

Catherine Whitwell

Astronomy & Creative Writing

Learning Leaflet: Women in Science

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Catherine Whitwell, *An Astronomical Catechism* (London, 1818)

Exhibit: Galileo's World | Gallery: The Sky at Night | No.: 19

Download learning leaflets at lynx-open-ed.org; read more in the Exhibit Guide (iBook Store).

Why write science in a creative format?



Catherine Whitwell: Astronomy & Creative Writing

This dialogue between a mother and her daughter offers a delightful and engaging introduction to the night sky.

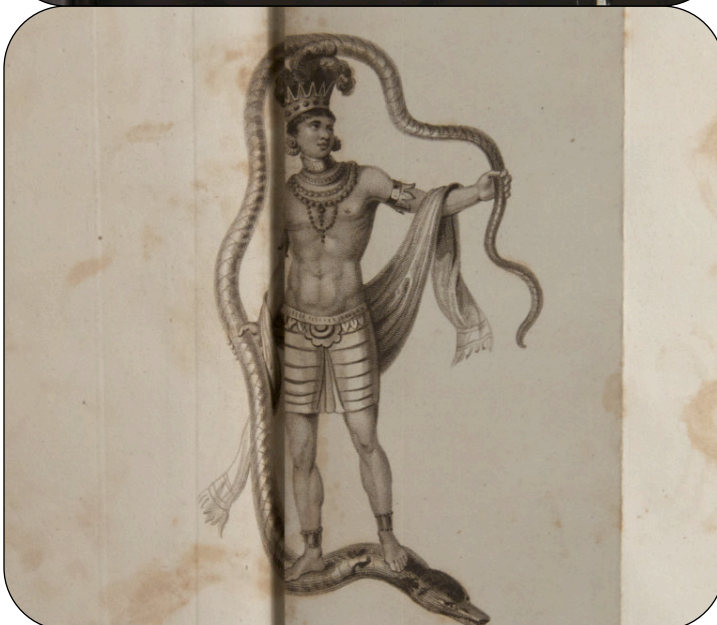
It contains 23 engraved plates drawn by Whitwell herself, including four hand-colored folding plates. One of the plates depicts the constellations of Corvus the Crow, Crater the Cup and Hydra the Water Snake.


Another plate conveys a dramatic impression of the Full Moon at night, shown against a striking black background.

Whitwell, who also wrote on economics and education, taught at Robert Owen's school at New Lanark, Scotland, in the 1820's. Owen later came to America and founded a utopian socialist colony in Indiana called New Harmony.

How would you go about teaching astronomy?

Kerry Magruder and Brent Purkiple




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