



Provence and the British imagination /

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auth

Ledizioni,
2013



Monografía

Although it resonates today with lavender fields, sunny heritage locations and the gentrified memory of Paul Cézanne's pictorial turbulence, Provence has not always been the attractive territory of pacified leisure and festival culture. Since the seventeenth century, indeed, the region has inscribed its shifting geography, complex politics and the extraordinary diversity of its land and seascapes in the perception and imagination of British visitors. In the steps of anonymous or excellent travellers, the chapters of this volume chart some of the most significant moments in the intercultural transactions between the proud linguistic and literary distinctiveness of the province on one hand and the always challenged and sometimes baffled perception of Anglophone (and Anglophile) visitors on the other. Spanning across two centuries, from the largely unknown pre-revolutionary Provence visited by John Locke and Tobias Smollett through the Victorian paradise of popular tourism and finally to the more secret 'homeland' of Modernists, this volume reveals an unexpected Provence which, in oblique and complex ways, has long held a mirror to British culture and often acted as the laboratory of its artistic life

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Título: Provence and the British imagination edited by Claire Davison, Béatrice Laurent, Caroline Patey and Nathalie Vanfasse

Editorial: Milan Università degli Studi di Milano 2013

Editorial: Ledizioni 2013

Descripción física: 1 online resource (234 pages) illustrations; digital, PDF file(s)

Mención de serie: Di/segni Number 5

Bibliografía: Includes bibliographical references and index

Restricciones de acceso: Open Access. Unrestricted online access star

Formato físico adicional: Also available in print form

Lengua: English

ISBN: 9788867051373 (paperback)

Materia Geográfica: Gran Bretaña- Relations- France- Provence Provence (France)- Relations- Great Britain

Autores: Davison, Claire, editor Laurent, Béatrice, editor Patey, Caroline, editor Vanfasse, Nathalie, editor

Enlace a formato físico adicional: Print version 9788867051373

Punto acceso adicional serie-Título: Di/segni Number 5

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