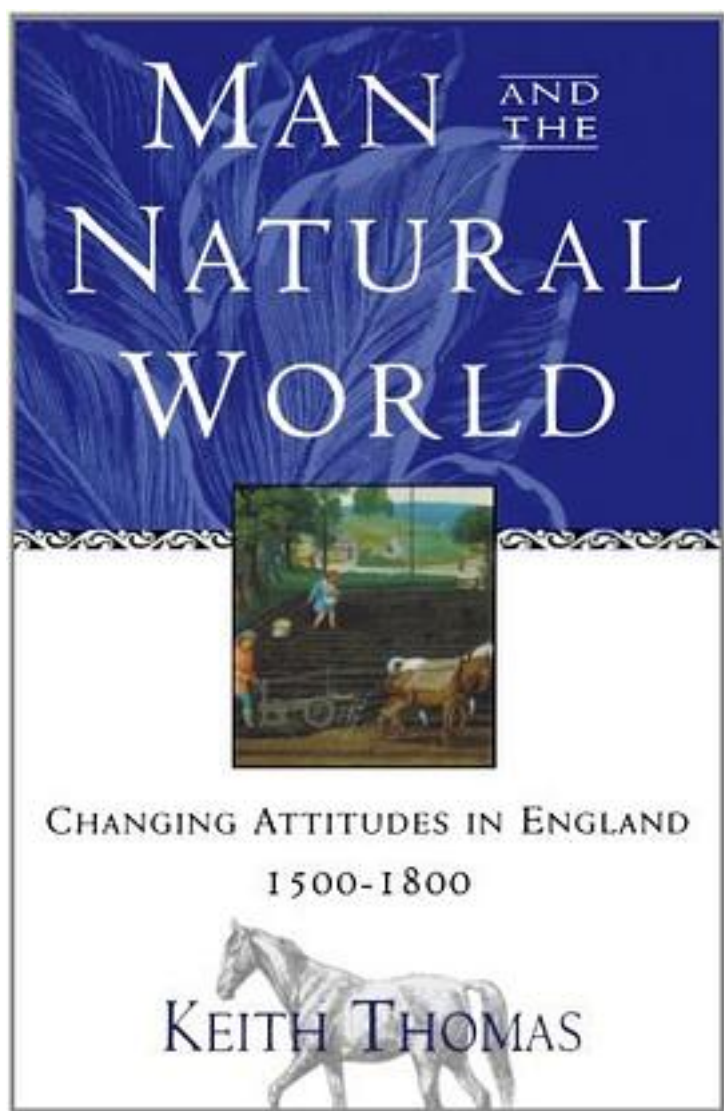


Man and the Natural World



[Man and the Natural World 下载链接1](#)

著者:Keith Thomas

出版者:Oxford University Press

出版时间:1996-10-24

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780195111224

Throughout the ages man has struggled with his perceived place in the natural world. The idea of humans cultivating the Earth to suit specific needs is one of the greatest points of contention in this struggle. For how would have civilization progressed, if not by the clearance of the forests, the cultivation of the soil, and the conservation of wild landscape into human settlement? Yet what of the healing powers of unexploited nature, its long-term importance in the perpetuation of human civilization, and the inherent beauty of wild scenery? At no time were these questions addressed as pointedly and with such great consequence as in England between the sixteenth and late eighteenth centuries. "Between 1500 and 1800 there occurred a whole cluster of changes in the way in which men and women, at all social levels, perceived and classified the natural world around them," explains Keith Thomas. "New sensibilities arose toward animals, plants, and landscape. The relationship of man to other species was redefined; and his right to exploit those species for his own advantage was sharply challenged."

Man and the Natural World aims not just to explain present interest in preserving the environment and protecting the rights of animals, but to reconstruct an earlier mental world. Thomas seeks to expose the assumptions beneath the perceptions, reasonings, and feelings of the inhabitants of early modern England toward the animals, birds, vegetation, and physical landscape among which they spent their lives, often in conditions of proximity which are now difficult for us to appreciate. It was a time when a conviction of man's ascendancy over the natural world gave way to a new concern for the environment and sense of kinship with other species. Here, for example, Thomas illustrates the changing attitudes toward the woodlands. John Morton observed in 1712, "In a country full of civilized inhabitants" timber could not be "suffered to grow. It must give way to fields and pastures, which are of more immediate use and concern to life." Shortly thereafter, in 1763, Edwin Lascelles pronounced the "The beauty of a country consists chiefly in the wood." People's relationships with animals were also in the process of dramatic change as seen in their growing obsession with pet keeping. The use of human names for animals, the fact that pets were rarely eaten, though not for gastronomic reasons, and pets being included in family portraits and often fed better than the servants all demonstrated a major shift in man's position on human uniqueness.

The issues raised in this fascinating work are even more alive today than they were just ten years ago. Preserving the environment, saving the rain forests, and preventing the extinction of species may seem like fairly recent concerns, however, Man and the Natural World explores how these ideas took root long ago. These issues have much to offer not only environmental activists, but historians as well, for it is impossible to disentangle what the people of the past thought about plants and animals from what they thought about themselves.

作者介绍:

Keith Thomas is a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He was formerly President of Corpus Christi College and, before that, Professor of Modern History and Fellow of St John's College. RELIGION AND DECLINE OF MAGIC, his first book, won one of the two Wolfson Literary Awards for History in 1972. He was knighted in 1988 for services to the study of history.

目录:

标签

历史人类学

NaturalHistory

新史学

Keith

十八世纪

Thomas

评论

brilliant and informative. Masterpiece.

作者自己的deep thinking少了点。可这也不是本书的目的。作为一部关于自然的英国思想史，作者铺陈介绍各个观点，写得丰富有趣。经常引用例如wordsworth，blake的诗歌，也是很文艺。疏疏密密地读下来，节奏不疾不徐，节奏很好。读起来心情很好的书。对英国又有新认识。

一二四六章
动物，环境，人类中心主义，视野很好，保持的幅度也很好，大英帝国的运气不是偶然的
神圣的垂落，诚实的形而上学对身体的疏导，考虑人类学，是征服么，不是，我们对动物对自然对自身都有不同的形而上学和伦理界

上图借的只有91版的

[Man and the Natural World_下载链接1](#)

书评

任何一个人文研究者，同样也应该是基本性质的百科知识的具备者。考察文学，丹纳所言的种族时代与环境的各项知识，才会更能知人论世，观点确凿，而不会带有强烈的个人偏见与妄见。该书讨论了自然世界与人类的各个方面，如人类之于自然界的认识，博物学与民间的错误，动物，树木...

今天读完了《植物的欲望》，把书归架的时候忍不住拿出基斯托马斯的《人类与自然世界》，读第五章“树木与花卉”。
然后我发现了，当w.g.hoskins写作《英国景观的形成》时，他所写的是人力活动在景观中留下的痕迹。他的着眼点仍然在人。比如谈到罗马的时候，他判断罗马时代对英...

基思·托马斯是一个很好的历史学家，他的《巫术的衰落》写得很棒，但这本书却令人失望。他广征博引，只是为了说明一个道理：16到18世纪的工业革命和城市化极大地改变了英国人对自然的关系和看法。这个道理是地球人都知道啊，犯得上你老人家嘿咻嘿咻地费力论证吗？这本书无疑是...

[Man and the Natural World_下载链接1](#)