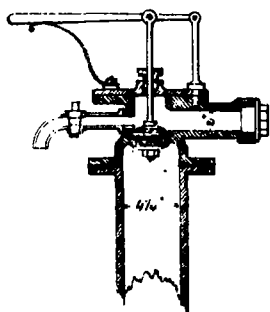


behavioral capacity" to share information, and there are fundamental similarities between lower animals' "cultural" traits and man's. But man's bigger, more complex brain allows him to accumulate a staggering amount of data (which writing helps him to recall) and to invent new solutions to problems. Humans' *genetic* capacity for culture far surpasses that of their animal distant cousins.

THE ENGINEERING DRAWINGS OF BENJAMIN HENRY LATROBE

edited by Darwin H. Stapleton
 Yale, 1980
 256 pp. \$62.50



Journal of the Franklin Institute.

Benjamin Latrobe (1764–1820), as an architect, is well-known for his part in designing the U.S. Capitol and for supervising the rebuilding of the White House after the British burned it in the War of 1812. But Latrobe has largely been forgotten as an engineer. Yet his engineering successes include the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, the Washington Canal, the National (Cumberland) Road, the Philadelphia Waterworks, and the Washington Navy Yard dry-dock. This oversized book includes 84 of Latrobe's careful drawings, rarities of comprehensive draftsmanship, with a long introductory essay. Stapleton, an assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University, emphasizes the complexity of Latrobe's undertakings: Latrobe combined science (geology, topography, hydrology); mechanics (pumps, pile drivers, steam engines); and precision surveying and cartography. A master at investment and self-advertisement, Latrobe was a one-man 19th-century construction company.

MATHEMATICS: The Loss of Certainty

by Morris Kline
 Oxford, 1980
 366 pp. \$19.95

With its beginnings among the surveyors and builders of ancient Egypt and Babylon, later transformed into a formal science by the Greeks, mathematics has been a tool used to define our surroundings. Mathematical principles underlie, unify, and reveal the order in the natural world. During the Renaissance, Kepler, Newton, Galileo, and Descartes believed that the universe functioned according to a pattern and that mathematics was the God-given key to understanding it. Pure