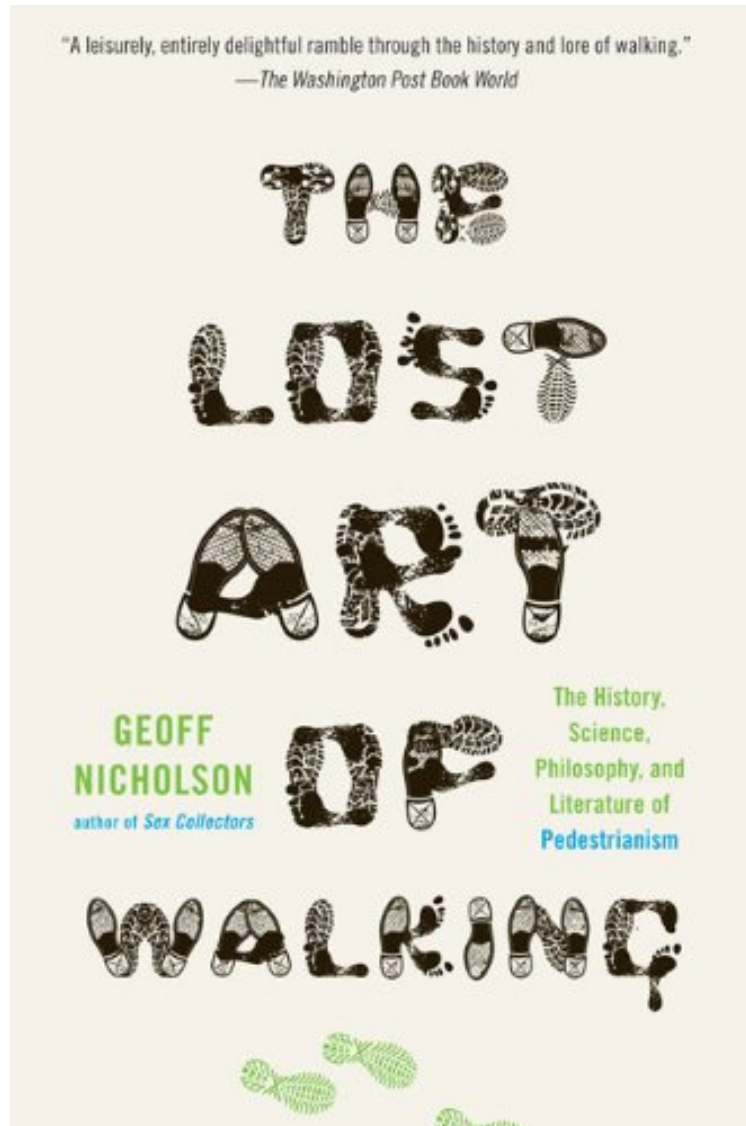


# The Lost Art of Walking: The History, Science, and Literature of Pedestrianism

Geoff Nicholson

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#839732 in Books Riverhead Trade 2009-11-03 2009-11-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.24 x .71 x 5.481, .54 #File Name: 1594484031288 pages | File size: 17.Mb

**Geoff Nicholson : The Lost Art of Walking: The History, Science, and Literature of Pedestrianism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost Art of Walking: The History, Science, and Literature of Pedestrianism:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. everything relating to walkingBy lindapanzoI really enjoyed this look at everything relating to walking, subtitled "the history, science, and literature of pedestrianism." Besides talking

about his own walks, and how he broke his arm while walking near his L.A. home, the author looks at walking in fiction, walking in the movies, walking in music. You get the picture. Walking in L.A., walking in New York City, and walking in London are also covered. Beyond that, almost any walking topic you can imagine, such as walking on the moon or labyrinth walking, are also touched on. This may all sound rather dull but it isn't. Nicholson has a lively writing style, though he does get bogged down in a few places. This book is quite fun. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice read By Craig S. Mankowski Better than expected. Haha it was interesting and funny. 10 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Reads like a ride in a blender By Dr AI ordered this book sight unseen after reading a favorable review in one of my favorite magazines The Economist. I have always been a huge fan of walking - seeing the world from 5+ feet, moving on at a pace that allows one to engage and disengage at will. What I ordered this book I hoped to see something on physiology, psychology or philosophy of walking. Instead, this book treats one to a high-speed flow of consciousness - any which thought that flits into the author's mind as he walks goes straight onto the page. The man has an active mind, and the book runs at a pace of a noisy blender. Now that I had the book in hand, I looked at the dust cover blurbs: "...demented charm" - Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times "...not for the faint of heart" - Stephanie Zacharek, Salon. Wow! When a major reviewer calls a writer demented and the publisher puts that on the back of the book, that is bizarre, to say the least. I am sure the author has his audience, and there will be people who'll love this book. Like chewing gum or watching game shows, it will take you away from your life and into another reality. My copy, however, is going right back to .

How we walk, where we walk, why we walk tells the world who and what we are. Whether it's once a day to the car, or for long weekend hikes, or as competition, or as art, walking is a profoundly universal aspect of what makes us humans, social creatures, and engaged with the world. Cultural commentator, Whitbread Prize winner, and author of Sex Collectors Geoff Nicholson offers his fascinating, definitive, and personal ruminations on the literature, science, philosophy, art, and history of walking. Nicholson finds people who walk only at night, or naked, or in the shape of a cross or a circle, or for thousands of miles at a time, in costume, for causes, or for no reason whatsoever. He examines the history and traditions of walking and its role as inspiration to artists, musicians, and writers like Bob Dylan, Charles Dickens, and Buster Keaton. In The Lost Art of Walking, he brings curiosity, imagination, and genuine insight to a subject that often strides, shuffles, struts, or lopes right by us.

From Publishers Weekly Setting foot in a street makes it yours in a way that driving down it never does, says Nicholson (Sex Collectors), and mundane though walking may be, Nicholson tells us in this leisurely, charmingly obsessive literary stroll, pedestrianism is not without drama, from pratfalls like the one in which he broke his arm on an innocuous Hollywood Hills street to getting lost in the desert of western Australia. Walks, he reminds us, have inspired writers from Thoreau and Emerson to Dickens and Joyce, as well as musicians from Fats Domino to Aerosmith. Nicholson guides readers from the streets of L.A. where walkers are invariably regarded with suspicion to New York City and London. He considers the history of eccentric walkers like the competitive pedestrian Capt. Robert Barclay Allardice, whose early 19th-century walking feats gave him the reputation of a show-off. From street photographers to perfect walk the first at the Poles, the first on the moon and walks that never happened, Nicholson's genial exploration of this most ordinary, ubiquitous activity is lively and entertaining. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A leisurely, entirely delightful ramble through the history and lore of walking." -"Washington Post Book ""This book is no mere miscellany, but the story of a man's love affair with the oldest means of locomotion: one foot in front of the other..." -"The Economist" "Perfect for the armchair walker." -"The New York Times Book " "Anyone who enjoys excellent nonfiction should enjoy." -"Chicago Sun-Times"?A leisurely, entirely delightful ramble through the history and lore of walking.??"Washington Post Book ""This book is no mere miscellany, but the story of a man's love affair with the oldest means of locomotion: one foot in front of the other?"The Economist" ?Perfect for the armchair walker.??"The New York Times Book " ?Anyone who enjoys excellent nonfiction should enjoy.??"Chicago Sun-Times" About the Author Geoff Nicholson is the author of twenty books, including Sex Collectors, Hunters and Gatherers, The Food Chain, and Bleeding London, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize. He divides his time between Los Angeles and London.