

paper. Symons devotes many pages to definitions of function and to the validity of individual vs. group selection arguments. Here the reader has an opportunity to view the different orientation that a sociobiologist brings to the study of play. Marked differences in orientation are also apparent in the paper by John and Janice Baldwin. They chose to focus on the individual's immediate motivations to play and set forth the important role of general arousal in play behavior.

The theoretical papers repeatedly indicated the need for further research on the long-term consequences and evolutionary functions of play, and the data papers confirm the need. The results reported in these papers reveal our general inability to analyze the more complex and provocative issues of play behavior in a quantitative manner. Two papers are devoted to methodological approaches and demonstrate that the problem of defining and categorizing play continues to plague this area of research. At present, there is no agreement about how to develop terminology or behavioral taxonomies across species and environments. The other chapters focus on the more obvious issues in the study of play: the decline in play that occurs with age, and sex differences in the occurrence of play. There is one attempt at making interspecific comparisons, which should be applauded because the book suffers from too little comparative perspective. These studies indicate that there is still much work needed to meet the challenge of the theoretical questions.

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(Continued on page 1170)

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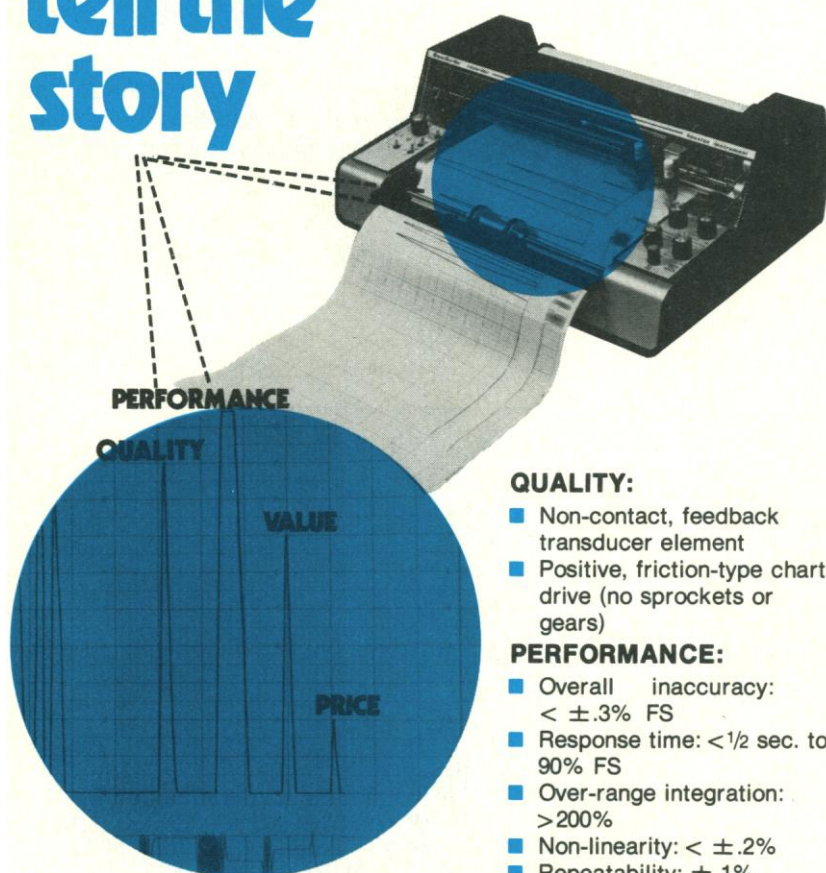
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