

*Collingwood Telling the Story of  
the Idea of Nature*

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ABSTRACT. Collingwood's "The Idea of Nature", continuously in publication since 1945, is a relatively unknown but highly original piece of Collingwoodiana and potentially a centrepiece in story in science teaching. In it Collingwood demonstrates his picture of history, published shortly afterward as "The Idea of History" as well as his view of the relationship between history, philosophy and natural science, especially physics. I shall describe how I am attempting to edit it for a new publication and what new materials will potentially be added to it from as yet unpublished manuscripts. I will also try to say why I think the picture Collingwood offers of the phases through which the idea of nature has gone since Thales is important and relevant to science teaching today.