

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT

Perceiving the World

edited by Beate I. Allert, Christopher R. Clason, Niall A. Peach, and Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo

Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World provides an interdisciplinary exploration into Humboldt's approach to seeing and describing the many subjects he pursued. Though remembered primarily as an environmental thinker, Humboldt's interests were vast and documented not just in his published works, but also in his extensive correspondence with scientists, artists, poets, and philosophers internationally. *Perceiving the World* covers Humboldt's perceptions during intercontinental travels and scientific discoveries, as well as how he visualized nature, geography, environments, and diverse cultures, including Indigenous Peoples.

This collection draws heavily on the English translations of Humboldt's work housed in the Purdue University Archives, which were collected by John Purdue. The book is divided into three parts: Humboldt's contributions to science since the nineteenth century; his work on nature, climates, environments, and the cosmos; and his lasting cultural impact, including his imaging techniques, modes of visual presentation, and contributions to the arts. Humboldt's intricate approach to perception still resonates today, as his nuanced and unique way of seeing the world was just as important as what he wrote.

“*Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World*, a wonderful collection of essays edited by Beate I. Allert, Christopher R. Clason, Niall A. Peach, and Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo, reflects on Humboldt as a scientist, explorer, environmentalist, and man of letters. It offers much new material about his person and work, and contributes greatly to our understanding of this preeminent scholar.”

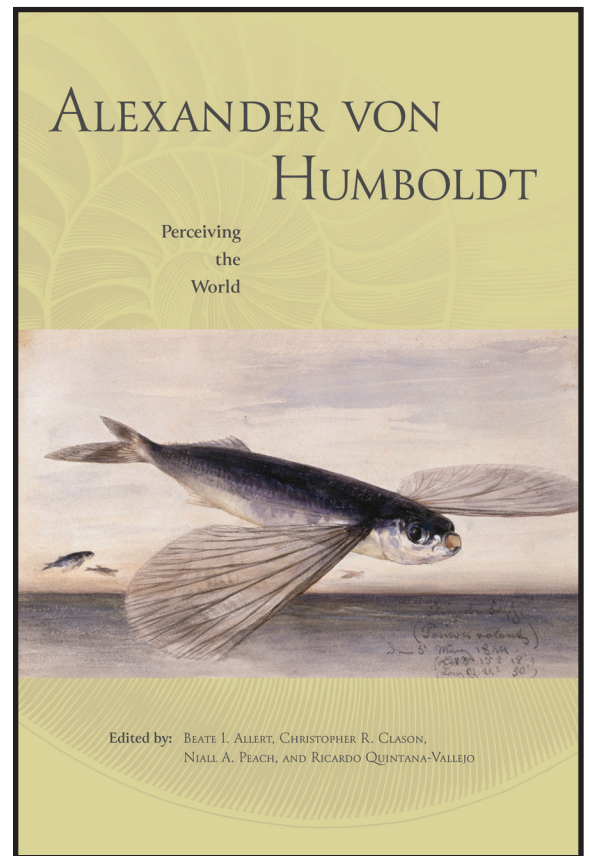
—**LILIANE WEISSBERG**, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

“Beautifully elucidating Humboldt's transdisciplinary writings in light of contemporary discussions ranging from antislavery debates and the machinations of colonial empires to the environmental humanities, *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World* sheds significant new light on the famous German explorer and mountain climber. The essays take the reader on a breathtaking tour through Humboldt's surprising influence on the state of Indiana, his revolutionarily ecological botany and important impact on both Adelbert von Chamisso and Alexander Pushkin, the influence of his study of art on his vision of nature, and, fabulously, all the way into Kosmos's outer space; it's an important journey and a must-read volume.”

—**HEATHER I. SULLIVAN**, professor of German and comparative literature, Trinity University

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