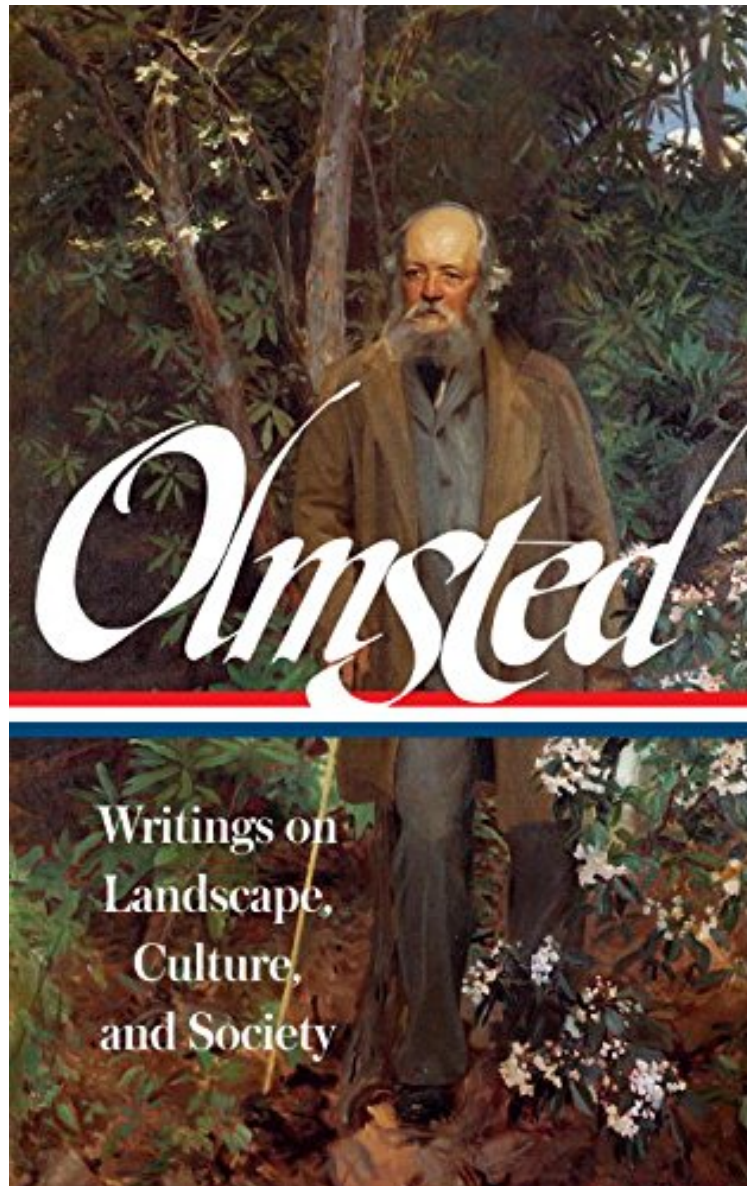


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Frederick Law Olmsted: Writings on Landscape, Culture, and Society: (Library of America #270)

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Frederick Law Olmsted : Frederick Law Olmsted: Writings on Landscape, Culture, and Society: (Library of America #270) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Frederick Law Olmsted: Writings on Landscape, Culture, and Society: (Library of America #270):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A work of geniusBy JackWhile written in the style of mid-19th Century discourse, it is a work of genius, revealing the author's amazing breadth of concerns for humanity.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. OlmsteadBy David EngleA rich collection of Olmsteadian thinking!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Inspiration for Earth Day's goal of planting treesBy Robert C RossRead at the New York Society Library.The Earth Day Movement committed us to plant 7.8 billion trees for the Earth by 2020. As a strong believer in supporting the health of our planet, I am committed to help in the effort.That takes research, and a great place to start is with the writings of Frederick Law Olmsted.Central Park gave Olmsted his start, but there were many other projects. The National Association for Olmsted Parks has created a map showing the thousands of projects designed by the Olmsted family over a century-long span. By the early 1880s he had already designed Manhattans Riverside Park, Brooklyns Prospect Park, Niagara Falls State Park, Chicagos South Park system, and Detroit's Belle Isle. Other commissions included numerous college campuses such as Cornell University, University of Berkeley's Piedmont Avenue, and the University of Maine, the management of the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove, and the grounds of the U.S. Capitol.Olmsted was devoted to trees all of his life. Olmsted argued that both the air purifying value and the decorative motive of planting trees were subordinate to its paramount object: to offer a restorative, often unconscious, solace and comfort to town-strained minds. See Frederick Law Olmsted: The Passion of a Public Artist (American Social Experience Series) by Melvin Kalfus.This extract from one of the papers in this fascinating collection makes the point even more clearly:There is an association between scenes and objects such as we are apt to call simple and natural, and such as touch us so quietly that we are hardly conscious of them.But this is to be said and said sadly: As a result of the massing of population in cities; of the centering of communication in cities; of the increasing resort to cities for recreation; of the tendency of fashions to rise in and go out from the wealthy class in cities; of the prominence given by the press to the latest matters of interest to the rich and the fashion-setting classes, and of the natural assumption that people of great wealth get that for themselves that is most enjoyable as a result of all this the population of our country is being rapidly educated to look for the gratification of taste, to find beauty, and to respect art, in forms not of the simple and natural class; in forms not to be used by the mass domestically, but only as a holiday and costly luxury, and with deference to men standing as a class apart from the mass.All this tends to our impoverishment through the obscuration, supercession and dissipation of tastes which, under our older national habits, and especially under our older village habits, were productive of a great deal of happiness, and a most important source of national wealth.And I submit that, both in the planting of village streets and in the planting of town parks, this tendency is rather to be resisted by sanitarians than to be enthusiastically pursued.***There are many other treasures here.Robert C. RossApril 2016

The biggest and best single-volume collection ever published of the fascinating and wide-ranging writings of a vitally important nineteenth century cultural figure whose work continues to shape our world today. Seaman, farmer, abolitionist, journalist, administrator, reformer, conservationist, and without question Americas foremost landscape architect and urban planner, Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) was a man of unusually diverse talents and interests, and the arc of his life and writings traces the most significant developments of nineteenth century American history. As this volume reveals, the wide-ranging endeavors Olmsted was involved incofounding The Nation magazine, advocating against slavery, serving as executive secretary to the United States Sanitary Commission (precursor to the Red Cross) during the Civil War, championing the preservation of Americas great wild places at Yosemite and Yellowstoneemerged from his steadfast commitment to what he called communitiveness, the impulse to serve the needs of ones fellow citizens. This philosophy had its ultimate expression in his brilliant designs for some of the countrys most beloved public spaces: New Yorks Central Park, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Bostons Emerald Necklace, the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, garden suburbs like Chicagos Riverside, parkways (a term he invented) and college campuses, the White City of the 1893 Worlds Columbian Exposition, and many others. Gathering almost 100 original letters, newspaper dispatches, travel sketches, essays, editorials, design proposals, official reports, reflections on aesthetics, and autobiographical reminiscences, this deluxe Library of America volume is profusely illustrated with a 32-page color portfolio of Olmsteds design sketches, architectural plans, and contemporary photographs. It also includes detailed explanatory notes and a chronology of Olmsteds life and design projects.

About the AuthorCharles Beveridge, editor, is the editor of the seven-volume edition of The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted (Johns Hopkins University Press, 10 vols. to date, 1977) and the author of Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape (Rizzoli, 2005).