

## POETRY, MEDIA, AND THE MATERIAL BODY

### *Autopoetics in Nineteenth-Century Britain*

From the Romantic fascination with hallucinatory poetics to the turn-of-the-century mania for automatic writing, poetry in nineteenth-century Britain appears at crucial times to be oddly involuntary, out of control of its producers and receivers alike. This elegant study addresses the question of how people understood those forms of written creativity that seem to occur independently of the writer's will. Through the study of the century's media revolutions, evolving theories of physiology and close readings of the works of nineteenth-century poets including Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Tennyson, Ashley Miller articulates how poetry was imagined to promote involuntary bodily responses in both authors and readers, and how these responses enlist the body as a medium that does not produce poetry, but rather reproduces it. This is a poetics that draws attention to, rather than effaces, the mediacy of the body in the processes of composition and reception.

ASHLEY MILLER is Assistant Professor of English at Albion College. Her work on a wide variety of topics in Romantic and Victorian literary studies has appeared in *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *Studies in Romanticism*, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, *Literature Compass*, and *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*.

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ASHLEY MILLER  
*Albion College*



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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> vi
Introduction: The Material Muse in Nineteenth-Century Poetry	i
1 Striking Passages: Vision, Memory, and the Romantic Imprint	25
2 Internal Impressions: Self-Sympathy and the Poetry of Sensation	58
3 Listening with the Mouth: Tennyson’s Deaths of Arthur	88
4 Poetic Afterlives: Automatic Writing and the Mechanics of Quotation	122
Conclusion: The Autonomous Poem: New Criticism and the Stock Response	151
<i>Notes</i>	160
<i>Bibliography</i>	181
<i>Index</i>	194

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vii

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