From the 2014 referendum on Scottish independence to this year's vote on Britain's exit from the European Union ("Brexit," in the press), the question of what Britain is--and will be--has been in the news. This talk explores that question from the perspective of the seventeenth century sciences of the land--natural history and antiquarian studies, which, in tracing the human and natural history of Britain, sought to hold up a mirror that showed Britons themselves. Linking themselves together through correspondence and travel, naturalists in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland collectively sourced and funded their work, making innovative use of printed instruments such as subscription proposals and questionnaires. They collected and shared local particulars--place names, agricultural practices, plant specimens, sketches of ancient ruins--as a means of constructing "Britain" as an economic and political union and an identity grounded in shared languages and landscapes. Though their portraits of "Britain" refused to cohere, they created a shared framework for collaboration and debate, one that defied easy distinctions between print and scribal cultures.