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Twilight of the Literary: Figures of Thought in the Age of Print

By Terry Cochran

Harvard University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 304 pages. Dimensions: 8.7in. x 5.7in. x 1.0in. In Western thought, the modern period signals a break with stagnant social formations, the advent of a new rationalism, and the emergence of a truly secular order, all in the context of an overarching globalization. In *The Twilight of the Literary*, Terry Cochran links these developments with the rise of the book as the dominant medium for recording, preserving, and disseminating thought. Consequently, his book explores the role that language plays in elaborating modern self-understanding. It delves into what Cochran calls the figures of thought that have been an essential component of modern consciousness in the age of print technology--and questions the relevance of this print-bound thinking in a world where print no longer dominates. Cochran begins by examining major efforts of the eighteenth century that proved decisive for modern conceptions of history, knowledge, and print. After tracing late medieval formulations of vernacular language that proved crucial to print, he analyzes the figures of thought in print culture as they proceed from the idea of the collective spirit (the people), an elaboration of modern history. Cochran reconsiders basic texts that, in his analysis, reveal the underpinnings of...



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