

Les Singularités de la nature

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Gerhardt Stenger

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Voltaire

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In 1768 Voltaire published a collection of 38 short chapters (plus an introduction) on various aspects of the natural world under the title *Les Singularités de la nature*. The scope of the subjects tackled in this brochure is testament to Voltaire's wide-ranging interest in the then-emerging field of natural science. From geology to biology, the author applies his mind to the big questions of the day, conducts his own experiments on slugs and snails, and takes issue with Buffon, de Maillet and others on the topic of the origin of fossils and the formation of mountains. In an introductory essay, 'Voltaire "naturaliste"', editor Gerhardt Stenger re-evaluates Voltaire's place in the great scientific debates of his time.

Contributors: Patricia Crépin-Obert, Jean Mayer, Gerhardt Stenger

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Annexe 2: Extraits de *Réflexions sur une brochure intitulée Les Singularités de la nature*, par M. de Voltaire [par Georges Wartel]

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