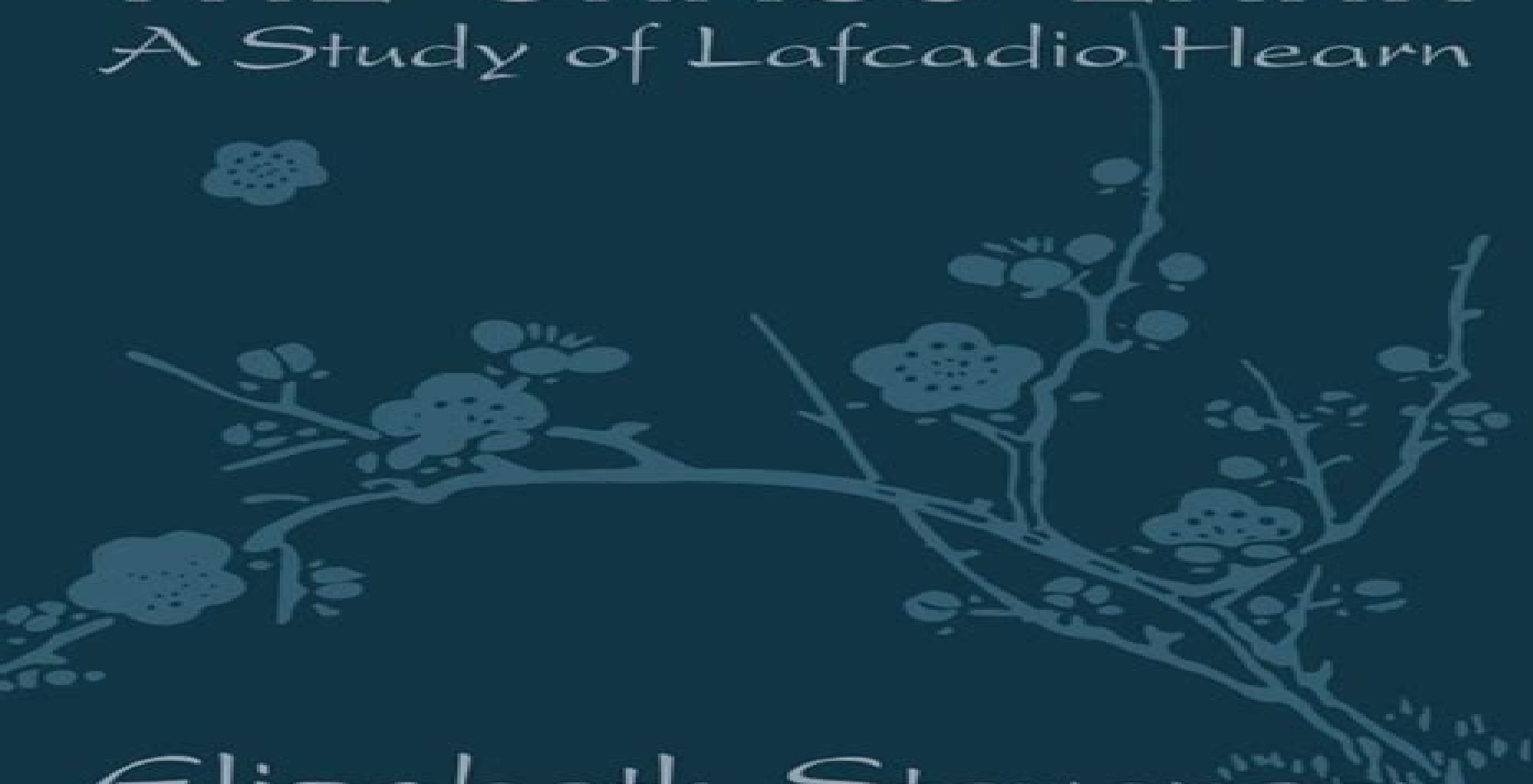




# THE GRASS LARK

*A Study of Lafcadio Hearn*



Elizabeth Stevenson

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR

# The Grass Lark A Study Of Lafcadio Hearn

**Jonathan E. Zwicker**



## **The Grass Lark A Study Of Lafcadio Hearn:**

**Grass Lark** Professor Elizabeth Stevenson, Taylor & Francis Group, 2020-12-18 It is remarkable how persistent a minor writer may be. He may lack the large vision and universal message of the great writer but instead possess a clear true intense view of particular places, peoples and situations that renders his work unique and irreplaceable. Lafcadio Hearn 1850-1904 is such a figure in American literature. Best known as a scholar of Japanese culture, Hearn was a remarkable journalist, translator, travel writer and perhaps second only to Poe in the literature of the macabre and supernatural. Hearn's life as strange and colorful as his work is brilliantly recounted in Elizabeth Stevenson's sensitive and sympathetic biography. The range of Hearn's writing is reflected in the peripatetic course of his life. The son of an Irish father and a Greek mother, he was born on the Ionian island of Leucadia, was raised in Dublin and came to America at the age of nineteen. His early career was spent as a journalist. Without a trace of condescension or pity, he entered into the lives of the dock workers of Cincinnati, the Creoles of New Orleans and Martinique and later the common villagers of Japan, describing how they lived and worked and what they believed. No mere seeker after the exotic, Hearn's immersion in Japanese culture following his emigration in 1890 was born of a profound affinity of mind and sensibility. In Japan, the clarity and force of his expression matured. Here Hearn found a beautifully ordered, artistically sensitive society but one indifferent to individualism. In later years, he saw a society also increasingly susceptible to modern forces of authoritarianism, militarism and xenophobia. Horrified by the dehumanizing potential of these forces in East and West alike, Hearn remained acutely sensitive to the most minute experience. His study of Japanese folklore and his retelling of its tales and ghost stories combine insight into the universals of the larger human world with an exquisite appreciation of how small things matter. Elizabeth Stevenson's book is as much about the writer as the man. While giving an accurate measure of the scale of Hearn's achievement, she makes a compelling case for its artistry. Her reading demonstrates that his writings are not mere aids to the understanding of various cultures but ends in themselves. Hearn did not just translate the folklore of other cultures; he recreated it. **The Grass Lark** will interest literary scholars, American studies specialists and folklorists.

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Orleans and Martinique and later the common villagers of Japan describing how they lived and worked and what they believed. No mere seeker after the exotic, Hearn's immersion in Japanese culture following his emigration in 1890 was born of a profound affinity of mind and sensibility. In Japan the clarity and force of his expression matured. Here Hearn found a beautifully ordered, artistically sensitive society but one indifferent to individualism. In later years he saw a society also increasingly susceptible to modern forces of authoritarianism, militarism, and xenophobia. Horrified by the dehumanizing potential of these forces in East and West alike, Hearn remained acutely sensitive to the most minute experience. His study of Japanese folklore and his retelling of its tales and ghost stories combine insight into the universals of the larger human world with an exquisite appreciation of how small things matter. Elizabeth Stevenson's book is as much about the writer as the man. While giving an accurate measure of the scale of Hearn's achievement, she makes a compelling case for its artistry. Her reading demonstrates that his writings are not mere aids to the understanding of various cultures but ends in themselves. Hearn did not just translate the folklore of other cultures; he recreated it. *The Grass Lark* will interest literary scholars, American studies specialists, and folklorists. Elizabeth Stevenson held a variety of positions during her working life. She found a home at Emory University and retired as Candler Professor of American Studies in its graduate division, The Institute of the Liberal Arts. She is the author of *Henry Adams and Babbitts* and *Bohemians*, both available from Transaction. [Grass Lark](#)

Elizabeth Stevenson, 2020-03-12. It is remarkable how persistent a minor writer may be. He may lack the large vision and universal message of the great writer but instead possess a clear, true, intense view of particular places, peoples, and situations that renders his work unique and irreplaceable. Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) is such a figure in American literature. Best known as a scholar of Japanese culture, Hearn was a remarkable journalist, translator, travel writer, and perhaps second only to Poe in the literature of the macabre and supernatural. Hearn's life as strange and colorful as his work is, brilliantly recounted in Elizabeth Stevenson's sensitive and sympathetic biography. The range of Hearn's writing is reflected in the peripatetic course of his life. The son of an Irish father and a Greek mother, he was born on the Ionian island of Leucadia, was raised in Dublin, and came to America at the age of nineteen. His early career was spent as a journalist. Without a trace of condescension or pity, he entered into the lives of the dock workers of Cincinnati, the Creoles of New Orleans, and Martinique, and later the common villagers of Japan, describing how they lived and worked and what they believed. Elizabeth Stevenson's book is as much about the writer as the man. While giving an accurate measure of the scale of Hearn's achievement, she makes a compelling case for its artistry. Her reading demonstrates that his writings are not mere aids to the understanding of various cultures but ends in themselves. Hearn did not just translate the folklore of other cultures; he recreated it. *The Grass Lark* will interest literary scholars, American studies specialists, and folklorists. [The Neo-Buddhist Writings of Lafcadio Hearn](#)

Antony Goedhals, 2020-04-20. *The Neo-Buddhist Writings of Lafcadio Hearn: Light from the East* by Antony Goedhals offers radical rereadings of a misunderstood and undervalued Victorian writer. It reveals that at the metaphysical core of Lafcadio

Hearn's writings is a Buddhist vision as yet unappreciated by his critics and biographers. Beginning with the American writings and ending with the essay and story meditations of the Japanese period, the book demonstrates Hearn's deeply personal and transcendently beautiful evocations of a Buddhist universe and shows how these deconstruct and dissolve the categories of Western discourse and thinking about reality to create a new language, a poetry of vastness, emptiness, and oneness that had not been heard before in English or indeed in the West.

**Lafcadio Hearn: American Writings (LOA #190)** Lafcadio Hearn, 2018-08-14. Featuring a wide range of writings from Hearn's time in America, this collection is a stunning showcase of the Greek-Irish author's uniquely decadent literary flair and keen eye for observation. A translator of Flaubert and Gautier, Lafcadio Hearn was the master of a gaudy and sometimes self-consciously decadent literary style, but he was also a tough-minded and keenly observant reporter with an eye for the offbeat, the sensual, and occasionally the gruesome. The writings of his American years, collected in this Library of America volume, on subjects as wide-ranging as comparative folklore, the history of musical instruments, French literary avant-gardes, and New Orleans voodoo, reveal an omnivorous curiosity and an always eclectic sensibility. Some Chinese Ghosts (1887), a stylized retelling of ancient legends, foreshadows Hearn's later fascination with Asian themes. The exquisitely crafted novels *Chita* (1889) about the devastation wrought by a Louisiana hurricane and *Youma* (1890) about a slave rebellion in Martinique epitomize his writing at its most luxuriantly romantic, alert to the interactions of diverse cultures and suffused with imagistic splendor. His extraordinary travel book *Two Years in the French West Indies* (1890), presented here with the many illustrations from its first edition, provides a richly impressionistic account of his long stay on Martinique and other Caribbean islands. Also included are personal letters, as well as more than a dozen examples of Hearn's journalism from the 1870s and 1880s, depicting vividly a raucous African American nightclub on the Cincinnati waterfront, an execution scene of Mardi Gras, and the New Orleans French Quarter, an uncharted village of Filipino fishermen in a remote Louisiana bayou. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing and keeping permanently in print America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

*Lustful Appetites* Rachel Hope Cleves, 2024-11-18. We take the edible trappings of flirtation for granted: chocolate-covered strawberries and romance oysters on the half shell, and desire the eggplant emoji and a suggestive wink. But why does it feel so natural for us to link food and sexual pleasure? Rachel Hope Cleves explores the long association between indulging in good food and an appetite for naughty sex, from the development of the Parisian restaurant as a place for men to meet with prostitutes and mistresses to the role of sexual outlaws like bohemians, new women, lesbians, and gay men in creating epicurean culture in Britain and the United States. Taking readers on a gastronomic journey from Paris and London to New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, *Lustful Appetites* reveals how this

preoccupation changed the ways we eat and the ways we are intimate while also creating stigmas that persist well into our own twenty first century

*Some Chinese Ghosts* Lafcadio Hearn, 2018-08-14 Lafcadio Hearn was one of the most extraordinary figures in America literature a journalist and novelist who became later in life a major literary icon in his adopted nation of Japan *Some Chinese Ghosts* 1887 a stylized retelling of ancient legends was one of his earliest books a foreshadowing of his later fascination with Asian themes This collection of six stories reveals his deep fascination with the weird beauty of Chinese folk tales Because he himself knew little of the Chinese language Hearn relied on European Sinologists to help him create his own versions and understand the historical and linguistic allusions To such great explorers he acknowledged in a preface the realm of Cathayan story belongs by right of discovery and conquest yet the humbler traveller who follows wonderingly after them into the vast and mysterious pleasure grounds of Chinese fancy may surely be permitted to cull a few of the marvellous flowers there growing

*Diasporic Identities and Empire* David Brooks, Anastasia Louridas, 2014-01-03 *Diasporic Identities and Empire* Cultural Contentions and Literary Landscapes explores traditional theories on hybridity generated in consideration of multicultural infusions and at times profusions of colonial migrations Arguments on defining Englishness and the insinuations of a fixed centre for the marginalised are now considered on a global scale as postmodernity defies imperial homogeneity Although postcolonial studies have largely been Anglocentric and Western in focus developments elsewhere have opened up theoretical applications on cultural shifters such as that of the diaspora The Arabian world the Caribbean North and Latin America Australia and more recently countries such as Ireland and Scotland have emerged as regions confronted with comparable power struggles Mass migration exile refugee reshuffling and diasporic repositioning provide neo hermeneutics on the predicament of the global which is undergoing major geopolitical and cultural transformation This volume addresses how writing from the peripheries is developing a new worldview through diasporic modes of thought By moving beyond the facile search for an imperial centre these contributions provide an understanding of the rupture in identity since there is a feeling of being held back from a place or state we wish to reach Brooks This volume is a unique collaboration by academic scholars from four different continents and a vast number of regions critically converging on the contemporaneous debate that problematizes the diasporic identity

*Encyclopedia of American Literature* Manly, Inc., 2013-06 Susan Clair Imbarrato Carol Berkin Brett Barney Lisa Paddock Matthew J Brucoli George Parker Anderson Judith S

*Eighty Days* Matthew Goodman, 2014-03-11 NATIONAL BESTSELLER On November 14 1889 Nellie Bly the crusading young female reporter for Joseph Pulitzer's World newspaper left New York City by steamship on a quest to break the record for the fastest trip around the world Also departing from New York that day and heading in the opposite direction by train was a young journalist from The Cosmopolitan magazine Elizabeth Bisland Each woman was determined to outdo Jules Verne's fictional hero Phileas Fogg and circle the globe in less than eighty days The dramatic race that ensued would span twenty eight thousand miles captivate the nation and change both competitors lives forever The two

women were a study in contrasts Nellie Bly was a scrappy hard driving ambitious reporter from Pennsylvania coal country who sought out the most sensational news stories often going undercover to expose social injustice Genteel and elegant Elizabeth Bisland had been born into an aristocratic Southern family preferred novels and poetry to newspapers and was widely referred to as the most beautiful woman in metropolitan journalism Both women though were talented writers who had carved out successful careers in the hypercompetitive male dominated world of big city newspapers Eighty Days brings these trailblazing women to life as they race against time and each other unaided and alone ever aware that the slightest delay could mean the difference between victory and defeat A vivid real life re creation of the race and its aftermath from its frenzied start to the nail biting dash at its finish Eighty Days is history with the heart of a great adventure novel Here s the journey that takes us behind the walls of Jules Verne s Amiens estate into the back alleys of Hong Kong onto the grounds of a Ceylon tea plantation through storm tossed ocean crossings and mountains blocked by snowdrifts twenty feet deep and to many more unexpected and exotic locales from London to Yokohama Along the way we are treated to fascinating glimpses of everyday life in the late nineteenth century an era of unprecedented technological advances newly remade in the image of the steamship the railroad and the telegraph For Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland two women ahead of their time in every sense of the word were not only racing around the world They were also racing through the very heart of the Victorian age Look for special features inside Join the Random House Reader s Circle for author chats and more What a story What an extraordinary historical adventure Amanda Foreman author of A World on Fire A fun fast page turning action adventure the exhilarating journey of two pioneering women Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland as they race around the globe Karen Abbott author of American Rose A marvelous tale of adventure The story of these two pioneering women unfolds amid the excitement setbacks crises missed opportunities and a global trek unlike any other in its time Why would you want to miss out on the incredible journey that takes you to the finish line page after nail biting page Chicago Sun Times Best Books of the Year In a stunning feat of narrative nonfiction Matthew Goodman brings the nineteenth century to life tracing the history of two intrepid journalists as they tackled two male dominated fields world travel and journalism in an era of incredible momentum Minneapolis Star Tribune

**New Orleans in the Atlantic World** William Boelhower, 2013-09-13 The thematic project New Orleans in the Atlantic World was planned immediately after hurricane Katrina and focuses on what meteorologists have always known the city s identity and destiny belong to the broader Caribbean and Atlantic worlds as perhaps no other American city does Balanced precariously between land and sea the city s geohistory has always interwoven diverse cultures languages peoples and economies Only with the rise of the new Atlantic Studies matrix however have scholars been able to fully appreciate this complex history from a multi disciplinary multilingual and multi scaled perspectivism In this book historians geographers anthropologists and cultural studies scholars bring to light the atlanticist vocation of New Orleans and in doing so they also help to define the new field of Atlantic Studies This book was published as

a special issue of Atlantic Studies      Journalism's Roving Eye John Maxwell Hamilton, 2011-08-15 In all of journalism nowhere are the stakes higher than in foreign news gathering For media owners it is the most difficult type of reporting to finance for editors the hardest to oversee Correspondents roaming large swaths of the planet must acquire expertise that home based reporters take for granted facility with the local language for instance or an understanding of local cultures Adding further to the challenges they must put news of the world in context for an audience with little experience and often limited interest in foreign affairs a task made all the more daunting because of the consequence to national security In Journalism's Roving Eye John Maxwell Hamilton a historian and former foreign correspondent provides a sweeping and definitive history of American foreign news reporting from its inception to the present day and chronicles the economic and technological advances that have influenced overseas coverage as well as the cavalcade of colorful personalities who shaped readers perceptions of the world across two centuries From the colonial era when newspaper printers hustled down to wharfs to collect mail and periodicals from incoming ships to the ongoing multimedia press coverage of the Iraq War Hamilton explores journalism's constant and not always successful efforts at dishing the foreign news as James Gordon Bennett put it in the mid nineteenth century to describe his approach in the New York Herald He details the highly partisan coverage of the French Revolution the early emergence of special correspondents and the challenges of organizing their efforts the profound impact of the non yellow press in the run up to the Spanish American War the increasingly sophisticated machinery of propaganda and censorship that surfaced during World War I and the golden age of foreign correspondence during the interwar period when outlets for foreign news swelled and a large number of experienced independent journalists circled the globe From the Nazis intimidation of reporters to the ways in which American popular opinion shaped coverage of Communist revolution and the Vietnam War Hamilton covers every aspect of delivering foreign news to American doorsteps Along the way Hamilton singles out a fascinating cast of characters among them Victor Lawson the overlooked proprietor of the Chicago Daily News who pioneered the concept of a foreign news service geared to American interests Henry Morton Stanley one of the first reporters to generate news on his own with his 1871 expedition to East Africa to find Livingstone and Jack Belden a forgotten brooding figure who exemplified the best in combat reporting Hamilton details the experiences of correspondents editors owners publishers and network executives as well as the political leaders who made the news and the technicians who invented ways to transmit it Their stories bring the narrative to life in arresting detail and make this an indispensable book for anyone wanting to understand the evolution of foreign news gathering Amid the steep drop in the number of correspondents stationed abroad and the recent decline of the newspaper industry many fear that foreign reporting will soon no longer exist But as Hamilton shows in this magisterial work traditional correspondence survives alongside a new type of reporting Journalism's Roving Eye offers a keen understanding of the vicissitudes in foreign news an understanding imperative to better seeing what lies ahead      Popular New Orleans Florian Freitag, 2020-10-01 New Orleans



is unique which is precisely why there are many Crescent Cities all over the world for almost 150 years writers artists cultural brokers and entrepreneurs have drawn on and simultaneously contributed to New Orleans's fame and popularity by recreating the city in popular media from literature photographs and plays to movies television shows and theme parks Addressing students and fans of the city and of popular culture *Popular New Orleans* examines three pivotal moments in the history of New Orleans in popular media the creation of the popular image of the Crescent City during the late nineteenth century in the local color writings published in Scribner's Monthly Century Magazine the translation of this image into three dimensional immersive spaces during the twentieth century in Disney's theme parks and resorts in California Florida and Japan and the radical transformation of this image following Hurricane Katrina in public performances such as Mardi Gras parades and operas Covering visions of the Crescent City from George W Cable's *Old Creole Days* stories 1873 1876 to Disneyland's New Orleans Square 1966 to Rosalyn Story's opera *Wading Home* 2015 *Popular New Orleans* traces how popular images of New Orleans have changed from exceptional to exemplary

*The Postcolonial World* Jyotsna G. Singh, David D. Kim, 2016-10-04 *The Postcolonial World* presents an overview of the field and extends critical debate in exciting new directions It provides an important and timely reappraisal of postcolonialism as an aesthetic political and historical movement and of postcolonial studies as a multidisciplinary transcultural field Essays map the terrain of the postcolonial as a global phenomenon at the intersection of several disciplinary inquiries Framed by an introductory chapter and a concluding essay the eight sections examine Affective Postcolonial Histories Postcolonial Desires Religious Imaginings Postcolonial Geographies and Spatial Practices Human Rights and Postcolonial Conflicts Postcolonial Cultures and Digital Humanities Ecocritical Inquiries in Postcolonial Studies Postcolonialism versus Neoliberalism *The Postcolonial World* looks afresh at re-emerging conditions of postcoloniality in the twenty first century and draws on a wide range of representational strategies cultural practices material forms and affective affiliations The volume is an essential reading for scholars and students of postcolonialism

**Kabuki's Nineteenth Century** Jonathan E. Zwicker, 2023-08-09 *Kabuki's Nineteenth Century* examines the theater culture of nineteenth century Japan from the perspective of the history and materiality of the book the nature of reception and the making and making use of images The aim of this book is to rediscover the kabuki theater of nineteenth century Japan by shifting our critical focus from performance to print and the public sphere and thus embedding theater history within the larger world of printed matter by means of which theatricality circulated beyond the stage and through which performance was most often consumed Fundamental to *Kabuki's Nineteenth Century* is a reconsideration of the nature of the printed archive itself The book argues that the archive of printed material related to the theater in nineteenth century Japan playbills actor critiques theater guides maps actor prints calendars and broadsheets is something more than and more complicated than a set of materials out of which we might reconstitute the always transient event of performance Rather the archive constitutes an object of inquiry unto itself an object that reveals as much about the

interrelations between and among various printed media and genres circulating beyond the confines of the theater as it does about what happened on stage Even as we use these materials to examine the history of performance a series of different questions might be asked what can the production consumption and collecting of this enormous body of printed matter tell us about such problems as the role of print in everyday life the construction of specialized knowledges and the manner in which a culture archives itself

Figures in a Western Landscape Elizabeth Stevenson,2017-09-04 *Figures in a Western Landscape* is an absolutely stunning book A biographer s take on the story of the American West it posits that the turns of history are based on people major figures who shape their time and place In her sequence of biographical essays Elizabeth Stevenson tells the story of the northern Rockies and in particular Montana a state of mind even more than it is a state of the Union As her readers have come to expect she offers more than a mere recounting of events Stevenson captures the humanity of her subjects Charles Little author of *Louis Bromfield at Malabar* and *Greenways for America* The northern Rocky Mountains and adjacent high plains were the last American West Here was the final enactment of our national drama the last explorations the final battles of the Indian wars the closing of the frontier In *Figures in a Western Landscape* award winning biographer Elizabeth Stevenson humanizes the history of the region with a procession of individual lives moving across generations Each of the sixteen men and women depicted left behind his or her own unique written record or oral history The stories they have bequeathed are rich in revealing anecdote and colorful detail Among them Meriwether Lewis America s most introspective explorer John Kirk Townsend known to the Chinooks as the bird chief Pretty Shield wife of the Crow scout who warned Custer to turn back at Little Big Horn James and Granville Stuart early settlers lured by rumors of gold in the 1850s In a concluding chapter Stevenson draws on previously unpublished material to reveal new information about Martha Jane Cannary Burke better known as Calamity Jane the woman who could ride shoot and drive a mule team as well as any man but who once failed to pass because she didn t cuss her mules like one She lies buried in Deadwood South Dakota next to the man some said was her husband Wild Bill Hickok These and other men and women whose stories Stevenson

**Refining Nature in Modern Japanese Literature** Nanyan Guo,2014-01-23 This book examines the literature of Shiga Naoya who is highly regarded in modern Japan for his unique style and methods of describing his personal experiences and emotions Contributing new findings to the field of scholarship on Shiga this study focuses in particular on Shiga s nature inspired writings and discusses how he created some vivid images of nature that became famous and still linger in Japanese people s minds Shiga s remarkable sensitivity toward nature and the influences he received from earlier writers in Japan and abroad is examined The complexity and depth of his understanding of nature is further revealed in his fascination with the supernatural which also contributed to the creation of his literary style

*Hidden History of Cincinnati* Jeff Suess,2013-09-24 A deep dive into the complex history of the Queen City Cincinnati Ohio from after the American Revolution to today So many colorful stories are lost to time The last passenger pigeon on earth Martha died in the Cincinnati Zoo in

1914 Just outside the city a young Annie Oakley beat her future husband in a shooting contest The deadliest maritime disaster in American history was the explosion of the steamboat Sultana built in the Queen City The nation's first train robbery occurred in the Cincinnati area and some clever victims hid jewelry in their hair and bodices From the Black Brigade's role in protecting the city against Confederate siege to the original 1937 Cincinnati Bengals author Jeff Sues reveals the triumphs and tribulations of the first major American city founded after the American Revolution *Madame Butterfly* John Luther Long, 2002 These novellas appeared at the height of fin de siècle American fascination with Japanese culture Usually dismissed by critics because of their stereotypical treatment of Asian women they have been paired here to show how they defined and redefined contemporary misconceptions of the Orient *A Lafcadio Hearn Companion* Robert L. Gale, 2002 Lafcadio Hearn was a prolific 19th century writer with diverse experiences He was born in Greece educated in Ireland France and England and thereafter resided in the United States the French West Indies and Japan He is best known for his nonfiction primarily his essays and newspaper columns though he also wrote numerous stories that drew on the lore of different cultures But he will always be remembered as the American writer who first wrote extensively about Japan and made Asiatic culture accessible to British and American readers This reference is a comprehensive guide to Hearn's life and career Included in the volume are hundreds of alphabetically arranged entries for individual works by Hearn and collections of his writings for members of his family and for the colleagues and acquaintances who figured prominently in his life The entries summarize his views reveal his keen perception and demonstrate the breadth of his musings Entries often cite works for further reading and the volume also includes a bibliography While the book is first and foremost a guide to Hearn it also shows how Japanese society was first presented to the West

Immerse yourself in the artistry of words with is expressive creation, Immerse Yourself in **The Grass Lark A Study Of Lafcadio Hearn** . This ebook, presented in a PDF format ( \*), is a masterpiece that goes beyond conventional storytelling. Indulge your senses in prose, poetry, and knowledge. Download now to let the beauty of literature and artistry envelop your mind in a unique and expressive way.

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