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Both the English Civil War and the French Revolution produced in England an outpouring of literature reflecting intense belief in the arrival of a better world, and new philosophies of the relationship between mind, language, and cosmos. *Milton, the metaphysicals, and romanticism* is the first book to explore the significance of the connections between the literature of these two periods. The book analyzes Milton's influence on Romantic writers including Blake, Beckford, Wordsworth, Shelley, Radcliffe, and Keats, and examines the relationships between other seventeenth-century poets – Donne, Marvell, Vaughan, Herrick, Cowley, Rochester, and Dryden – and Romantic writers. Representing a wide range of theoretical approaches, and including original contributions by leading British, American, and Canadian scholars, this is a provocative and challenging assessment of the relationship between two of the richest periods of British literary history.

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# Milton, the metaphysicals, and romanticism

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EDITED BY

LISA LOW

*Pace University, New York*

and

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521110693](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521110693)

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First published 1984

This digitally printed version 2009

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Milton, the metaphysicals, and romanticism / edited by Lisa Low and Anthony John Harding.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521 44414-4

1. English poetry – 19th century – History and criticism. 2. English poetry – Early modern, 1500–1700 – History and criticism. 3. English poetry – Appreciation – Great Britain.
4. Influence (Literary, artistic, etc.) 5. Milton, John, 1608–1674 – Influence.
6. Romanticism – Great Britain. 7. Metaphysics in literature.

I. Low, Lisa. II. Harding, Anthony John.

PR590.M55 1994

821'.4 – dc20 93-41033 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-44414-9 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-11069-3 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11069-3 - Milton, the Metaphysicals, and Romanticism

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Notes on contributors

*of the Human* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1986) and of *Magic and English Romanticism* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1979).

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## Acknowledgements

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This book began as a group of papers written for a special session which Lisa Low chaired at MLA in 1986 called “Marvell and the Romantics.” The editors would like to thank Frederick Burwick for suggesting that these papers become the nucleus of a book, and Joseph Anthony Wittreich, Jr., for invaluable assistance given over the past several years.

Kevin Taylor, English Literature editor at Cambridge University Press, has been supportive and encouraging from the first involvement of the Press in the project: we should like to thank him for his tact and patience, and his interest in the idea of this volume. We would also like to thank the librarians at our respective universities – especially Elizabeth Birnbaum at Pace University – and the ever-helpful staff of the New York Public and Bobst libraries and the British Library, London.

Lisa Low is grateful to Pace University for the Provost-sponsored Summer Research Grant and for awards from the Scholarly Research Committee, both of which helped finance this project. She would also like to thank her research assistant, Raphael Guay, for devoted and uncomplaining labor over the past two years. During the last phase of the editing, Camille Slights, William Slights, and Ron Cooley, at the University of Saskatchewan, cheerfully and patiently shared their knowledge of existing scholarship on Milton and the seventeenth century.

The editors would like to make further specific acknowledgements as follows:

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Extracts reprinted from William Wordsworth: *Poems, in Two Volumes, and*

Cambridge University Press

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## A note on texts and abbreviations

Unless otherwise stated, *The Prelude* is quoted from the Norton parallel text. Other poetry by Wordsworth is quoted from the de Selincourt edition. The three editions of the letters of Wordsworth are abbreviated as *Early Years*, *Middle Years*, and *Later Years*. Milton's prose is taken, where possible, from Hughes; otherwise, from Wolfe. The following editions are used unless otherwise stated:

Blake, William. *The Complete Poetry and Prose of William Blake*. Edited by David Erdman. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1982.

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