science writer, Shipman adroitly details the theories about avian flight and evolution and provides counterpoints and thoughtful analysis. Because Archaeopteryx was discovered as Darwin was propounding his evolutionary ideas, this study also examines the relevance of the discovery to Darwin. S&S, 1998, 336 p., b&w illus./photos, hardcover, \$25.00.



Wild Thoughts From Wild Places-David Quammen. Respected for his science-writing skills and travel pieces featured for many years in Outside magazine, Quammen brings together 23 essays that reflect on his most unusual, inspiring adventures. Telemark skiing and "river-washed"

white-water rafting stories are interspersed with entries about the lives of coyotes in Burbank and how the canyon ecology of midtown Manhattan has fostered evolutionary adaptations in the pigeon. Scribner, 1998, 304 p., hardcover, \$24.00.

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