Record Nr. UNINA9910817015403321
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Titolo The ladies of Llangollen: desire, indeterminacy, and the legacies of

criticism / / Fiona Brideoake

Pubbl/distr/stampa Lewisburg, [Pennsylvania]: ,: Bucknell University Press, , 2017

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ISBN 1-61148-761-7

1-61148-762-5

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (369 pages): illustrations (some color)

Collana Transits: Literature, Thought & Culture 1650-1850

Disciplina 942.937

Soggetti Couples - Wales - Llangollen

Female friendship - Wales - Llangollen - History Upper class women - Ireland - Kilkenny (County)

Female friendship in literature

Lesbianism in literature

Llangollen (Wales) Biography

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Introduction: Casting Butler and Ponsonby : before "the ladies of

Llangollen" -- "Sketched by many hands" : narrating Butler and Ponsonby -- Engendering the ladies : romantic friendship, gender difference and queer critical practice -- The great success story : Butler and Ponsonby and the romantic friendship model -- Gender trouble : Butler and Ponsonby and the masculine/feminine dyad -- "Our matchless Mary" : Mary Caryll's place at Plas Newydd -- Butler and Ponsonby and the new queer history -- Becoming the ladies of Llangollen -- "Keep yourself in your own persons, where you are" : Butler and Ponsonby's transformation of Plas Newydd -- "Two fugitive ladies" : on the road with Butler and Ponsonby -- Cultivating identity -- Something more tender still than friendship? -- "Liking one's own sex in a criminal way" : suspicions of sapphism -- "The saloon of the Minervas" : Butler and Ponsonby's private library -- "The spirit of bluestockingism" : were the ladies of Llangollen "blue"? -- Bluestocking genealogy -- The ladies of Llangollen and the canonical Bluestockings

-- Were Butler and Ponsonby blue? -- "Love, above the reach of time": Butler and Ponsonby and the performance of romanticism -- The romantics do the ladies -- Sir Walter Scott's "great romance" -- The "coy scene" of Sapphic sociability: Anna Seward's Llangollen vale -- Matching honora: Seward's celebration of Butler and Ponsonby -- Depth and domesticity: William Wordsworth on Butler and Ponsonby -- "Doing the ladies": the Llangollen ideals of Lord Byron and Anne Lister -- "The future arrives late": Butler and Ponsonby and their "spiritual descendents," 1928-37 -- "Deeds, not words": the fight for women's suffrage -- Butler and Ponsonby and the future that is "to be" -- Pursuing Butler and Ponsonby: Gordon's chase of the wild goose -- The origins of Gordon's "wild goose chase" -- The future arrives late: ghosting the ladies of Llangollen -- Afterword.

## Sommario/riassunto

"This book explores the lives and afterlives of Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby, whose 1778 elopement rendered them pivotal figures in the history of female same-sex desire. Butler and Ponsonby's shared life--written, performed, and enacted in the everyday-embodied a form of queer celebrity constituted by their notably visible remoteness to erotic legibility. Their queerness further discloses the provisionality of the varied critical and political movements that have claimed them as ancestors in order to sustain their own subject positions"--Provided by publisher.