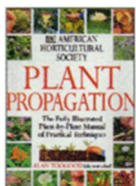


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**AHS Plant Propagation: The Fully Illustrated Plant-by-Plant Manual of Practical Techniques**—Alan Toogood, ed. When should you harvest cuttings from a *Dracaena*? How do you divide pseudobulbs of sympodial orchids? Where should you look for hosta seeds?

The 1,500 individual plant listings include answers to these questions, descriptions of general propagation techniques, and a plethora of graphics. Dorling Kindersley, 1999, 320 p., color photos/illus., hardcover, \$34.95.

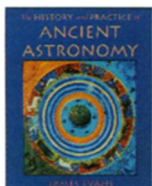


**Air Apparent: How Meteorologists Learned to Map, Predict, and Dramatize Weather**—Mark Monmonier. The collision of Monmonier's map fascination and The Weather Channel results in this unique historical account of meteorological cartography. From hand-

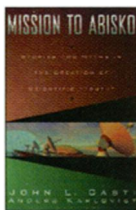
drawn estimations to computer-generated analyses, Monmonier surveys the ways in which the upper atmosphere has been charted and interpreted. In doing so, he describes the methods used to predict the weather and the technological feats crucial to responding to ever-changing conditions. U Ch Pr, 1999, 309 p., color plates/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$27.50.



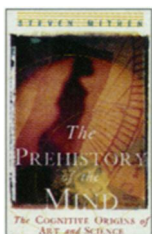
**The Condor's Shadow: The Loss and Recovery of Wildlife in America**—David S. Wilcove. An ecologist for the Environmental Defense Fund, Wilcove regularly witnesses the defiling of ecosystems. Because he is among those who compile the statistics, he also is well equipped to interpret them. He does so admirably here. No other part of the world has been so swiftly and thoroughly tread upon by humans as the United States, making it Wilcove's focus. From this perspective, Wilcove eloquently illustrates how individual species respond to the impact of humans and how some defy our wrath. He also reports that efforts to cleanse rivers and lakes and to reintroduce native species have met success. This status report on the North American ecological condition is an exhaustively researched, highly readable analysis. WH Freeman, 1999, 339 p., hardcover, \$24.95.



**The History and Practice of Ancient Astronomy**—James Evans. As if journeying back in time, Evans recaptures the prehistory of astronomy. The geometrical methods and philosophical principles of the ancient Greeks most responsible for revolutionizing the field dominate the text, which spans 3,000 years. Unique in describing not just the "what" but also the "how," the book depicts ancient techniques and encourages the reader to try them. Evans explains how to build antiquated astronomical instruments such as a Greek sundial or an astrolab. Excerpts from ancient texts and reproductions of original renderings enhance this compendium. OUP, 1998, 480 p., illus., hardcover, \$65.00.

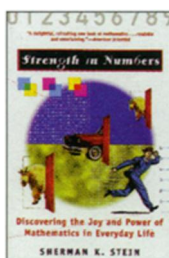


**Mission to Abisko: Stories and Myths in the Creation of Scientific "Truth"**—John L. Casti and Anders Karlqvist. The result of a meeting between scientists and science fiction writers in the far-off Swedish village of Abisko, these essays attempt to answer this question: How do the stories that scientists tell each other and the public affect the way they do their science? John Barrow, Ian Stewart, Gregory Benford, and Greg Bear count among the contributors who postulate how a scientific worldview is formulated. Perseus Bks, 1999, 194 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

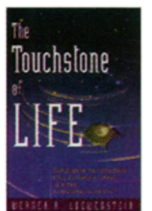


**The Prehistory of the Mind: The Cognitive Origins of Art, and Science**—Steven Mithen. A proponent of the modular concept of the mind marries "cognitive archaeology" to evolutionary psychology. An archaeologist himself, Mithen uses his knowledge of the artifacts and remains of our pre-

historic ancestors to infer the nature of prehistoric minds over the course of 6 million years. He makes assertions about the evolution of the mind, contrasting generalized and specialized mentalities along the way. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Thames Hudson, 1999, 288 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$17.95.



**Strength in Numbers: Discovering the Joy and Power of Mathematics in Everyday Life**—Sherman K. Stein. For those whose children want to know why they will ever need math—or those who have ever shared that sentiment—Stein is here to explain. Chapters outlining various occupations and the role of mathematics in each are sandwiched between chapters detailing how numbers are used, in marketing and other real-world applications. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Wiley, 1999, 272 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.



**The Touchstone of Life: Molecular Information, Cell Communication, and the Foundations of Life**—Werner R. Loewenstein. A biophysicist renowned for his work in cell communication applies information theory to recent discoveries in molecular biology in order to relay how

order and function arise from cellular processes. Loewenstein argues that it is "this information flow and not energy per se that is the prime mover of life." These processes move in circles and become units of life, he writes. By tracing the cosmic origins of information over 15 billion years, he assesses how these circles came to be, what happens when they are altered, and what makes them unique. OUP, 1999, 366 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$30.00.

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