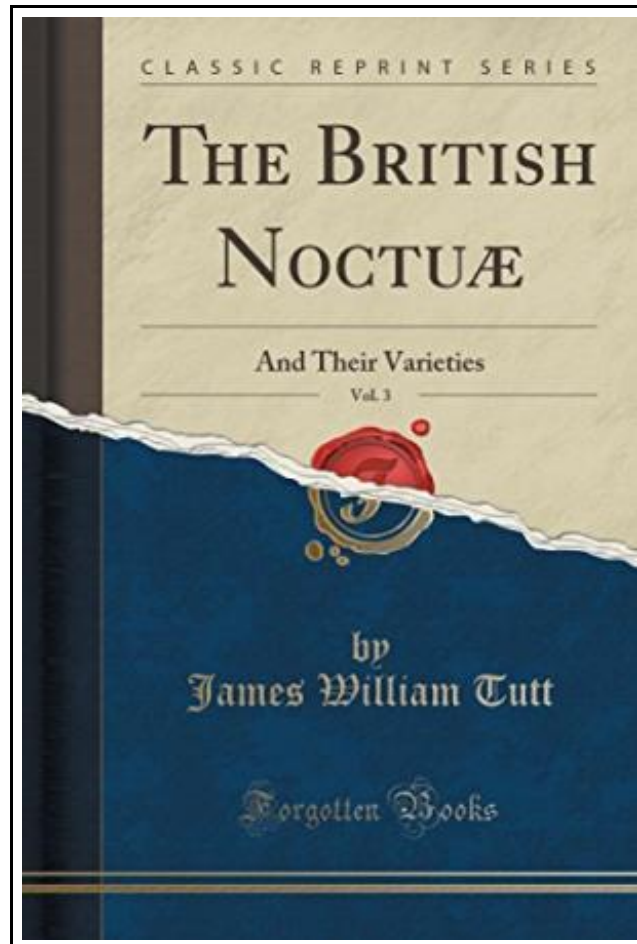


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(Elena McLaughlin)

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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The British Noctuae, Vol. 3: And Their Varieties It must have been noticed by those lepidopterists who have read the previous volumes of this work that I have repeatedly referred to species as being sexually dimorphic, in other words, that certain sexes are to be readily distinguished by some characteristic trait which is generally evident even on a superficial examination. Throughout the animal kingdom, there are a large number of species, the sex of which can be determined readily, apart from the sexual organs, by some external structure or conformation which strikes the most casual observer. On the other hand, there are species which have no outward visible signs of their sex, which can be determined alone by the special sexual organs with which most animals are provided. Lepidoptera are not behind-hand in this respect, and there are many external characters by means of one or more of which the sexes may be definitely distinguished without the examination of the sexual organs. These external signs of sex have been termed secondary sexual characters. To these secondary sexual characters the term antigeny is applied by Scudder, and comprises all those accessory peculiarities of either sex which are not directly connected with generation. Of these characters in lepidoptera we find a large variety. In fact, in some species or other almost any portion of the body may be so modified as to become such, and thus we find the antennae, legs, thoracic crests, abdominal crests, the wings as a whole, the nervures, etc., all modified in particular species so as to become secondary sexual characters, whilst wing markings and colour are also in many instances requisitioned for...

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