

Breaking up information into bite-sized pieces arranged around a large illustration makes the Dog and Cat books less intimidating for young readers. Throughout the books, glossy colour photographs are alternated with the vastly differing styles of several artists to make each page a surprise.

Technical topics such as origins of modern dogs and cats and the physical attributes which characterize each are handled with precise drawings and explanations, but always with a light touch. Also included are informative Mighty Mite episodes, explanations of behaviour, and articles on wild members of the cat and dog families. How to choose a pet and care for it is a useful feature and there are hints for selecting a name, too. There is even a peak into the world of cat and dog shows, and dictionaries of who terminology.

Add to all of this the games, puzzles, jokes and a delightful illustrated table of contents, and you have irresistible books for a wide range of readers to enjoy.

James Bogart, Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of Guelph, specializes in herpetology and evolution.

Jo Ellen Bogart, is a free-lance writer specializing in nature-related stories and poems for children. She also works as a supply teacher at the elementary level.

SCIENCE FROM THE HOUSE OF HAYES

The Hayes book of mysteries, Mary Kaizer Donev. Illus. Rick Rowden. Hayes Publishing, 1986. Hayes Adventure Series. 48 pp. paper \$5.95. ISBN 0-88625-094-3; **Flight**, Dan MacKie. Illus. Steve Shulist. Hayes Publishing, 1986. Hayes Technology Series. 32 pp. paper \$5.95. ISBN 0-88625-112-5; **Space tour**, Dan MacKie. Illus. Mark Hughes, Rich Rowden, & Charles E. Bastien. Hayes Publishing, 1986. Hayes Technology Series. 32 pp. paper \$5.95. ISBN 0-88615-103-6; **Planets and galaxies**, Dan MacKie. Illus. Richard Livingston & Charles Bastien. Hayes Publishing, 1986. 32 pp., paper \$5.95. ISBN 0-88625-102-8.

Science and technology supplied to young readers in readable books must be packaged in a glossy and attractive style. Influenced by *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*, youngsters read educational material for entertainment, expecting the same colourful dynamics of the movies and TV. Hayes has at-

tempted, and mostly succeeded, in producing a quartet of eye-catching books.

The science in these books, whether historic or technical, is accurate and elementary. Working in harmony with the artwork, the authors appeal to the sense of wonder and awe. The technique of scattering paragraphs of very readable text across excellent illustrations is the right format for youthful readers, but the occasional black print on dark colours is hard to read.

The major flaw in the artwork is in the people portrayed: they are wooden and artificial, uninterested in what's going on — this effect tends to be a turn-off with young readers. Hayes might do well to study the art in the higher quality children's picture books.

Mysteries is an entertaining anthology of scientific oddities which could probably be improved by an introduction and some sort of unifying thread. The author couldn't decide whether to tell a story or recite the facts. Nevertheless the incidents themselves are so fascinating they override the flaws in style.

Flight is the best of the quartet. Its excellence allows it to be used as a basic primer for the fun of flying, even for young adults. The designers have even managed to have the aircraft avoid collision with the clear and concise text. The two do-it-yourself projects are not needed, but glossary is an added bonus.

Tour was the biggest disappointment. Starting with a great idea of having the reader as a passenger on a manned space mission, the authors lost this concept somewhere in the middle of the book. The tourist got stranded on an asteroid as the ship departed into hyperspace. The *Star wars* propaganda and the soapboxing of the virtues of space travel are out of place in this book.

Planets and galaxies follows on the heels of *Flight* for excellence in spite of the darkside of space obscuring the fine text in many places. The yellow boxes asking "Did you know?" (mostly irrelevant) gave the feeling of warts scattered throughout the pages. The answers to the trivia questions should have been provided since not all appear in the text. Which asteroid is named after a dessert?

Hayes appears to be experimenting with basic format, using a scientific method to achieve the ideal. With the elimination of a few minor problems they will reach that goal and produce books which will influence and encourage their young readers into careers of science and engineering.

They've made a great beginning!

William Ewchuk, M.A.Sc., is a chemist and chemical engineer who has spent thirty years plus in research and industrial development of rubbers, plastics, and composite materials.