



Our Magnetic Earth: The Science of Geomagnetism (Hardback)

By Ronald T. Merrill

The University of Chicago Press, United States, 2010. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. For the general public, magnetism often seems more the province of new age quacks, movie mad scientists, and grade-school teachers than an area of actual, ongoing scientific inquiry. But as Ronald T. Merrill reveals in Our Magnetic Earth , geomagnetism really is an enduring, vibrant area of science, one that offers answers to some of the biggest questions about our planet s past - and maybe even its future. In a clear and careful fashion, he lays out the physics of geomagnetism and magnetic fields, then goes on to explain how Earth s magnetic field provides crucial evidence for our understanding of continental drift and plate tectonics; how and why animals, ranging from bacteria to mammals, sense and use the magnetic field; how changes in climate over eons can be studied through variations in the magnetic field in rocks; and much more. Throughout, Merrill peppers his scientific account with bizarre anecdotes and fascinating details, from levitating pizzas to Moon missions to blackmailing KGB agents - a reminder that real science can at times be stranger, and more amusing,...



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