

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

July 24, 1999
Vol. 156, No. 4
Pages 49-64

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SYMBIOTIC PLANET

[A NEW VIEW OF EVOLUTION]

LYNN MARGULIS

Although Charles Darwin's theory of evolution laid the foundations of modern biology, it did not tell the whole story. Most remarkably, *The Origin of Species* said very little about, of all things, the origins of species. Darwin and his modern successors have shown very convincingly how inherited variations are naturally selected, but they leave unanswered how variant organisms come to be in the first place.

In *Symbiotic Planet*, renowned scientist Lynn Margulis shows that symbiosis, by which she simply means members of different species living in physical contact with each other, is crucial to the origins of evolutionary novelty. Ranging from bacteria, the smallest kinds of life, to the largest—the living Earth itself—Margulis explains the symbiotic origins of many of evolution's most important innovations. The very cells we're made of started as symbiotic unions of different kinds of bacteria. Sex—and its inevitable corollary, death—arose when failed attempts at cannibalism resulted in seasonally repeated mergers of some of our tiniest ancestors. Dry land became forested only after symbioses of algae and fungi evolved into plants. Since all living things are bathed by the same waters and atmosphere, all the inhabitants of Earth belong to a symbiotic union. Gaia, the largest finely tuned ecosystem of the Earth's surface, is just symbiosis as seen from space, according to Margulis.

Margulis describes her initiation into the world of science, the early steps in the present revolution in evolutionary biology, the importance of species classification for how we think about the living world, and the way "academic apartheid" can block scientific advancement. Written with enthusiasm and authority, this is a book that could change the way we view our living Earth.

—from Basic Books

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Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *Symbiotic Planet*. I include a check payable to Books Now for \$21.00 plus \$4.95 postage and handling for the first book (total \$25.95). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling for each additional book.

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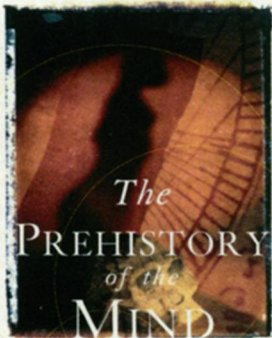
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Basic Books, 1998, 146 pages, 5 1/4" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$21.00

STEVEN MITHEN



The COGNITIVE ORIGINS of
ART and SCIENCE

Thames & Hudson, 1996, 288 pages
6 1/4" x 9 1/4", paperback, \$17.95

Here is an exhilarating intellectual performance in the tradition of Roger Penrose's *The Emperor's New Mind*. On his way to showing how the world of our ancient ancestors shaped our modern, modular mind, Steven Mithen shares one provocative insight after another and answers a series of fascinating questions:

- ▣ Were our brains hard-wired in the Pleistocene era by the needs of hunter-gatherers?
- ▣ When did religious beliefs first emerge?
- ▣ Why were the first paintings made by humankind so technically accomplished and expressive?
- ▣ What can the sexual habits of chimpanzees tell us about the prehistory of the modern mind?

This is the first archaeological account to support the modular concept of the mind. The concept, promulgated by cognitive and evolutionary psychologists, views the mind as a collection of specialized intelligences, or cognitive domains, somewhat like a Swiss army knife with its

specialized blades and tools. Arguing that only archaeology can answer many of the key questions raised by this new concept, Steven Mithen delineates a three-phase sequence for the mind's evolution over 6 million years—from early *Homo* in Africa to the Neandertals during the ice age, to our modern, modular minds.

Here is an intriguing and challenging explanation of what it means to be human, and a bold new theory about the origins and nature of the mind. —from Thames and Hudson



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Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *The Prehistory of the Mind*. I include a check payable to Books Now for \$17.95 plus \$4.95 postage and handling for the first book (total \$22.90). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling for each additional book.

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