



## First We Read, Then We Write: Emerson on the Creative Process

By Robert D. Richardson

University of Iowa Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, First We Read, Then We Write: Emerson on the Creative Process, Robert D. Richardson, Writing was the central passion of Emerson's life. While his thoughts on the craft are well developed in *The Poet*, *The American Scholar*, *Nature*, *Goethe*, and *Persian Poetry*, less well known are the many pages in his private journals devoted to the relationship between writing and reading. Here, for the first time, is the Concord Sage's energetic, exuberant, and unconventional advice on the idea of writing, focused and distilled by the preeminent Emerson biographer at work today. Emerson advised that one way to write is to throw your body at the mark when your arrows are spent. *First We Read, Then We Write* contains numerous such surprises: *every word we speak is million-faced* to *talent alone cannot make a writer* but it is no mere collection of aphorisms and exhortations. Instead, in Robert Richardson's hands, the biographical and historical context in which Emerson worked becomes clear. Emerson's advice grew from his personal experience; in practically every moment of his adult life he was either preparing to write, trying to write, or writing. Richardson shows us an Emerson...



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