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Queen Victoria's central importance to the era defined by her reign is self-evident, and yet it has been surprisingly overlooked in the study of Victorian culture. This collection of essays goes beyond the facts of biography and official history to explore the diverse and sometimes conflicting meanings she held for her subjects around the world and even for those outside her empire, who made of her a many-faceted icon serving their social and economic needs. In her paradoxical position as neither consort nor king, she baffled expectations throughout her reign. She was a model of wifely decorum and solid middle-class values, but she also became the focus of anxieties about powerful women, and – increasingly – of anger about Britain's imperial aims. Each essay analyzes a different aspect of this complex and fascinating figure. Contributors include noted scholars in the fields of literature, cultural studies, art history, and women's studies.

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Nineteenth-century British literature and culture have been rich fields for interdisciplinary studies. Since the turn of the twentieth century, scholars and critics have tracked the intersections and tensions between Victorian literature and the visual arts, politics, social organization, economic life, technical innovations, scientific thought – in short, culture in its broadest sense. In recent years, theoretical challenges and historiographical shifts have unsettled the assumptions of previous scholarly syntheses and called into question the terms of older debates. Whereas the tendency in much past literary critical interpretation was to use the metaphor of culture as “background,” feminist, Foucauldian, and other analyses have employed more dynamic models that raise questions of power and of circulation. Such developments have reanimated the field.

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# REMAKING QUEEN VICTORIA

EDITED BY  
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study of nineteenth-century domestic life, under the working title *Victorian Home/Works: the English Domestic Imagination at Mid-Century*.

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