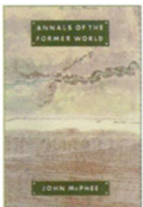


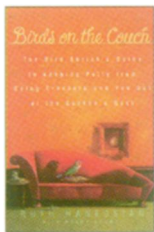
# SCIENCE NEWS BOOKS

To order these books or any other book in print, call 1-800-BOOKS-NOW (266-5766) ext. 1494. Visa, MasterCard, and American Express accepted. Send checks or money orders plus \$4.95 shipping and handling (\$2.50 for each additional item) to Books Now, 348 East 6400 South, Suite 220, Salt Lake City, UT 84107. Or see our web site at [www.sciencenewsbooks.org](http://www.sciencenewsbooks.org). This service is provided in conjunction with Science News Books.



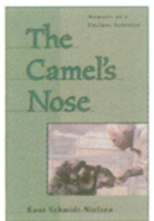
## Annals of the Former World

—John McPhee. Essentially a work in progress for 20 years, this tome presents as a cohesive unit McPhee's quest to fully comprehend this continent's geologic history by following the 40th parallel. Combining nearly 20,000 mellifluous new words with those previously published in *THE NEW YORKER* and in the books *Basin and Range*, *In Suspect Terrain*, *Rising From the Plains*, and *Assembling California*, McPhee's magnum opus reflects his journey along Interstate 80 in the company of geologists, tying together the nature and history of plate tectonics and continental glaciation. From the Appalachians and the Rockies to geophysical hotspots in Wyoming and California tectonics, McPhee eloquently merges the science of geology with the style of the individuals who are mastering an understanding of the ancient history of Earth. FS&G, 1998, 695 p., illus., hardcover, \$35.00.



## Birds on the Couch: The Bird Shrink's Guide to Keeping Polly From Going Crackers and You Out of the Cuckoo's Nest

—Ruth Hanessian with Wendy Bounds. Holding classes at her pet store, Hanessian is a professor of "parrot psychology," who shares in this book 29 years of working with avian pets and the experiences of her "students." As is clear here, birds harbor an assortment of peculiar behaviors such as man-hating and foot-stamping. Swearing parrots and obsessive-compulsive behavior are other problems addressed, along with how to select a bird and finally cope with the loss of a feathered friend. Crown, 1998, 149 p., illus., hardcover, \$17.00.



## The Camel's Nose: Memoirs of a Curious Scientist

—Knut Schmidt-Nielsen. Not one to leave unsatiated his childhood curiosity about the natural world, Schmidt-Nielsen, a noted animal physiologist, has spent 40 years pursuing answers to such conundrums as: Why don't penguins' feet freeze? and How can camels go for days without water? While these queries seem simplistic, the answers he recounts illuminate current knowledge about how animals function and adapt. Placing emphasis on his professional rather than his personal life, the author allows readers to accompany him to study sites ranging from the Arctic Circle to the Sahara and to gain insight into his methodology and findings. Island Pr, 1998, 339 p., b&w plates/illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

To order by phone  
for faster service, call:  
**1-800-266-5766 ext. 1494**  
Visa, MasterCard, and  
American Express accepted



**Grand Canyon: A Visitor's Companion**—George Wuerthner. For armchair travelers or those actually geared up to scale the canyon walls, this guide encourages a complete appreciation of this natural wonder. A vivid sense of the 18-mile-wide, 280-mile-long, and 5,000-foot-deep gorge

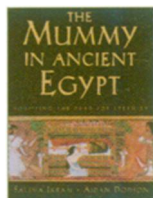
is conveyed through accounts of its geology, history, and ecology. A comprehensive nature primer, offering color illustrations and general descriptions of animal and plant species known to the area, completes the text. Stackpole, 1998, 264 p., color photos/illus., paperback, \$19.95.



## The Man Who Loved Only Numbers: The Story of Paul Erdős and the Search for Mathematical Truth

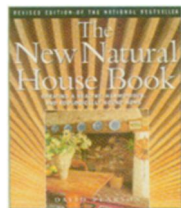
—Paul Hoffman. Living only for the thrill of pursuing numbers, Erdős was an extraordinarily prolific scholar whose collaborators housed and fed the man who was almost totally uninter-

ested in dealing with day-to-day activities such as bathing, sleeping, or eating. In return, they reaped the rewards of the eccentric's active brain. His only intimacy seemed to be with prime numbers, whose every quirk he seemed to comprehend, and his only passion was solving seemingly unsolvable theorems and problems. Hoffman's portrait of the storied mathematician centers on his adult life and accomplishments, highlighted by the reflections of those who knew him. Hyperion, 1998, 301 p., b&w photos, hardcover, \$22.95.



## The Mummy in Ancient Egypt: Equipping the Dead for Eternity

—Salima Ikram and Aidan Dodson. Surveying more than 3,000 years of burial practices, Ikram and Dodson inform their text with descriptions of advances in scanning technology and findings from research. The result is a visually rich text, presented in three parts, that describes a surprisingly innovative area of Egyptian life. Part I offers a broad overview of Egyptian beliefs and the tombs and their contents. How a mummy was treated, wrapped, and sheltered is the subject of Part II. A descriptive catalog of all the known royal mummies is included in the extensive reference section that is Part III. Thames Hudson, 1998, 352 p., color/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$45.00.



## The New Natural House Book: Creating a Healthy, Harmonious, and Ecologically Sound Home

—David Pearson. The willow-framed, canvas yurts that house nomadic peoples from Iran to Mongolia are examples of the most ancient "natural"

houses. Pearson shows how modern construction can incorporate natural principles by being environmentally friendly, healthful, and beautiful—almost yurt-like. An architect with a flair for spaces that respect ecology, the author surveys ways to work with the Earth, not against it, when building or remodeling a home. Besides covering the expected topics of alternative energy sources and building materials such as straw-bale and cob, he also conveys the importance of color and suggests remedies for toxins in the home. Pearson's ideas are conveyed in numerous, vivid photographs. S&S, 1998, 304 p., color photos/illus., paperback, \$22.00.

# SCIENCE NEWS

A Science Service Publication

<b>Donald R. Harless</b>	Publisher
<b>Julie Ann Miller</b>	Editor
<b>Dan Skripkar</b>	Production/Design Director
<b>David Lindley</b>	Associate Editor
<b>Janet Raloff</b>	Senior Editor
<b>Ivars Peterson</b>	Environment/Policy
<b>Bruce Bower</b>	Online Editor
<b>Richard Monastersky</b>	Mathematics/Computers
<b>Kathleen Fackelmann,</b>	Behavioral Sciences
<b>Nathan Seppa</b>	Internship Coordinator
<b>Ron Cowen</b>	Earth Science
<b>John Travis</b>	Biomedicine
<b>Corinna Wu</b>	Astronomy
<b>Susan Milius</b>	Biology
<b>Peter Weiss</b>	Chemistry/
<b>Jeffrey Brainard</b>	Materials Science
<b>Penny J. Chaney</b>	Life Sciences
<b>Gwendolyn K. Gillespie</b>	Physics/Technology
<b>Cait Anthony</b>	Science Writer Intern
<b>Christina Smith</b>	Editorial Assistant
<b>Larry Sigler</b>	Editorial Secretary
	Books/Advertising
	Subscriptions
	Business Manager

**Board of Trustees**—*Chairman*, Dudley Herschbach; *Vice Chairman*, Robert W. Fri; *Secretary*, David A. Goslin; *Treasurer*, Willis Harlow Shapley; Samuel Gubins; J. David Hann; Shirley M. Malcom; Eve L. Menger; C. Bradley Moore; Ben Patrusky; Anna C. Roosevelt; H. Guyford Stever; Gerald F. Tape; Sanford J. Ungar; Deborah P. Wolfe; *Chairman Emeritus*, Glenn T. Seaborg; *Honorary Trustees*, Edward Bliss Jr.; Bowen C. Dees; Elena O. Nightingale; John Troan.

**Officers**—*President*, Donald R. Harless; *Business Manager*, Larry Sigler.

SCIENCE NEWS (ISSN 0036-8423) is published weekly on Saturday, except the last week in December, for \$49.50 for 1 year or \$88.00 for 2 years (foreign postage is \$6.00 additional per year) by Science Service, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing office. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to SCIENCE NEWS, P.O. Box 1925, Marion, Ohio 43305. Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice is required—old and new addresses, including zip codes, must be provided. Copyright © 1998 by Science Service. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Printed in U.S.A. on recycled paper. © Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS without written permission of the publisher is prohibited. For permission to photocopy articles, contact Copyright Clearance Center at 978-750-8400 (phone) or 978-750-4470 (fax).

**Editorial, Business, and Advertising Offices**  
1719 N St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-785-2255; [scinews@sciserv.org](http://scinews@sciserv.org)

**Subscription Department**  
P.O. Box 1925, Marion, Ohio 43305  
For new subscriptions and customer service, call 1-800-552-4412.

SCIENCE NEWS is published by Science Service, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1921. The mission of Science Service is to advance the understanding and appreciation of science through publications and educational programs.

Visit Science Service on the World Wide Web:  
<http://www.sciserv.org>