
**COSMOS, EARTH, AND
MAN: A Short History of
the Universe**

by Preston Cloud
Yale, 1978, 388 pp. \$14.95
L of C 78-2666
ISBN 0-300-02146-1

Although it is written for the educated layman, Cloud's book is likely to give some middle-aged readers a disturbing sense of academic backwardness. The distinguished University of Minnesota biogeologist (a new scientific caste he helped to create) weaves some familiar and many not-so-familiar elements into what he describes as a kind of "historical/predictive" novel about the earth, its ancestry, and its uncertain future. The last quarter century has produced an astonishing bounty of new discoveries—in plate tectonics, fossil finds, and sophisticated dating methods—about the cosmos, and about our own small planet and its history. Admitting that fresh knowledge comes so quickly that scholarly papers (or books like this) may soon be ridiculously out of date, Cloud draws on a lifetime of interdisciplinary expertise to retell the ever awesome story.

**MIND AND MADNESS IN
ANCIENT GREECE:
The Classical Roots of
Modern Psychiatry**

by Bennett Simon
Cornell, 1978
336 pp. \$17.50
L of C 77-90911
ISBN 0-8014-0859-8

Early Greek poetry, philosophy, and medicine reveal three psychodynamic concerns that have survived to modern times: the structure of the mind; the relative importance for one's mental life of external and internal forces; and the relationship between theory and practice in matters of psychological health. Both Plato and Freud posited a mental structure organized in parts having particular functions, with an attendant definition of conflict among them. But Simon, a Harvard professor of psychiatry, sees clear differences between ancient and modern mental stress. In classical Greece (Homer's to Plato's), a stable system of authority prevailed (even rules for rebellion were spelled out). Conflict arose out of individual opposition to these inhibiting forces and circumstances, not from within the personality. Homer is illustrative—his poetry has no term for "person" or "oneself." Today, authoritarianism is a minor issue in the West, and madness (so to speak) far more personal. In losing our Greek choruses, we have lost security and have become "the multifaceted self of modern art, collage man, . . . the [human] counterpart of shifting institutions and shifting values."