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978-1-108-07649-4 - The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne: Volume 2

Edited by Rashleigh Holt-White

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Until the nineteenth century, the investigation of natural phenomena, plants and animals was considered either the preserve of elite scholars or a pastime for the leisured upper classes. As increasing academic rigour and systematisation was brought to the study of 'natural history', its subdisciplines were adopted into university curricula, and learned societies (such as the London Zoological Society, founded in 1826) were established to support research in these areas. These developments are reflected in the books reissued in this series, which describe the anatomy and characteristics of animals ranging from invertebrates to polar bears, fish to birds, in habitats from Arctic North America to the tropical forests of Malaysia. By the middle of the nineteenth century, this work and developments in research on fossils had resulted in the formulation of the theory of evolution.

The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne

Published in 1901, this illustrated two-volume biography of the renowned English naturalist Gilbert White (1720–93) presents a thorough account of his life and achievements. Prepared by White's great-great-nephew Rashleigh Holt-White (1826–1920), it incorporates a selection of White's correspondence with family and friends, providing valuable insights into his beliefs and character. Included are letters sent by White's lifelong friend John Mulso (1721–91), who praised the naturalist's work, predicting it would 'immortalise' White and his Hampshire village. Still considered a classic text, *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789), featuring White's careful observations of local flora and fauna, is also reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection. In the present work, Holt-White sought to correct the 'erroneous statements' that had previously been made about his relative. Volume 2 traces White's life from September 1776, considering the impact of the loss of family members, and his legacy after his death.

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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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VOLUME 2

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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Beardt sculp.

John White

Walker & Cockerell sculp.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF
GILBERT WHITE
OF SELBORNE

WRITTEN AND EDITED BY
HIS GREAT-GRAND-NEPHEW
RASHLEIGH HOLT-WHITE

WITH PEDIGREE, PORTRAITS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS



IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. II.

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET

1901

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07649-4 - The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne: Volume 2

Edited by Rashleigh Holt-White

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
The influence of Mr. Grimm—Anecdote of a hawk—List of Grimm's drawings—"If Mr. Pennant had got such a work ready"—Henry White's new parlour—A title for John White's book—Consults an engraver in London—A serious illness—The great parlour begun—The Magdalen College archives—John White's book thrown aside—Mr. Sewell upon Roman coins—The new parlour tiled—John White's MS. at Selborne—Buys fields behind his house—Opinion of 'Fauna Calpensis'—Samuel Barker at Cambridge—Late appearance of house-martins—Mulso upon the view of the Hermitage—"One of the first rooms in the county"—A new correspondent, Mary White—A weeding woman	1

CHAPTER II.

The new parlour completed—And of singular service—Dr. Chandler's assistance—Ravens over the Hanger—"Il faut cultiver notre jardin"—Dr. Chandler approves of John White's book—Gilbert White's precision and integrity—"Pray, come out. Now's your time!"—A Selborne anecdote—"The place where such a genius was born"—Upton Nervett Rectory declined—A new correspondent, the Rev. Ralph Churton—"The infirmities of a deaf man"—Mrs. Snooke dies—Is his Fellowship vacated?—The Oriel statutes—His income from property—From his Fellowship—the Ringmer tortoise brought to Selborne—Invitation to R. Churton—Experiments with the tortoise—The great-parlour accounts—Gun practice in Oxford days—The way from Oxford to Selborne—"A farrago of antiquities"—Zig-zaggians v. Bostalians—Sleep of fishes—Search for house-martins—Gibbon's History—Letter to R. Churton	27
--	----

CHAPTER III.

Account of Collins in the 'Gentleman's Magazine'—An anecdote of him—A Heliotrope—Death of John White of Blackburn—Fate of the 'Fauna Calpensis'—Course of tempests from the west—A projected Canal—"Make haste, my dear old friend"—Sense of colour in birds—An unnatural uncle—Grimm's drawing of the Temple—Provost Clarke of Oriel dies—Chaucer upon the colour of leaves—Frost over buried trees—Binstead Church—Letter to Mary White—The Rector of Faringdon dies—"I wish you a Sinecure"—Swifts in September—A local flood—November house-martins—Peregrine falcon in Wolmer Forest	62
---	----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07649-4 - The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne: Volume 2

Edited by Rashleigh Holt-White

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS

CHAPTER IV.

	PAGE
Haunted by passages of music—The star-sluch—Verses on the crocus— Highlanders in Selborne—Letter to Mary White—Verses on the rain- bow—A quotation—A strange wedding—Advice to Edmund White —The Temple—Dorchester Church—The sets of verses admired— Mr. Barker's activity—Two agreeable young men—The "long- continued haze"—"Metamorphosis"—"A Harvest Scene"—Verses on wasps—The honey-market at Selborne—Carved stones at the Priory farm—Lovely autumnal colours at Selborne	89

CHAPTER V.

A recipe for a mad dog's bite—Verses on the "dark still weather"—A <i>Hectic heat</i> —The Royal and Antiquaries' Societies' meetings—Two grand rooms—A winter journey to Selborne—Sir S. Stuart's pedigree —Mr. Ety dies—Whitchurch Rectory—Swallows and a married man—The new Vicar at Selborne—Timothy is lost—Mr. Yalden's illness—Madagascar tortoises described—The Mulso's visit Selborne —Letter from Timothy—A tortoise's feelings—Madagascar tortoises dead—High poor rates—Mr. Yalden is better—The tops of hop plants should be nipped—A balloon journey—Selborne curacy re- sumed—End of the balloon journey—A farmer's mistake—A new way to Selborne—A great frost	111
--	-----

CHAPTER VI.

Death of Mr. Yalden—Edmund White the new Vicar of Newton— <i>Coccus vitis-viniferae</i> —Mary White marries—Verses on the crocus— An anecdote from Selborne—Rough roads to Selborne—Tortworth Rectory vacant—Village amusements—Letter to Mary White—A lottery prize—The Vicar of Selborne marries—The bride at Selborne —Swallows in France—The number of his nephews and nieces— Edmund White about to marry—Samuel Barker's marriage—Letter to him—Benjamin White, senr., marries again—Dr. John White elected to Salisbury Infirmary—Making a fairy ring	141
--	-----

CHAPTER VII.

The Wilts method of brewing—Samson White elected Fellow of Oriel —"Cease to curatize"—Nature notes at S. Lambeth—R. Churton at Selborne—Remark on hop-planting—Mulso urges publication— The book in the press—Samson White receives an exhibition at Oriel —Instructions for printing	163
---	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

A Selborne parish return—Selborne dames' schools—Cutting the Hanger — <i>Errata</i> in the 'Selborne'—Finishing the Index—Letter to Mary White—Fox-hunting parsons—Receives more proofs—Thomas White's corrections—A search for torpid swallows—"Your embryo glory"—Ready for publication—A full house—The book published— A flattering reception—Mulso receives the book—His opinion of it	174
--	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07649-4 - The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne: Volume 2

Edited by Rashleigh Holt-White

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

vii

CHAPTER IX.

	PAGE
A remarkable prophecy—Death of Henry White—Application regarding Fyfield Rectory—An early review—"The world has been indulgent to my book"—A new correspondent, George Montagu—"Greatly entertained by your 'Natural History'"—The willow-wren—Second letter from Montagu—How to preserve birds—Mrs. Chapone not a botanist—The fern-owl maligned—"My book is still asked for in Fleet Street"—Sowing furze seed—The Index insufficient—"Worry- brees"—"Oxford recedes every year from Selborne"—Compliments and honours—Daws in Derbyshire—Enlarging the Index—"Whiteists and Badcockists"	191

CHAPTER X.

Dr. Chandler settles at Selborne—His journey home described—First letter from Robert Marsham—Migration of birds—Increase of swallows —An early planter—Dr. Hales—Growth of trees at Selborne—The fern-owl—Its food—A hybrid bird—The last letter from Mulso— Beech and oak trees—Birds and lighthouses—Anecdotes of Dr. Hales —Rebuilding the "Horace's head"—Illness of Gilbert White— Crossbills at S. Lambeth—The Hermitage thatched—A flight of house-martins—A paper upon the fern-owl proposed—Benjamin White contemplates retiring—The Dæmon of Procrastination—The Grindstone oak—Migration of nightingales—Last visit to Oxford— Postpones account of the fern-owl—Has long ceased to be a sports- man—Extract from John White's book—Martins at Gibraltar— Young's 'Journey in France'—Recognition of the wall creeper	215
--	-----

CHAPTER XI.

Dr. John White marries— <i>Certhia muralis</i> —"I was born and bred a gentleman"—Dr. John White and his bride—Barrington and the Royal Society—A threatened inclosure at Selborne—A disputed bridle road—"Remembrances of the days of my youth"—Visit to Bentley Church—Last search for torpid swallows—Early bank- martins—Strangers praise the 'Selborne'—The last letter to Marsham —Not author of letter against torpidity of swallows—Last entries in his <i>Journal</i> —Illness and death	252
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

Funeral directions—Will—Headstone and monument—J. R. Lowell's verses—Gilbert White and Darwin—A book of outdoor life—The testimony of two investigators—No portrait of Gilbert White—Love of his family for Selborne—Memorials at Selborne—The last of the family at Selborne—Early editions of the book—Some early notices—The cult of Gilbert White and Selborne—A present-day appreciation	272
---	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07649-4 - The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne: Volume 2

Edited by Rashleigh Holt-White

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

JOHN WHITE, father of Gilbert White	<i>Frontispiece</i>
From a miniature by Bernard Lens, in the possession of the author.	
SEAL (arms of Holt), which belonged to Gilbert White, and was invariably used by him for sealing his letters (1½ the size of the original)	<i>On Title page</i>
HENRY WHITE'S HOUSE AT FYFIELD	<i>To face page 4</i>
From a recent photograph.	
THOMAS HOLT-WHITE, nephew of Gilbert White	„ „ 16
From an oil painting in the possession of the author. He notes on the margin of Letter V. to Pennant, in his copy of the 'Selborne,' that "these calculations ['a state of the Parish of Selborne taken Oct. 4, 1788'] were drawn by me out of the Selborne Registers; and very many of the suggestions for the Work came from my Father [Thomas White]."	
THE OLD PARLOUR AT "THE WAKES"	„ „ 28
From a recent photograph. This room is quite unaltered since Gilbert White's time.	
"THE WAKES," Selborne: garden front	„ „ 50
From an engraving in the third (4to) edition of the 'Selborne,' 1813. The two windows on the left of the picture are those of the "great parlour" built in 1777-8 by Gilbert White.	
MRS. SNOOKE'S HOUSE AT RINGMER IN 1783	<i>On page 61</i>
From an engraving in the 'Reliquary' (by permission of Messrs. Bemrose and Sons).	
MARY (MOLLY) WHITE, ætat 20	<i>To face page 96</i>
From an oil painting by W. M. Metz, in the possession of the author.	
HENRY WHITE, Gilbert White's youngest brother	„ „ 138
From a drawing in the possession of John Edward White, Esq.	
BAROMETER, which belonged to Gilbert White; now in the possession of Mrs. John White	<i>On page 173</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07649-4 - The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne: Volume 2

Edited by Rashleigh Holt-White

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ix

THE GARDEN AND PARK OF "THE WAKES," Selborne, looking towards the Hanger	<i>To face page</i>	188
From a recent painting by Edith Margaret Green.		
"THE WAKES," Selborne, from the village street	„ „	204
From a photograph by the late Professor Thomas Bell.		
BENJAMIN WHITE, brother of Gilbert White	„ „	232
From a miniature in the possession of Mrs. John White.		
SELBORNE FROM THE COMMON ABOVE THE HANGER	„ „	258
From a recent photograph by Holliday and Co., Alton.		
THE LAST PAGE OF THE NATURALIST'S JOURNAL; June 9th-15th, 1793	„ „	270
THE GRAVE OF GILBERT WHITE in Selborne churchyard	„ „	274
From a recent photograph.		
EXTRACT FROM THE PARTICULARS OF SALE of "the Sel- borne Estate, Hants, which will be sold by auction by Mr. George Robins at the Auction Mart, London, on Tuesday, July 25th, 1840, at 12 o'clock. In four lots"	„ „	282
THE "GRINDSTONE OAK," in the Holt Forest, near Farn- ham	<i>On page</i>	289
From an engraving in Bennett's edition of the 'Selborne,' 1837.		
PEDIGREE of the White family	<i>To face page</i>	300