

THE ROMANTIC TAVERN

The tavern is widely acknowledged as central to the cultural and political life of Britain, yet widely misunderstood. Ian Newman provides the first sustained account of one of the primary institutions of the late eighteenth-century public sphere. The tavern was a venue not only for serious political and literary debate, but also for physical pleasure – the ludic, libidinal, and gastronomic enjoyments with which late Georgian public life was inextricably entwined. This study focuses on the architecture of taverns and the people who frequented them, as well as the artistic forms – drinking songs, ballads, Anacreontic poetry, and toasting – with which the tavern was associated. By examining the culture of conviviality that emerged alongside other new forms of sociability in the second half of the eighteenth century, *The Romantic Tavern* argues for the importance of conviviality as a complex new form of sociability shaped by masculine political gathering and mixed-company entertainments.

IAN NEWMAN is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, and a fellow of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, where he specializes in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British and Irish literature. He has co-edited *Charles Dibdin and Late Georgian Culture* (2018) with Oskar Cox Jensen and David Kennerley, and his work has appeared in *Studies in English Literature*, *European Romantic Review*, *Eighteenth-century Studies*, and *Studies in Romanticism*.

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THE ROMANTIC TAVERN

Literature and Conviviality in the Age of Revolution

IAN NEWMAN



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For Kate, Evie, and Nesta

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The most common reaction I receive when telling people I research taverns is their volunteering to help with fieldwork. My standard response has been to point out that most of the taverns I consider no longer exist, that the research happens in libraries and archives, and it may not be quite as much fun as it sounds. But the fact of the matter is that I have had more fun researching and writing this book than accords with the usual image of academic pointy-headed severity. This is due to the generous enthusiasm of mentors, colleagues, librarians, archivists, friends, and other co-conspirators I've met along the way.

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Abbreviations

Add. MSS	Additional Manuscripts
BL	British Library
BM	British Museum
HO	Home Office Papers
LCS	London Corresponding Society
LMA	London Metropolitan Archive
n.p.	No page numbers
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
TS	National Archive Treasury Solicitor's Papers

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