

About This Edition

This edition contains the writings of Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859) as they were published in English translations during his lifetime—complemented by the first translation of his earliest article. These writings consist of his nonbook publications, that is, articles, essays, letters, excerpts of his books as well as other smaller pieces included in journals, newspapers, and the works of other authors or editors. The texts are unabridged and unaltered reproductions of the historical versions as they appeared—most in the United Kingdom and the United States—but also, for instance, in Australia, the Virgin Islands, New Zealand, India, South Africa, and Panama. These texts thus show his influence in the English-speaking world during the times of Jefferson, Darwin, and Thoreau, contributing to the history of scientific thought. The titles used are those of the English publications. Texts that appeared without a title have been given an editorial title in brackets. The order of the texts follows the chronology of the respective original publications in German or French (see Sources).

The present volume includes Part I of the writings (1789–1824); a second volume, published simultaneously, contains Part II of the writings (1825–1859). The contents of Part II are included herewith for the reader's convenience.

