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## The Island Garden: England's Language of Nation from Gildas to Marvell (Paperback)

By Lynn Staley

University of Notre Dame Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. For centuries England's writers used the metaphor of their country as an island garden to engage in a self-conscious debate about national identity. In *The Island Garden: England's Language of Nation from Gildas to Marvell*, Lynn Staley suggests that the trope of Britain as an island garden catalyzed two crucial historical perspectives and thus analytic modes: as isolated and vulnerable, England stood in a potentially hostile relation to the world outside its encircling sea; as semi-enclosed and permeable, it also accepted recuperative relationships with those who moved across its boundaries. Identifying the concept of enclosure as key to Britain's language of place, Staley traces the shifting meanings of this concept in medieval and early modern histories, treatises, and poems. Beginning with Gildas in the sixth century, Staley maintains that the metaphor of England as the island garden was complicated, first, by Bede in the eighth century and later by historians, polemicists, and antiquarians. It allowed them to debate the nature of England's identity in language whose point might be subversive but that was beyond royal retribution. During the reign...



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