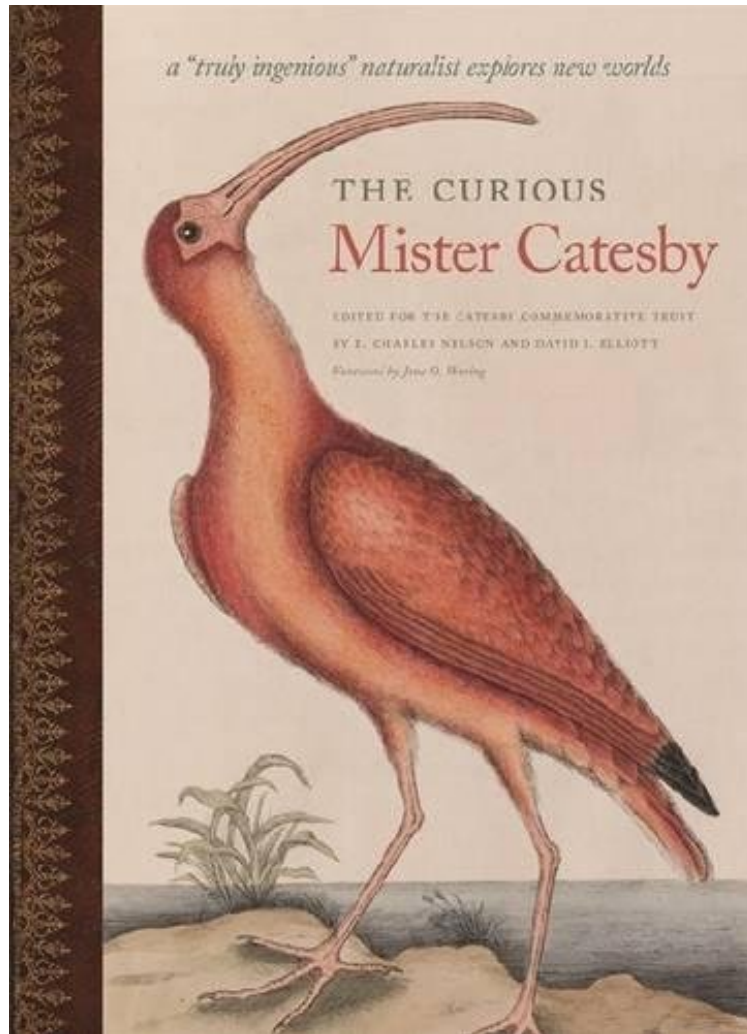


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The Curious Mister Catesby: A "Truly Ingenious" Naturalist Explores New Worlds (Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book Ser.)

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of time and probably forever, his work both artistically and scientifically stands alone. Can't wait to see the DVD.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Special TreasureBy Worth HobbsIt is a fantastic book, well written, and a great documentary re. Mr. Catesby and other naturalists. I shall treasure my copy.Elizabeth Hobbs0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy BrowncattyGood, fast service.

In 1712, English naturalist Mark Catesby (1683-1749) crossed the Atlantic to Virginia. After a seven-year stay, he returned to England with paintings of plants and animals he had studied. They sufficiently impressed other naturalists that in 1722 several Fellows of the Royal Society sponsored his return to North America. There Catesby cataloged the flora and fauna of the Carolinas and the Bahamas by gathering seeds and specimens, compiling notes, and making watercolor sketches. Going home to England after five years, he began the twenty-year task of writing, etching, and publishing his monumental *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*. Mark Catesby was a man of exceptional courage and determination combined with insatiable curiosity and multiple talents. Nevertheless no portrait of him is known. The international contributors to this volume review Catesby's biography alongside the historical and scientific significance of his work. Ultimately, this lavishly illustrated volume advances knowledge of Catesby's explorations, collections, artwork, and publications in order to reassess his importance within the pantheon of early naturalists. Contributors: Kraig Adler, Aaron M. Bauer, Janet Browne, David J. Elliott, W. Hardy Eshbaugh, Kay Etheridge, Stephen A. Harris, Valerie Herbert, Suzanne Linder Hurley, C. E. Jarvis, Shepard Krech III, Mark Laird, Henrietta McBurney, Judith Magee, Sarah Meacham, Cynthia P. Neal, Charles Nelson, Leslie K. Overstreet, Florence F. J. M. Pieters, Ghilleen T. Prance, Diana Preston, Michael Preston, Karen Reeds, James L. Reveal, Robert Robertson, Marcus B. Simpson, Jr.

Mark Catesby, the English naturalist and artist, as well as his considerable accomplishments, is given new life in this well-written, multi-authored account. Emphasis is placed on Catesby's travels in North America that led to his monumental volumes on the flora and fauna of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahamas. The book is an important addition to the library of the history of natural history of colonial America. (William D. Anderson Jr., Professor of Marine Biology, Grice Marine Biological Laboratory, College of Charleston) *The Curious Mister Catesby* is an absorbing blend of early colonial history in the American Southeast and the Bahamas, with the rich fauna and flora the settlers freshly contained. Catesby emerges as one of the first true naturalists of the New World. (Edward O. Wilson, University Professor Emeritus of Entomology, Harvard University) A landmark book filled with introspective and concise essays, each developed with a richness of detail, revealing the absorbing portrait of a self-taught artist from Suffolk who had an insatiable curiosity about nature. Wonderfully readable, this classic is an engaging introduction to Catesby's timeless illustrations and to his keen observation of the natural world. Like an investigation by forensic scientists the contemplative and thorough scholarship of these authors reveals new insight into Catesby, his journeys, his peers, and the inexhaustible pursuit of botanical and zoological specimens in an eighteenth-century world. (Marian Hill, former president of the Garden Club of America) This comprehensive, lavishly illustrated work . . . will stand for many years as the best critical analysis of [Catesby's] work, and of the groundbreaking natural science that his curiosity inspired. (Linda Lear *Nature*) This remarkable commemorative publication represents the perspectives of two dozen learned contributors representative of a broad spectrum of disciplines, including historians, botanists, zoologists, ornithologists, anthropologists, landscape architects, fine arts authorities, museum specialists and associated fields. Each of the 22 chapters is an essay revealing another of the many layers of Catesby's genius. (Ben MCC. Moise *The Post and Courier*) As if one of Catesby's ivory-billed woodpeckers swooped down before your eyes, this work draws the once-mysterious Catesby out of the shadows and, fittingly, displays him in vibrant living color. (Robert Salvo *Charleston Mercury*) *The Curious Mr. Catesby* is important for the history of natural history as it offers so much to know and understand about this interesting man and his contributions to natural history. (Charles Tancin *Huntia*) For the book's top-notch construction and amazing array of colored maps and illustrations, The University of Georgia Press should be commended, reminding us why the physical book is so worthy of praise. This book should find a deserved place on the shelf of both general and academic readers. (Vaughn Scribner *The Journal for Southern Literature*) About the Author E. CHARLES NELSON is a botanist who served for two decades as a horticultural taxonomist at the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, Dublin. He served as Honorary Editor of *Archives of Natural History* (1999-2012) and has written or edited, singly or collaboratively, nearly forty books. His most recent title is *Shadow among Splendours: Lady Charlotte Wheeler-Cuffes Adventures among the Flowers of Burma, 1897-1921*. DAVID J. ELLIOT is founder, chairman, and now Honorary Trustee of the Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy. He has been executive director of the Catesby Commemorative Trust since 2002.