

dious or requiring many hours of time. All things considered, Beloff has made a very useful contribution to the anomalies literature.

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Science Frontiers: Some Anomalies and Curiosities of Nature by William R. Corliss. Available from The Sourcebook Project, P. O. Box 107, Glen Arm MD 21057. 1994, 356 pp. \$18.95 (p). ISBN 915554-28-3.

William Corliss's work ought to be known to everyone interested in anomalies. He has published thousands of pages, in a couple of dozen volumes, of *extracts from science magazines and scientific journals* detailing phenomena that remain a challenge to currently accepted scientific theories. His Sourcebook Project also offers for sale a wide range of relevant books. Six times a year, those on the Project's mailing list get an announcement of new and staple books in stock, together with an issue of *Science Frontiers*, a pamphlet that contains intriguing items from current periodicals or newspapers or from correspondents. The present book consist of "about 1500 items . . . originally published in the first 86 issues of *Science Frontiers*." It ought to be snapped up by those—I am one of them—who discovered anomalies and Corliss only late in life and missed out on early years of *Science Frontiers*.

This book is divided into seven chapters: Archeology, Astronomy, Biology, Geology, Geophysics, Psychology, and "Chemistry, Physics, Math, Esoterica." By the very definition of anomalies, they cannot always be fitted into the categories of existing knowledge. So in this volume, the grab-bag "Esoterica" includes pieces about extraterrestrials and UFOs, but also "Miscellaneous Fortean" and "General Anomalistics," where one finds such delightful items as:

a house in Illinois where in 1988, sometimes under observation by police, blue flames emerged from wall sockets or vaporous hazes settled in, and finally the house was razed as the only cure;

in May 1991, the British Vehicle Licensing Agency announced that it would no longer issue plates with the numbers "666"—the Biblical Number of the Beast—because cars bearing such plates had been involved in too many accidents.

Under "General Anomalistics" there are also things of interest in the sociology of anomalistics: autobiographical accounts by such scientists ahead-of-their-colleagues as Tom Gold and Hannes Alfvén, or discussions of the signif-

icance and history of scientific anomalies by such people as Peter Sturrock, Marcello Truzzi, or Ron Westrum.

This book is fun to browse—Corliss gives its primary intent as entertainment—but it is also a useful reference work by virtue of a nine-page index. Specific items are readily found not only via the index but by topic, each chapter being divided into between four and a dozen sections, and each chapter beginning with a table of contents in which the subject matter of each section is further described.

The short Preface summarizes Corliss's efforts: a current file of some 40,000 items culled from 14,000 volumes of periodicals from 1820 to date. These are being published in a projected 30 volumes of a *Catalog of Anomalies* of which 13 volumes have already appeared. The present sampler gives an enticing taste of what that larger work offers. Both should certainly be in the library of any serious anomalist, and there's little excuse for them not being in every institutional library. Let's all resolve to make that recommendation to our own librarians, perhaps at the same time as we remind them that they haven't yet subscribed to the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*.

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Immortality, edited by Paul Edwards. New York: Macmillan, 1992, 337 pp., \$14.00 (p). ISBN 0-02-331620-9.

This book forms a volume in a series of *Philosophical Topics* edited by Paul Edwards. Most of the book consists of selections from a wide variety of authors who from various perspectives have written on the topic of immortality. Nearly all the selections are extracts only, but a few chapters or papers are reprinted in full. All but one have been previously published, the exception being an essay especially written for this volume by John Beloff. (This is an even-handed appraisal of the evidence for the survival of human personality [or identity] after death.) The temporal range of the selections extends over more than two millennia, because the earliest is an extract from Plato's *Phaedo* and the most recent is an essay by the Oxford philosopher Derek Parfit that was published in 1987. In between, we can read what many familiar philosophers, such as Descartes, Locke, Hume, and Kant, have said about immortality; but we also find writings by many less well-known and equally interesting writers.

Paul Edwards contributes a long Introduction, two of the selections within the main body of the book, and a bibliographical essay. Thus he has written nearly one third of the book himself. I see nothing wrong with that, and Ed-