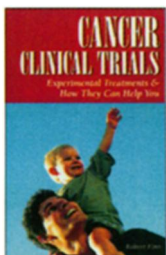
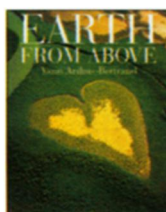


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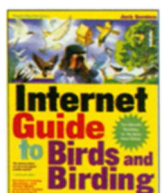
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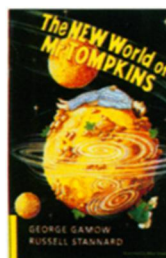
Cancer Clinical Trials: Experimental Treatments & How They Can Help You—Robert Finn. Research into the many forms of cancer has engendered a stream of clinical trials to test experimental drugs and other new treatments, yet only a small fraction of cancer patients is enrolled in these efforts. Fear and lack of information deter some potential participants. Doctors themselves may distrust trials and caution their patients against getting involved. In this clear account of the purpose and logistics of cancer trials, Finn gives readers the information they need to make their own careful decisions. O'Reilly, 1999, 216 p., paperback, \$14.95.



Earth from Above—Yann Arthus-Bertrand. This renowned nature photographer examines the condition of the globe through an engrossing collection of aerial photographs with captions written by a host of geographers, zoologists, anthropologists, and economists. These oversized images exude detail and stunning color. Vantage points are just a few yards to thousands of feet off the ground. Images include the aftermath of a volcano in Lakagigar, Iceland; the remains of an ancient animal trap in Jordan; and shantytowns in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Abrams, 1999, 420 p., color photos, hardcover, \$65.00.



Internet Guide to Birds and Birding: The Ultimate Directory to the Best Sites Online—Jack Sanders. Sanders sifted through thousands of Web sites harboring arcane data about birds to discern which offer the best information for birders. Extensive indexing makes finding sites about an individual bird a breeze. Broader sections point readers toward useful software, photographs and artwork, events, tools, and periodicals. McGraw Hill, 2000, 330 p., illus., paperback, \$22.95.



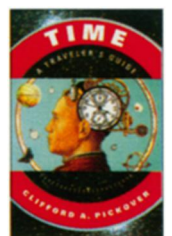
The New World of Mr. Tompkins—George Gamow and Russell Stannard. Dreamed up by physicist Gamow half a century ago, Mr. Tompkins inhabits a world where the speed of light is 20 miles per hour and quantum effects allow billiard balls to spread across the whole table at once. His adventures and mishaps illuminate in startling fashion the oddities of relativity and quantum theory. Much loved by physics students a generation ago, Mr. Tompkins now embarks on some new escapades, courtesy of coauthor Stannard, who updated the original tales and added illustrations in Gamow's appealingly simple style. Cambridge U Pr., 1999, 272 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.



The Real Science Behind the X Files: Microbes, Meteorites, and Mutants—Anne Simon. As scientific consultant to the popular television show, Simon helps Chris Carter preserve scientific plausibility and accuracy in the show's scripts. A professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, she applies her expertise to plotlines involving paranormal experiences investigated by the show's two leading characters. Simon uses excerpts of several episodes to introduce discussions of how the seemingly bizarre and otherworldly events described have roots in modern science. S&S, 1999, 318 p., hardcover, \$25.00.



The Star of Bethlehem: An Astronomer's View—Mark Kidger. The star often said to have guided the Magi is mentioned only in two verses of the Gospel of St. Matthew and not at all in the books of Mark, Luke, or John. Yet it has inspired endless speculation and theorizing. Beginning with the difficult question of deciding when the first Christmas actually happened, Kidger reviews the options: The star could have been a comet (perhaps Halley's), a meteor shower, Venus, a conjunction of several planets, or a supernova. Kidger has his preferences but admits there may never be an unequivocal answer. Princeton U Pr., 1999, 305 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$22.95.



Time: A Traveler's Guide—Clifford A. Pickover. By first establishing the nature of time, Pickover addresses the feasibility of constructing a time machine. He points out that we have already verified that objects traveling at high speeds age more slowly than stationary ones. The idea of a time machine, therefore, seems not to violate any known laws of physics. Every chapter is introduced by a bit of the story of a musician in the future who wishes to hear Chopin play the piano—live. This narrative leads to approachable discussions of the various elements of time and time travel. These include light cones, cosmic moment lines, Lorentz transformations, Minkowskian spacetimes, and Gödel universes. Originally published in hardcover in 1998. OUP, 1999, 285 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$15.95.



Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language—Steven Pinker. Traveling widely through the mysterious realm of English (and occasionally German) irregular verbs, Pinker searches out evidence of how we think and how our thinking evolved. The grammatical rules we unwittingly and easily use are, the author suggests, a mixture of hard-wired and learned structures. Pinker's survey of a seemingly limited subject opens into a rumination on the human mind in its widest aspects. Basic Bks, 1999, 352 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$26.00.

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