REPOSSESSING THE ROMANTIC PAST

New work on British Romanticism is often characterized as much by its conscious difference from preceding positions as it is by its approach to or choice of material. As a result, writing neglected or marginalized in one account will be restored to prominence in another, as we reconstruct the past as a history of the present. This collection of new essays takes as its starting point the wide-ranging work of Marilyn Butler on Romantic literature, and includes contributions by some of the most prominent scholars of Romanticism working today. The essays offer new perspectives on Maria Edgeworth, Coleridge, Austen, Scott, and others, showing that the openness of modern critical perceptions matches and reflects the diversity of the literature and culture of the Romantic period itself.

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