

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455972903321
Autore	Leask Nigel <1958->
Titolo	Curiosity and the aesthetics of travel writing, 1770-1840 : 'from an antique land' // Nigel Leask
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; ; New York : , : Oxford University Press, , 2002
ISBN	1-280-44669-2 0-19-155439-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 338 p. ) : ill. ;
Disciplina	820.9/355
Soggetti	Travelers' writings, English - History and criticism English prose literature - 19th century - History and criticism English prose literature - 18th century - History and criticism British - Foreign countries - History Travel writing - History Antiquities in literature Curiosity in literature Travel in literature Aesthetics, British Electronic books. Ethiopia Description and travel Mexico Description and travel India Description and travel Egypt Description and travel
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	The decades between 1770 and 1840 are rich in exotic accounts of the ruin-strewn landscapes of Ethiopia, Egypt, India, and Mexico. Yet it is a field which has been neglected by scholars and which - unjustifiably - remains outside the literary canon. In this pioneering book, Nigel Leask studies the Romantic obsession with these 'antique lands', drawing generously on a wide range of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century

travel books, as well as on recent scholarship in literature, history, geography, and anthropology. Viewing the texts primarily as literary works rather than 'transparent' adventure stories or documentary sources, he sets out to challenge the tendency in modern academic work to overemphasize the authoritative character of colonial discourse. Instead, he addresses the relationship between narrative, aesthetics, and colonialism through the unstable discourse of antiquarianism, exploring the effects of problems of creditworthiness, and the nebulous epistemological claims of 'curiosity' (a leitmotif of the accounts studied here), on the contemporary status of travel writing.; Attentive to the often divergent idioms of elite and popular exoticism, *Curiosity and the Aesthetics of Travel Writing* plots the transformation of the travelogue through the period, as the baroque particularism of curiosity was challenged by picturesque aesthetics, systematic 'geographical narrative', and the emergence of a 'transcendental self' axiomatic to Romantic culture. In so doing it offers an important reformulation of the relations between literature, aesthetics, and empire in the late Enlightenment and Romantic periods.

---