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ASHTON-TATE PUBLISHING GROUP INTRODUCES
FOUR NEW BOOKS

TORRANCE, Calif., December 16, 1985 -- Ashton-Tate, a leading developer and marketer of microcomputer software, today announced that its Publishing Group has introduced four new books and book/disk packages.

New releases include <u>Through the MicroMaze: A Visual Guide to Telecommunications</u>, <u>Personal Computing and C,</u> <u>Introducing the Macintosh Office</u> and <u>Building Your First Expert System.</u> Ashton-Tate's Publishing Group, the first established in the microcomputer software industry, has published more than 50 books, book/disk packages and software add-ins designed to help computer users better understand and use a variety of software and hardware products.

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"In addition to providing support for Ashton-Tate's software programs, the Publishing Group aims to promote an understanding of hardware products and a wide range of significant industry issues," said Jane Mellin, Ashton-Tate's director of publications. "Our newest releases address extremely prominent industry topics."

Through the MicroMaze: A Visual Guide to Telecommunications is an introductory guide to data communications. The third release in Ashton-Tate's critically-acclaimed MicroMaze series, it explores everything from bits, bytes and ASCII code to computer bulletin boards, electronic mail and modems. It also provides a glossary of terms and a buyer's guide to communications software. It retails for $9.95.

Guides in the MicroMaze series provide novice microcomputer users with a colorful, graphic introduction to the inner workings of computer technology. Introduced in 1983, Through the MicroMaze: A Visual Guide to Getting Started and Through the MicroMaze: A Visual Guide from Ashton-Tate, describe the parts of the computer, and give advice on the purchase and use of equipment, disk care, printers and organization of files.

Personal Computing and C teaches readers how to bring the speed and flexibility of the C language to applications developed on microcomputers. Readers learn the basics of programming in C including the display and manipulation of data, the creation and use of function libraries and how to select and operate C compilers for a variety of operating systems. The book also gives an introduction to the personal computer including system resources, disk files and data handling, and provides a sample C application for managing a checking account. It retails for $19.95.

Introducing the Macintosh Office helps readers who are integrating Apple Computer's Macintosh into their businesses. The book discusses several successful applications of the Macintosh in professional, retail and agency applications. In addition, it provides a list of software programs available for the Macintosh, a comparison between the IBM PC and the Macintosh, as well as advice on how to network the Macintosh with other computers. It retails for $19.95.

Building Your First Expert System is a book/disk package that helps users build their own small expert systems. The MICRO-PS disk provides the software tools necessary for developing expert systems on microcomputers. The package also includes a book which introduces the reader to expert systems and serves as a reference manual for the MICRO-PS program. The package retails for $29.95.

The Publishing Group's wide range of books, book/disk packages and software add-ins are sold individually or bundled with hardware and software products and marketed through computer retail stores. McGraw-Hill Publishing Company distributes the group's books and book/disk packages to the book trade.

With best-selling titles such as <u>Everyman's Database Primer for dBASE II</u> and <u>Framework: A Programmer's Reference</u>, Ashton-Tate's Publishing Group plays an integral role in supporting the company's growing line of microcomputer software programs. The group also publishes the <u>Ashton-Tate Quarterly</u>, a journal containing software tips and applications ideas for small businesses and corporate users.

Ashton-Tate, one of the leading microcomputer software companies worldwide, recently acquired MultiMate International Corporation, producer of the best-selling word processing package, Multimate Professional Word Processor. Ashton-Tate is the only independent microcomputer software publisher with leading products in three significant market segments -- word processing, database management systems and integrated software.

One of the fastest growing companies in the personal computer industry, Ashton-Tate had revenues of $80.0 million and net income of $10.6 million for the first nine months of fiscal 1986, ended October 31, 1985, a substantial increase from the same period of the previous year.

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