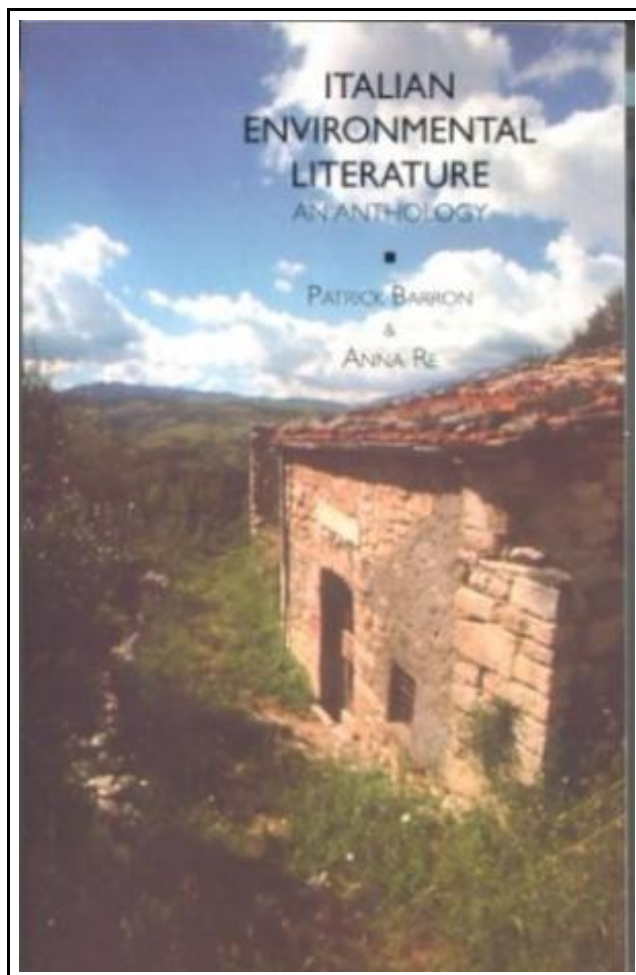


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Itasca Press, United States, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 212 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Italian Environmental Literature brings together, for the first time - in Italy or for an English-speaking audience - a collection of over 40 authors from the deep and broad tradition of Italian environmental writing. Poetry and prose, the essay, the political and economic tract, and the new visual arts are all represented in this collection. Environmental thought and writing in America have long profited from their dialogue with Italy's literature of the earth. From a certain perspective, the modern environmental movement might even be said to have begun in Italy. It was in this ancient land and culture, after all, while serving as Abraham Lincoln's ambassador, that George Perkins Marsh wrote his 1864 masterpiece *Man and Nature*. His book, which Lewis Mumford has characterized as the fountainhead of the conservation movement, was the first to argue in a scientifically informed way that human actions could inflict significant, long-lasting damage on natural systems. Indeed, one of the gifts Italy offers to American writers and thinkers has always been a deeper and more complex historical vision. In exploring the dialogue of nature and culture, Italian authors frequently look back, not only to past writers such as Lucretius and Virgil, but also to the mythic, pastoral, and agricultural history of the peninsula. The reverberant, mythic aspect of the past in Italian literature is especially striking in the poetry included here (and in many instances translated so beautifully by Patrick Barron). Not just the animals, but also the trees, the rain, the seasons, the sky, death, rivers, and the poets' own bodies, become conduits for ancient and mysterious powers of the earth. Natural phenomena for these poets can...

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