More than any other period of British literature, Romanticism is strongly identified with a single genre. Romantic poetry has been one of the most enduring, best-loved, most widely read, and most frequently studied genres for two centuries and remains no less so today. This Companion offers a comprehensive overview and interpretation of the poetry of the period in its literary and historical contexts. The essays consider its metrical, formal, and linguistic features; its relation to history; its influence on other genres; its reflections of empire and nationalism, both within and outside the British Isles; and the various implications of oral transmission and the rapid expansion of print culture and mass readership. Attention is given to the work of less well-known or recently rediscovered authors, alongside the achievements of some of the greatest poets in the English language: Wordsworth, Coleridge, Blake, Scott, Burns, Keats, Shelley, Byron, and Clare.

James Chandler is Director of the Franke Institute for the Humanities at the University of Chicago.

Maureen N. McLane is Lecturer in the Committee on Degrees in History and Literature at Harvard University.
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
BRITISH ROMANTIC POETRY

EDITED BY
JAMES CHANDLER and MAUREEN N. McLANE
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**JEFFREY N. COX**

2. Romantic poetry and antiquity

**NICK GROOM**

3. Romantic meter and form

**SUSAN STEWART**

4. Romantic poetry and the standardization of English

**ANDREW ELFENBEIN**

5. Thinking in verse

**SIMON JARVIS**

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ANDREW BENNETT is Professor of English at the University of Bristol. He has published widely on Romantic and post-Romantic literature, including three books with Cambridge University Press: *Keats, Narrative and Audience: The Posthumous Life of Writing* (1994), *Romantic Poets and the Culture of Posterity* (1999), and *Wordsworth Writing* (2007).


JEFFREY N. COX is Professor of English and of Comparative Literature and Humanities at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he is also the Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs. His work includes *Poetry and Politics in the Cockney School: Keats, Shelley, Hunt and Their Circle* (1998) and *In the Shadows of Romance: Romantic Tragic Drama in Germany, England, and France* (1987).

ADRIANA CRACIUN is Reader in Literature and Theory at Birkbeck, University of London. She is the author of *Fatal Women of Romanticism* (2003) and *British Women Writers and the French Revolution: Citizens of the World* (2005), and is currently writing a new book on multidisciplinary print culture and Arctic exploration, called *Northwest Passages*.

ANDREW ELFENBEIN is Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of English at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities; he is the author of *Byron and the Victorians* (1995) and *Romantic Genius: The Prehistory of a Homosexual Role* (1999); his *Romanticism and the Rise of English* is forthcoming.

TIM FULFORD is Professor of English at Nottingham Trent University. He is the author of many books on Romantic-period literature and culture, most recently *Romantic Indians* (2006) and *Literature, Science and Exploration* (2004). He is
currently editing Robert Southey’s letters and poems for the first Collected Edition. His collection of essays (co-edited with Kevin Hutchings), The Indian Atlantic, also published by Cambridge University Press, appeared in 2008.


Nick Groom is Professor in English at the University of Exeter (Cornwall Campus) and Director of the Centre for Literatures of Identity and Place. He has written widely on national identity and authenticity in literature and culture – most recently in The Union Jack (2007) – and his edition of Percy’s Reliques will be published shortly. He is currently writing a book on the cultural history of the British environment.


William Keach is Professor of English at Brown University. His most recent book is Arbitrary Power: Romanticism, Language, Politics (2004); previous works include Shelley’s Style (1984). He is currently working on determination and play in lyric poetry.

Celeste Langan is an Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of Romantic Vagrancy (Cambridge University Press, 1995, 2006) and several other essays on Romantic poetry. An essay on Scott’s Lay of the Last Minstrel led to her ongoing interest in media theory and media archaeology. Her current book project, Post-Napoleonism: Imagining Sovereignty after 1799, interrogates Napoleon as, among other things, a figure of mass mediation.


Ann Wierda Rowland teaches in the English department at the University of Kansas. She has published articles on Wordsworth, Scott, and the Romantic ballad revival, and is currently finishing a book on notions of childhood and Romantic literary culture.
CONTRIBUTORS

SUSAN STEWART is the author of Columbarium, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry in 2003, and the forthcoming Red Rover. Her prose works include On Longing, Poetry and the Fate of the Senses, and The Open Studio. She is a current Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, a former MacArthur Fellow and the Annan Professor of English at Princeton University.
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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| 1757 | William Blake born  
Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*  
Thomas Gray, “The Bard” |
| 1759 | Robert Burns born  
Mary Wollstonecraft born  
Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*  
Laurence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* (1759–67) |
| 1760 | Accession of George III  
James Macpherson’s Ossianic *Fragments* published |
| 1762 | Joanna Baillie born  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* and *Emile* |
| 1763 | Treaty of Paris ends Seven Years War  
Hugh Blair, *A Critical Dissertation on the Poems of Ossian, the Son of Fingal*  
Christopher Smart, *A Song to David*  
James Macpherson, *Temora* |
| 1764 | Ann Radcliffe (née Ward) born  
John Thelwall born  
Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* |
| 1765 | Thomas Percy, ed., *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*  
Oliver Goldsmith, *The Vicar of Wakefield* |
| 1766 | Hugh Blair, *Heads of the Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*  
Sterne dies  
Maria Edgeworth born |
| 1769 | Napoleon Bonaparte born  
Sir Joshua Reynolds, *Discourses on Art* |
| 1770 | Captain James Cook lands at Botany Bay  
Thomas Chatterton’s suicide |
**Chronology**

Ludwig van Beethoven born  
Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel born  
William Wordsworth born  

**1771**  
Walter Scott born  
Dorothy Wordsworth born  
James Beattie, *The Minstrel* (1771–4)  
Henry Mackenzie, *The Man of Feeling*  

**1772**  
Mansfield Decision denies a legal basis for slavery in England  

**1773**  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge born  
Anna Laetitia Barbauld, *Poems*  

**1774**  
Donaldson *v.* Becket reestablishes limits on copyright  

**1775**  
Accession of Louis XVI of France  
Robert Southey born  
Goldsmith dies  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*  

**1776**  
War begun with American colonies  
Jane Austen born  
Charles Lamb born  
Joseph Turner born  
Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The Rivals*  

**1777**  
American Declaration of Independence  
John Constable born  
David Hume dies  

**1778**  
Thomas Chatterton, “Rowley” Poems (posthumous)  
Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*  
Franco-American Alliance signed at the Second Continental Congress  
Britain declares war on France  
William Hazlitt born  
Rousseau dies  
Frances Burney, *Evelina*  

**1779**  
Britain declares war on Spain  
David Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*  
William Cowper and John Newton, *Olney Hymns*
chronology

1781  Friedrich Schiller, The Robbers
      Immanuel Kant, A Critique of Pure Reason

1782  Burney, Cecilia
      Edward Cowper, Poems
      Rousseau, Confessions

1783  American independence recognized at Peace of Versailles
      Blake, Poetical Sketches
      George Crabbe, The Village

1784  Pitt’s India Act restricts the East India Company’s autonomy
      James Leigh Hunt born
      Johnson dies
      Pierre Beaumarchais, The Marriage of Figaro
      Capt. James Cook, A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean
      Hannah More, The Bas Bleu; or, Conversation
      Charlotte Smith, Elegiac Sonnets
      Jacques-Louis David, The Oath of the Horatii

1785  Thomas de Quincey born
      Thomas Love Peacock born
      Cowper, The Task
      Thomas Warton appointed Laureate

1786  Burns, Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect published at
      Kilmarnock
      Mozart, The Marriage of Figaro

1787  Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade founded
      American Constitution signed
      James Johnson, The Scots Musical Museum (1787–1803, with
      anonymous contributions from Burns)

1788  George III’s first attack of insanity
      George Gordon (later Lord) Byron born
      More, Slavery, a Poem
      Ann Yearsley, A Poem on the Inhumanity of the Slave-Trade
      Charlotte Smith, Emmeline

1789  Convening of the Estates General to deal with financial crisis in
      France; the Tennis Court Oath; the Bastille falls; Declaration of
      the Rights of Man
      Jeremy Bentham, Principles of Morals and Legislation
      Blake, Songs of Innocence and The Book of Thel
      William Bowles, Fourteen Sonnets Written Chiefly on Picturesque
      Spots during a Journey
      Charlotte Brooke, Reliques of Irish Poetry
Chronology

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*
William Lisle Bowles, *Fourteen Sonnets, Elegiac and Descriptive*

1790
Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Men*
Henry James Pye appointed Laureate

1791
American Bill of Rights ratified
Church and King Riots aimed at Joseph Priestley’s beliefs concerning religious toleration and his political radicalism lead to the destruction of much property, including Priestley’s house
Mozart dies
Louis XVI captured at Varennes
Boswell, *The Life of Samuel Johnson*
Paine, *The Rights of Man*
Radcliffe, *The Romance of the Forest*

1792
Royal Proclamation against seditious writings issued by George III; *The Rights Of Man* banned and Paine charged with sedition
Continental allies invade France; September massacres; declaration of the French Republic; imprisonment of French royal family
Wordsworth in France
Percy Shelley born
Burns, “Tam o’ Shanter”
Charlotte Smith, *Desmond*
Samuel Rogers, *The Pleasures of Memory*
Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

1793
Trial and execution of Louis XVI; France declares war on Britain; the Terror; execution of Marie Antoinette
Blake, *Visions of the Daughters of Albion and America: A Prophecy*
William Godwin, *Enquiry Concerning Political Justice*
Wordsworth, *An Evening Walk and Descriptive Sketches*

1794
Suspension of Habeas Corpus in England; reformers jailed without charges; Robespierre executed; end of the Terror; the Directorate established
Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience, Europe: A Prophecy, and The Book of Urizen*
Coleridge, “Monody on the Death of Chatterton”
Erasmus Darwin, *Zoonomia*
Godwin, *Caleb Williams*
chronology

Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*
Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolfo*

1795
Thomas Carlyle born
John Keats born
Macpherson dies
Blake, *The Book of Los* and *The Book of Ahania*
Coleridge, *Conciones ad Populum*
Matthew Lewis, *Ambrosio, or The Monk*
More, *Repository Tracts* (1795–8)
Friedrich Schiller, *Letters on Aesthetic Education* and *On Naive and Sentimental Poetry*
Southey, *Poems*

1796
Attemped French invasion of Ireland
Robert Bloomfield, *The Farmer's Boy*
Burns dies
Burney, *Camilla*
Coleridge, *Poems on Various Subjects* and *The Watchman*
Mary Hays, *Memoirs of Emma Courtney*
Charlotte Smith, *Marchmont*
Mary Robinson, *Sappho and Phaon*
Southey, *Joan of Arc*
Thelwall, *The Rights of Nature Against the Usurpation of Establishments*

1797
Wordsworth and Coleridge become neighbours in Somerset, begin their historic collaboration
Burke dies
Wollstonecraft dies
Coleridge, *Poems*
Radcliffe, *The Italian*

1798
Irish Rebellion; French army lands in Ireland
The *Athenaeum* publishes fragments by founders Friedrich and A. W. Schlegel, and by Novalis, and Schleiermacher (1798–1800)
Baillie, *Plays on the Passions*
Coleridge, “Fears in Solitude,” “France: an Ode,” and “Frost at Midnight”
Wollstonecraft, *Maria, or the Wrongs of Woman*
Wordsworth and Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads* (published by Joseph Cottle in Bristol)
Wordsworth launches the poem “on his own mind,” a work that would be posthumously published as *The Prelude* in 1850
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<td>1799</td>
<td>French Directorate falls; Napoleon made First Consul</td>
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<td>Thomas Campbell, <em>The Pleasures of Hope</em></td>
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<td>1800</td>
<td>Act of Union with Ireland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cowper dies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anne Bannerman, <em>Poems</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edgeworth, <em>Castle Rackrent</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mary Robinson, <em>Lyrical Tales</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wordsworth and Coleridge, much expanded second edition of <em>Lyrical Ballads</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>George III refuses to support Catholic Emancipation; Pitt resigns</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Hogg, <em>Scottish Pastorals</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southey, <em>Thalaba</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Napoleon elected First Consul for life</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Erasmus Darwin dies</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Edinburgh Review</em> begins publication; Francis Jeffrey christens the “Lake School of Poetry”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Cobbett begins the <em>Political Register</em> (1802–35)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bannerman, <em>Tales of Superstition and Chivalry</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coleridge, “Dejection: An Ode”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Edgeworth, <em>Belinda</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amelia Opie, <em>Poems</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scott, <em>Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wordsworth begins composition of what would become “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1803</td>
<td>Napoleon interns all British civilians in France; war resumed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Erasmus Darwin, <em>The Temple of Nature</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1804</td>
<td>Henry Addington resigns; Pitt becomes Prime Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Napoleon becomes Emperor</td>
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<td>Kant dies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blake, <em>Milton and Jerusalem</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Edgeworth, <em>Popular Tales</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wordsworth completes the Immortality Ode</td>
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<tr>
<td>1805</td>
<td>Samuel Palmer born</td>
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<td>Scott, <em>The Lay of the Last Minstrel</em></td>
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<td>Southey, <em>Madoc</em></td>
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<td>Turner, <em>The Shipwreck</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wordsworth completes the thirteen-book version of what would later be called <em>The Prelude</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1806</td>
<td>Charlotte Smith dies</td>
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<td>Edgeworth, <em>Leonora</em></td>
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<td>Sydney Owenson (Lady Morgan), <em>The Wild Irish Girl</em></td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>America declares war on Britain; Robert Browning born; Charles Dickens born; Byron, <em>Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage</em> (1812–18); Crabbe, <em>Tales in Verse</em>.</td>
</tr>
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Edgeworth, The Absentee
Percy Shelley, An Address, to the Irish People

1813
Edmund Kean’s first appearance at Drury Lane
Austen, Pride and Prejudice
Byron, The Bride of Abydos and The Giaour
Coleridge, Remorse
Hogg, The Queen’s Wake
Scott, Rokeby
Percy Shelley, Queen Mab
Robert Southey appointed Laureate

1814
Fall of Paris; Napoleon abdicates
Wars with America ended by the Treaty of Ghent
Austen, Mansfield Park
Burney, The Wanderer
Byron, “Ode to Napoleon Bonaparte,” The Corsair, and Lara
Hunt, The Feast of the Poets
Scott, Waverley
Percy Shelley, A Refutation of Deism
Southey, Roderick
Wordsworth, The Excursion

1815
Battle of Waterloo; Napoleon’s surrender and exile; Restoration of Louis XVIII
Byron, Hebrew Melodies and Collected Poems
David Ricardo, An Essay On the Low Price of Corn and the Profits of Stock
Scott, The Lord of the Isles, The Field of Waterloo, and Guy Mannering
Wordsworth, The White Doe of Rylstone and Poems

1816
Byron leaves England
Sheridan dies
Austen, Emma
Byron, The Siege of Corinth
Coleridge, “Christabel,” “Kubla Khan,” Lay Sermons, and “The Pains of Sleep”
Hunt, “Young Poets”
Maturin, Bertram
Peacock, Headlong Hall
Scott, The Antiquary, The Black Dwarf, and Old Mortality
Percy Shelley, Alastor, or, the Spirit of Solitude; and other Poems
Southey, The Lay of the Laureate
Wordsworth, “Thanksgiving Ode”
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>Peterloo Massacre occurs outside Manchester when a large public meeting calling for Parliamentary Reform is attacked by troops&lt;br&gt;Queen Victoria born&lt;br&gt;Walt Whitman born&lt;br&gt;John Ruskin born&lt;br&gt;Byron, <em>Don Juan</em> (1819–23)&lt;br&gt;Thomas Campbell, <em>Specimens of the British Poets</em> (7 vols.)&lt;br&gt;Hemans, *Tales and Historic Scenes in Verse&lt;br&gt;Keats composes his Great Odes&lt;br&gt;John Polidori, *The Vampyre&lt;br&gt;Scott, *The Bride of Lammermoor, The Legend of Montrose, and Ivanhoe&lt;br&gt;Wordsworth, <em>Peter Bell</em> and <em>The Waggoner</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Greek War of Independence begins&lt;br&gt;Keats dies&lt;br&gt;Napoleon dies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Baillie, Metrical Legends of Exalted Characters
John Constable, The Hay Wain
De Quincey, Confessions of an English Opium Eater
Hazlitt, Table-Talk
Percy Shelley, A Defence of Poetry, “Adonais,” and “Epipsychidion”
Scott, Kenilworth

1822
Matthew Arnold born
Percy Shelley dies
Byron, Hunt, and Percy Shelley publish in The Liberal

1823
Radcliffe dies
Hemans, The Vespers of Palermo, The Siege of Valencia, and Other Poems, Tales and Historic Scenes (2nd edn.)
Mary Shelley, Valperga

1824
Byron dies
Beethoven, Symphony No. 9 (Choral)
Hogg, Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner
Scott, Redgauntlet
Percy Shelley, Posthumous Poems (ed. Mary Shelley)

1825
Barbauld, Works
Hazlitt, The Spirit of the Age, or, Contemporary Portraits
Laetitia Elizabeth Landon, The Troubadour: Poetical Sketches of Modern Pictures and Historical Sketches

1826
Mary Shelley, The Last Man

1827
Beethoven dies
Blake dies
Wordsworth, Poems (5 vols.)
Scott acknowledges authorship of the Waverley novels

1828
Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts permits Dissenters to hold official posts
University College London opens
Hemans, Records of Woman with Other Poems
Hunt, Lord Byron and Some of His Contemporaries
Carlyle, “Essay on Burns”
Coleridge, Poetical Works

1829
Honoré de Balzac, Les Chouans
Carlyle, “Signs of the Times”
Peacock, The Misfortunes of Elphin

1830
Death of George IV and accession of William IV
July Revolutions in France
Christina Rossetti born
Chronology

Hazlitt dies
Carlyle, “On History”
Charles Lamb, Album Verses
Palmer, Coming from Evening Church
Tennyson, Poems, Chiefly Lyrical

1831
Lord John Russell introduces a Reform Bill in House of Commons
Charles Darwin departs on the Beagle
Coleridge’s last meeting with Wordsworth
Benjamin Disraeli, The Young Duke
Hegel, Lectures on the Philosophy of History

1832
The Representation of the People Bill (First Reform Act) passes in Parliament
Scott dies

1834
Coleridge dies
Lamb dies
Thelwall dies