There has recently been a resurgence of interest in the importance of the emotions in Romantic literature and thought. This collection, the first to stress the centrality of the emotions to Romanticism, addresses a complex range of issues including the relation of affect to figuration and knowing, emotions and the discipline of knowledge, the motivational powers of emotion, and emotions as a shared ground of meaning. Contributors offer significant new insights into the ways in which a wide range of Romantic writers, including Jane Austen, William Wordsworth, Immanuel Kant, Lord Byron, Mary and Percy Bysshe Shelley, Thomas De Quincey, and Adam Smith, worried about the emotions as a register of human experience. Though varied in scope, the essays are united by the argument that the current affective and emotional turn in the humanities benefits from a Romantic skepticism about the relations between language, emotion, and agency.

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Acknowledgments

The editors first thank our contributors, whose generous and collegial feeling for, not to mention brilliant thought about the topic have made this an even greater success than we could have imagined. At Cambridge University Press we wish to thank Anna Bond and Vania Cunha for their always patient, punctual, and professional shepherding of the manuscript through to completion. We are indebted, too, to our copy-editor, Rebecca du Plessis. We especially thank our editor, Linda Bree, for recognizing and championing this project’s timely and unique approach to its subject matter, and to finding this material a worthy home. We were very happy that external readers for the Press shared this view, and we thank them for invaluable feedback, which was crucial to helping us re-shape the volume’s contextualization and representation of the field, all for the better. Joel Faflak wishes to thank the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for funding research time related to the editing of this volume. Richard Sha wishes to thank American University for providing the sabbatical that enabled the editing of the volume, Deans Peter Starr and U. J. Sofia for providing indexing funds, Dianne Hosmer for the index, Trevor Levere for his encouragement, and Joel for endless good cheer and camaraderie. And Joel returns the thanks, in kind.