Reflecting the modernist fascination with science, Virginia Woolf’s representations of nature are informed by a wide-ranging interest in contemporary developments in the life sciences. Christina Alt analyses Woolf’s responses to disciplines ranging from taxonomy and the new biology of the laboratory to ethology and ecology and illustrates how Woolf drew on the methods and objectives of the contemporary life sciences to describe her own literary experiments. Through the examination of Woolf’s engagement with shifting approaches to the study of nature, this work covers new ground in Woolf studies and makes an important contribution to the understanding of modernist exchanges between literature and science.

Christina Alt is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Ottawa. She has contributed to numerous collections on the work of Virginia Woolf.


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Abbreviations

WORKS BY VIRGINIA WOOLF

AROO A Room of One’s Own
BTA Between the Acts
CE Collected Essays (4 volumes)
CSF The Complete Shorter Fiction
D The Diary of Virginia Woolf (5 volumes)
E The Essays of Virginia Woolf (4 volumes)
F Flush
HPGN Hyde Park Gate News
JR Jacob’s Room
L The Letters of Virginia Woolf (6 volumes)
MD Mrs Dalloway
MEL Melymbrosia
MOB Moments of Being
ND Night and Day
O Orlando
PA A Passionate Apprentice
RF Roger Fry
TG Three Guineas
TTL To the Lighthouse
TW The Waves
TWHD The Waves: The Two Holograph Drafts
TY The Years
VO The Voyage Out

WORK BY MARIE CARMICHAEL (STOPES)

LC Love’s Creation