

Enlightenment: Discovering the World in the Eighteenth Century. Kim Sloan (Ed.). 2003. Smithsonian Books, Washington, DC. 304 pp. \$50, hardcover. ISBN 158834164X. Kim Sloan is the principal curator of the British Museum's new Enlightenment gallery. This lavishly illustrated volume draws upon the breadth and variety of the museum's early collections to show how it epitomized the 18th century's view of a rational universe. The museum's centrality to the Enlightenment as it took shape in Britain becomes evident in this story of a collection of some of the world's greatest treasures, ranging from fossils and archeological finds to paintings and antiquities. *S.E.*

Deforesting the Earth: From Prehistory to Global Crisis. Michael Williams. 2003. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL. 689 pp. \$70, hardcover. ISBN 0226899268. Surveying ten thousand years of history, Michael Williams describes the impact of human-induced deforestation. Soon after the return of forests to formerly glaciated lands, humans set fires for hunting, gathering, and agricultural purposes and began altering the landscape. As human populations have increased and technology has progressed, forests have been cleared at an accelerating rate, with profound impacts on economies, societies, and landscapes. Today, it is recognized that forests, or the lack thereof, play an important role in global carbon cycling and climate change. This well documented, authoritative, and scholarly book provides the historical and geographical background needed for understanding the impact of deforestation on our planet. *S.E.*

A Primer of Ecological Statistics. Nicholas J. Gotelli and Aaron M. Ellison. 2004. Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, MA. 510 pp. \$34.95, softcover. ISBN 0878932690. An intermediate level text for upper level undergraduate or graduate students and professionals who need to use

and understand statistics in this field. Written to cover probability theory, including hypothesis testing and statistical inference, as well as experimental design and analysis techniques useful to the field of ecology. Chapters stand alone, but are extensively cross referenced. Covered topics include an introduction to probability, random variables and probability distributions, summary statistics, framing and testing hypotheses, frameworks for statistical analysis, designing field studies, experimental and sampling designs, managing and curating data, regression, analysis of variance, analysis of categorical data, and analysis of multivariate data. Extensive mathematical, historical, or philosophical footnotes for those with a deeper interest in material presented in the main text. An appendix explaining matrix algebra, an extensive glossary, references, and an index are provided. *C.R.*

Museum Studies: An Anthology of Contexts. Bettina Messias Carbonell (Ed.). 2004. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA. 640 pp. \$84.95, hardcover. ISBN 063122825X. As the name implies, this comprehensive and interdisciplinary collection of essays discusses museums and such diverse topics as history, anthropology, art, science, philosophy, and feminism. Examining the role of the museum as both a physical and an intellectual gathering place, this anthology covers past and present museum studies. Part I addresses the various contexts of museology. Part II covers the "states of nature" in the museum: natural history, anthropology, ethnology. Part III addresses the status of museums and nations. The two final parts treat the location of history in the museum and arts, crafts, audiences. An alternative taxonomy to the chapters divides them by history, theory, practices, and poetics. Chapter notes, an extensive bibliography organized by topic, and an index are provided. Suitable for the museum studies classroom. *C.R.*