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18世紀の博物学とルソーの植物採集

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Natural History in the 18th century and Roussseau's herbalizing

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The 18th century is the age of Natural History. Of course Natural History doesn't appear in the 18th century for the first time, but it becomes a kind of 'science' in the 18th century. According to Michel Foucault's "*Les mots et les choses -- une archéologie des sciences humaines*" the space of empiricity is consisted by distribution to the ordered table of identities and differences in the age of classic, i.e. the Baroque era. And Foucault characterizes the 'episteme' in this age by 'mathesis' and 'taxinomia', and says that Naturalists in the 18th century classified the nature through the structure or organization and named them by neutralized words without collections of documents and signs.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau was taught the basics of botany by Jean-Antoine d'Ivernois when he lived in Switzerland for escape and he often went to herbalize (discover and collect plants) with his friends. After that he enjoyed herbalizing all his life. But before learning the botany from d'Ivernois Rousseau already writes about the Natural History in "*Emil*" as this; 'I find it hard to understand ··· how he can tear himself from the study of the wealth which lies before his eyes and beneath his feet. Is there anyone with an interest in agriculture, who does not want to know the special products of the district through which he is passing, and their method of cultivation? Is there anyone with a taste for natural history, who can pass a piece of ground without examining it, a rock without breaking off a piece of it, hills without looking for plants, and stones without seeking for fossils?'

Rousseau didn't herbalize plants as a scientist. He thought herbalizing as an amusement, fantasy, occasionally madness. But to find amusement in seeing plants is exactly established by the 18th century, as Foucault says that 'observer, c'est donc se contenter de voir' (observation, it is to be satisfied only to see).