

Lange and McLeish (eds.):

Eclipse & Revelation: Total Solar Eclipses in Science, History, Literature, and the Arts

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Two questions guide this seven-year project: First, how can we approach the phenomenon, representation, and interpretation of total solar eclipses? Second, how can we heal the historical divide that separates the natural sciences from the humanities, arts, history, and theology? This volume presents Tom McLeish's and Henrike Lange's answer to both questions: They invited colleagues to reflect with them on these matters between the two Great American Eclipses of 2017 and 2024. The result is an exciting look behind the scenes – into labs, archives, museums, studies, around fieldwork in astronomy, meteorology, animal behaviour, and ecophysiology, in four sections: "Cosmos," "History and Religion," "Arts and Literature," "Animals, Weather, Environment." All contributions have been commented upon by the editors and the team multiple times. Carefully prepared for readers from all backgrounds, each expert's chapter invites us to imagine a liberated mode of discovery, perception, creativity, and knowledge-production across the traditional academic divisions. A uniquely prismatic representation of total solar eclipses emerges, itself rising to a model of communal thinking, together, across disciplinary borders.

Framing chapters by Lange and McLeish lay out their groundbreaking interdisciplinary work and collaboration in the sciences, natural philosophy, and the arts and humanities. This book is Tom McLeish's final project and scholarly testament. Dedicated to him and to astrophysicist Jay M. Pasachoff (contributing author of a chapter about the solar corona, also Pasachoff's final piece of writing), the volume is a friendly companion to the chase of knowledge, encouraging its readers to embark upon their own interdisciplinary journey of discovery.

The Editors: Henrike Christiane Lange (Associate Professor of History of Art and Italian Studies, University of California, Berkeley) and Tom McLeish FRS (Professor Emeritus of Natural Philosophy, University of York).

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