From the ballad seller to the Highland bard, from ‘pot-house politics’ to the language of low and rustic life, the writers and artists of the British Romantic period drew eclectic inspiration from the realm of plebeian experience, even as they helped to constitute the field of popular culture as a new object of polite consumption.

Representing the work of leading scholars from both Britain and North America, Romanticism and Popular Culture in Britain and Ireland offers a series of fascinating insights into changing representations of ‘the people’, while demonstrating at the same time a unifying commitment to rethinking some of the fundamental categories that have shaped our view of the Romantic period. Addressing a series of key themes, including the ballad revival, popular politics, urbanization, and literary canon-formation, the volume also contains a substantial introductory essay, which provides a wide-ranging theoretical and historical overview of the subject.

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ROMANTICISM AND POPULAR CULTURE IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

EDITED BY
PHILIP CONNELL AND NIGEL LEASK
For Marilyn Butler
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