Shelley’s drafts and notebooks, which have recently been published for the first time, are very revealing about the creative processes behind his poems, and show — through illustrations and doodles — an unexpectedly vivid visual imagination which contributed greatly to the effect of his poetry. *Shelley’s Visual Imagination* analyzes both verbal script and visual sketches in his manuscripts to interpret the lively personifications of concepts such as “Liberty,” “Anarchy,” or “Life” in his completed poems. Challenging the persistent assumption that Shelley’s poetry in particular, and Romantic poetry more generally, reject the visual for expressive voice or music, this first full-length study of the drafts and notebooks combines criticism with a focus upon bibliographic codes and iconic pages. The product of years of close examination of these remarkable texts, this much-anticipated book will be of great value for all students of Shelley, and for all those interested in the Romantic process of creation.

**Nancy Moore Goslee** is Professor of English Emerita at the University of Tennessee.
This series aims to foster the best new work in one of the most challenging fields within English literary studies. From the early 1780s to the early 1830s a formidable array of talented men and women took to literary composition, not just in poetry, which some of them famously transformed, but in many modes of writing. The expansion of publishing created new opportunities for writers, and the political stakes of what they wrote were raised again by what Wordsworth called those “great national events” that were “almost daily taking place”: the French Revolution, the Napoleonic and American wars, urbanization, industrialization, religious revival, an expanded empire abroad, and the reform movement at home. This was an enormous ambition, even when it pretended otherwise. The relations between science, philosophy, religion, and literature were reworked in texts such as *Frankenstein* and *Biographia Literaria*; gender relations in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* and *Don Juan*; journalism by Cobbett and Hazlitt; poetic form, content, and style by the Lake School and the Cockney School. Outside Shakespeare studies, probably no body of writing has produced such a wealth of comment or done so much to shape the responses of modern criticism. This indeed is the period that saw the emergence of those notions of “literature” and of literary history, especially national literary history, on which modern scholarship in English has been founded.

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*For a complete list of titles published see end of book.*
To my daughter Susan
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