

Elizabeth McKellar

*Landscapes of London: The City, the Country, and the Suburbs, 1660–1840*

Yale University Press, 2013

*Landscapes of London* by Elizabeth McKellar presents an intricate and inclusive history of the capital city's expanding suburban periphery from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries. Drawing from a very impressive array of visual and textual sources, it examines the largely unexplored histories of the preliminaries of the onslaught of nineteenth century suburbanization. The book investigates not only the well documented ex-urban estates of the upper classes but also much wider breadth of classes that visited, inhabited, or aspired to inhabit the leafy outskirts of the expanding metropolis. In this McKellar demonstrates how London's various landscape habits and practices over three centuries informed the concepts and forms codified in the nineteenth century speculative suburb in Britain and beyond. McKellar accomplishes this tour de force by setting forth two essential components of imaginative and lived London, what she calls "Paper Landscapes" covering maps, painting, and texts, and "Inhabited Landscapes," case studies of particular sites that attracted London's residents not just for pleasure but also essential economics and mobility. The book presents an unexpected set of geographies in which this re-conception of the city periphery took place: the well known example of Regent's Park but also Sadler Wells, Hempstead and Enfield. McKellar's volume draws upon an exemplary interdisciplinary set of viewpoints to expand the conception of historical research on landscapes as urban phenomena. The work is spectacularly illustrated and cogently argued, staking out a challenging and deep conception of the landscape as both metaphor and product of material culture relevant to a specific time and place.

2017 Award Committee:

Louise Mozingo, Chair

Susan Herrington

Elizabeth Kryder-Reid