



Daybooks of Discovery: Nature Diaries in Britain, 1770-1870 (Hardback)

By Mary Ellen Bellanca

University of Virginia Press, United States, 2007. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Rooted in a thriving culture of amateur natural history, the keeping of nature journals and diaries flourished in late-eighteenth-and early-nineteenth-century Britain. As prescientific worldviews ceded to a more materialist outlook informed by an explosion of factual knowledge, lovers of nature both famous and obscure began to use daily composition as a quest for information about and a celebration of their surroundings. A central site of encounter, discovery, and expression, nature diaries took part in a vigorous cultural dialogue, performing, in an era called the golden age of nature writing, an engaging alchemy of language, science, and art. In *Daybooks of Discovery: Nature Diaries in Britain, 1770-1870*, Mary Ellen Bellanca offers the first critical study of this genre. In looking at the diaries of Gilbert White, Dorothy Wordsworth, Emily Shore, George Eliot, and Gerard Manley Hopkins, as well as those of lesser-known figures, she explores the writers pursuit of empirical knowledge of nature for its own sake, rather than focusing on Romantic nature philosophy or on ecology as a metaphor for spiritual connectedness. Each chapter situates an individual author s journals amid contemporary discourses...

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