



The Puzzle of
Left-handedness
Rik Smits

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The Puzzle Of Left-handedness.

By Smits, Rik.

eaktion Books, 2011. Hardcover. Condition: New. 304 pages. Hardcover with dustjacket. New book. SCIENCE. Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama have both signed bills into law with their left hands. And being left-handed certainly did not hold back the artistic achievements of Michaelangelo or Raphael. Left-handedness would appear to be no big deal. Yet throughout history, it has been associated with clumsiness and dubious personality traits like untrustworthiness and insincerity. In The Puzzle of Left-handedness, Rik Smits uncovers why history has been so unkind to our left-handed forebears. He puts together the pieces of the puzzle, presenting an array of historical anecdotes, strange superstitions, and weird wives' tales. Smits explains how left-handedness continues to be associated with maladies of all kinds, including mental retardation, alcoholism, asthma, cancer, diabetes, depression and criminality. Even in the enlightened twenty-first century, left-handedness still meets with opposition including from one prominent psychologist who equates it with infantile negativism, similar to a toddler's refusal to eat what's on his plate, and another who claims that left-handed people have average lifespans that are nine years shorter than those who favor the right hand. As Smits reminds us, such speculation is backed by little factual evidence, and the arguments presented...



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