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Reading the World: Encyclopedic Writing in the Scholastic Age

Mary Franklin-Brown
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Mary Franklin-Brown : Reading the World: Encyclopedic Writing in the Scholastic Age before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reading the World: Encyclopedic Writing in the Scholastic Age:

The thirteenth century saw such a proliferation of new encyclopedic texts that more than one scholar has called it the century of the encyclopedias. Variouslly referred to as a speculum, thesaurus, or imago mundi the term encyclopedi

was not commonly applied to such books until the eighteenth century these texts were organized in such a way that a reader could easily locate a collection of authoritative statements on any given topic. Because they reproduced, rather than simply summarized, parts of prior texts, these compilations became libraries in miniature.

It is a powerfully provocative, strikingly well-written book, which is exciting in a multitude of intellectually distinguished directions.