

“The World of Nature”

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Abstract

As especially demonstrated by the evolution of the British leisure sector, Britons made such variances work for rather than against them. Ultimately, the development of London and British American urban leisure sectors were inverse-but-reciprocal processes: Londoners hoped to harness their rural hinterlands to make their city a healthier place to live, while British American urbanites relied upon their “healthy and delightful climate” to infuse their cities with an air of metropolitan progress. Commercial leisure activities necessarily defined this process, as Britons utilized a vast swathe of public spaces—taverns, coffeehouses, tea gardens, orchards, promenades, commercial pleasure gardens, and mineral spring spas—to restructure their urban-rural identities. Londoners relied upon many of their green leisure spaces to escape the gray confines of the city, while colonial city dwellers employed those same sorts of spaces to enmesh themselves in urban life.