

**The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar**, by Mark C. Baker (276 pages, September 2001), demonstrates that underlying all languages is a basic set of universal parameters (among them word order and verb complexity) comparable to the atoms in the periodic table of elements used by chemists. Starting with the example of the Navajo Code Talkers, whose transmissions during World War II of Allied messages in their native language stymied Japanese cryptographers, Baker shows how these building blocks interact to create the intricacies of English, Mohawk, Turkish, Welsh, Swahili, and many other forms. A unique and lucid treatment of the structure and diversity of language. \$28.00. Basic Books. ISBN 0-465-00521-7.

#### **Australia: The Complete Encyclopedia**

(912 pages, September 2001) features more than 2,000 color photographs, detailed maps, and extensive descriptions of the history, natural history, government, culture, and geography of the Australian continent. Written by a team of 24 writers, scholars, and scientists, this volume offers an in-depth look at every region in the country, from the Sydney Opera House to the Kimberley in the north, Australia's last frontier. Information on most major towns and cities, parks, wine regions, and natural features will prove useful to armchair travelers as well as students and scholars. An accompanying CD-ROM contains all the text and images from the book as well as some extras. \$60.00. Firefly Books. ISBN 1-55297-543-6.



**Lee and His Army in Confederate History**, by Gary W. Gallagher (295 pages, September 2001), documents the remarkable faith that Southern soldiers and civilians had in Robert E. Lee, even after the fortunes of the Army of Northern Virginia turned after Gettysburg. All but one of the eight essays in this volume are reprinted from Gallagher's other books, but they all explore the complex relationship between Lee's campaigns and Southern morale. The essay written specially for this book examines how the Lost Cause writings of Jubal Early and Douglas Southall Freeman presented the military defeat of the brilliant Lee against overwhelming odds as the essence of Confederate history, rather than the often messy political and social turbulence of the slaveholding republic and its peculiar institution. \$29.95. University of North Carolina. ISBN 0-8078-2631-6.

#### **Medieval Yorkshire Towns**

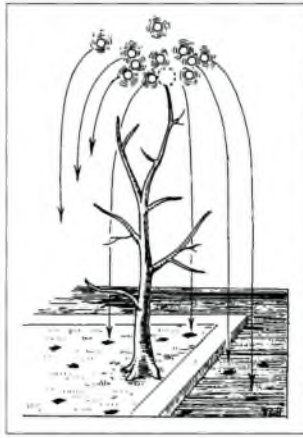
, by George Sheeran (212 pages, October 2001), looks at architecture and town planning in the medieval towns of Yorkshire in the north of England and how it reflected the changing social structures in the 12th to the 15th centuries. Profusely illustrated with both modern photos and historical prints, the book should make an instructive guidebook for architecture students planning a visit.

\$20.00. Edinburgh University (distributed by Columbia University). ISBN 1-85331-242-8.

#### **Remarkable Luminous Phenomena in Nature**

, compiled by William R. Corliss (419 pages, October 2001), is a catalog of geophysical data and observations that cannot be explained readily by prevailing scientific theories. The latest in the author's

series of catalogs of scientific anomalies, this volume covers odd atmospheric and marine lights. Included are aurora-like phenomena (auroral odors, transient sky brightenings, black auroras, and auroral displays correlated with thunderstorms, earthquakes, and meteors); ball lightning (rod-shaped ball lightning, materialization within enclosures, globes with spikes or diverging rays); diffuse electrical discharge phenomena (unusual St. Elmo's fire, earthquake lights, luminous aerial bubbles, and luminous patches on clouds); lightning anomalies (Crown



Neustadt, Germany, 1960s. Ball lightning hits a tree and fragments into many smaller balls. From William Corliss, *Remarkable Luminous Phenomena in Nature*.

flash, lightning figures, shadowgraphs, and neutron generation in lightning bolts); low-level meteor-like luminous phenomena; low-level and high-level nocturnal lights; and marine phosphorescent displays (marine light wheels, underwater lightning, moving and stationary phosphorescent bands, and milky sea). Each anomaly is rated for the quality of data supporting it and the degree to which it can or cannot be explained by current scientific laws. \$24.95.

The Sourcebook Project, P.O. Box 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057. ISBN 0-915554-44-5. ■

*("Honoring faculty" continued from page 1067)*

faculty and their families, as well as their deans and department heads, attended the reception. The reception was held on a Friday from 4:30–6:30, and included wine and hors d'oeuvres in the Grainger Engineering Library, an elegant campus setting.

The provost and the university librarian gave brief presentations, and the remaining time was spent reviewing the selections and talking to faculty about their choices, their academic careers, and their aspirations.

This proved to be the only event on campus where the promotion and/or tenure of all faculty members was recognized in a public way. Both the library and the provost's office received an overwhelming number of positive comments about the process.

The books, statements, and photographs of many of the faculty were displayed in bookcases for a month in the main hallway of the library.

The cards with the statements were then placed in a bound volume into which succeeding years of statements will be placed and which will be housed in the University Archives.

### Faculty response

The faculty who took part in this ceremony were routinely enthusiastic about the event. One faculty member noted, "My initial im-

pression was that it would be a nice, but largely empty, gesture, but students and faculty alike mentioned that they had seen 'my' book when the lot of them were on display in the library. Their remarks were usually the beginning of a larger conversation about why that book and not something else, about how it related to others in the display, and so on. So I was wrong; the program clearly did strike a chord. Given the chance to pick only one book, many of us find it interesting to see what is chosen, to match it against the person or the field, and to wonder, Are they like us, wildly different, not what they appear to be, and why?"

Some of the colleges have indicated that they are discussing adopting a version of the event within the college, with books going directly to the appropriate departmental library.

In this coming year, the event will continue with most of the same features as before. It has been refined so that there will be a photographer available to obtain photographs of the honorees for later use in the library exhibit. The library and provost's office is considering how a keepsake book plate can be created for each faculty member participating. Based on the response to this program, the UTUC Library expects to sustain this tradition for many years to come. ■

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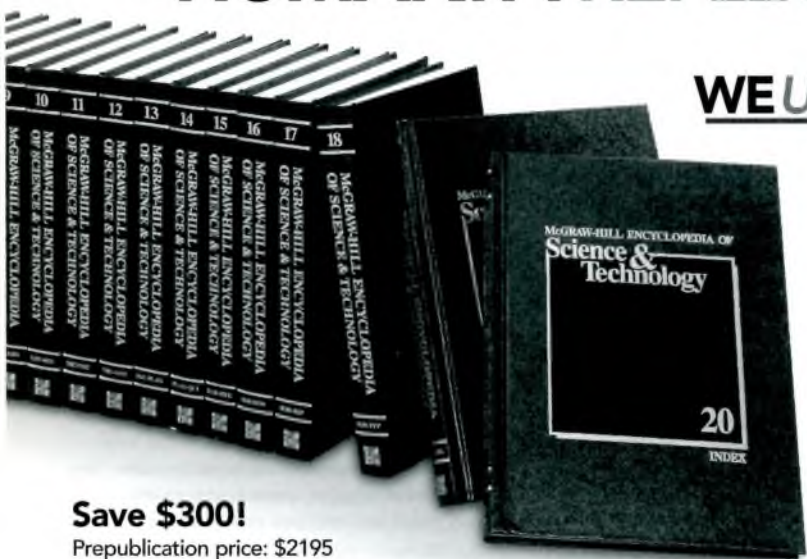
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