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SHELLEY AND THE REVOLUTIONARY SUBLIME

A major new study of Percy Shelley's intellectual life and poetic career, *Shelley and the Revolutionary Sublime* identifies Shelley's fascination with sublime natural phenomena as a key element in his understanding of the way ideas like 'nature' and 'imagination' informed the social and political structures of the Romantic period. Offering a genuinely fresh set of perspectives on Shelley's texts and contexts, Cian Duffy argues that Shelley's engagement with the British and French discourse on the sublime had a profound influence on his writing about political change in that age of revolutionary crisis. Examining Shelley's extensive use of sublime imagery and metaphor, Duffy offers not only a substantial reassessment of Shelley's work but also a significant re-appraisal of the role of the sublime in the cultural history of Britain during the Romantic period.

CIAN DUFFY is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of York.

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for my family

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Discourse on the Sublime', in Fiona Price and Scott Masson (eds.), *Silence, Sublimity and Suppression* (Lampeter: Edwin Mellen Press, 2001); part of chapter 2 appeared as 'Revolution or Reaction?: Shelley's *Assassins* and the Politics of Necessity', in *Keats-Shelley Journal* 52 (September 2003); a further portion of chapter 1 was published as "One draught from Snowdon's ever-sacred spring": Shelley's Welsh Sublime', in Lynda Pratt and Damian Walford-Davies (eds.), *Wales and the Romantic Imagination* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2005). I am grateful to the editors of these volumes for permission to use this material.

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Note on texts

All dates for Shelley's works are dates of composition. All other dates are dates of publication. Where possible, Shelley's poetry is quoted from *The Poems of Shelley*, ed. Kelvin Everest and G. M. Matthews, 2 vols. to date (London: Longman, 1989, 2000–). Hereafter cited in the text as *Poems*. Similarly, where possible, Shelley's prose is quoted from *The Prose Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley*, ed. E. B. Murray, 1 vol. to date (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993–). Hereafter cited in the text as *Murray*.

Abbreviations

Books

- EIPM* Thomas Reid, *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*, ed. D. Brookes and K. Haakonssen (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2002).
- ENPT* Archibald Alison, *Essays on the Nature and Principles of Taste*, third edition, 2 vols. (Edinburgh, 1812).
- BSM* *The Bodleian Shelley Manuscripts*, ed. D. H. Reiman et al., 23 vols. (New York, Garland: 1986–2002).
- Byron* Lord Byron, *A Critical Edition of the Major Works*, ed. Jerome McGann (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986).
- Coleridge* Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Complete Poems*, ed. William Keach (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1997).
- CPPBS* *The Complete Poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley*, ed. D. H. Reiman and N. Fraistat, 1 vol. to date (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000–).
- Claire* Jane (Claire) Clairmont, *The Journals of Claire Clairmont*, ed. M. K. Stocking (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1968).
- CPW* *The Complete Poetical Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley*, ed. Thomas Hutchinson, second edition, updated & corrected by G. M. Matthews (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1970).
- D&F* Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, ed. J. B. Bury, 7 vols. (London: Methuen, 1902).
- Esdaile* *The Esdaile Notebook: A Volume of Early Poems by Percy Bysshe Shelley*, ed. Kenneth Neill Cameron (London: Faber & Faber, 1964).

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- H6WT*, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *History of a Six Weeks' Tour through a Part of France, Switzerland, Germany and Holland . . .* (London, 1817).
- Letters* *The Letters of Percy Bysshe Shelley*, ed. F. L. Jones, 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon, 1964).
- MWSJ*, *The Journals of Mary Shelley: 1814–1844*, ed. Paula R. Feldman and Diana Scott-Kilvert, Softshell edition, 1 vol. (London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987).
- MYRS* *Manuscripts of the Younger Romantics: Shelley*, ed. D. H. Reiman et al., 9 vols. (New York, Garland: 1985–1996).
- Poetry & Prose* *Shelley's Poetry and Prose*, ed. D. H. Reiman and N. Fraistat, second edition (New York: Norton, 2002).
- Prose* *Shelley's Prose, or, the Trumpet of a Prophecy*, ed. David Lee Clark, corrected edition (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1966).
- PW* *The Prose Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley*, ed. E. B. Murray, 1 vol. to date (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993, –).
- Rousseau* Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Collected Writings of Rousseau*, ed. C. Kelley, R. Masters, and P. Stillman, 8 vols. to date (London: University of New England Press, 1990–).
- Ruins* C. F. Volney, *A New Translation of Volney's Ruins; or Meditations on the Revolution of Empires: Made under the Inspection of the Author*, 2 vols. (Paris, 1802).
- Wordsworth* *The Poetical Works of William Wordsworth*, ed. E. De Selincourt and Helen Darbishire, rev. Helen Darbishire, 5 vols. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1952–59).

Journals

- ELH* *English Literary History*
- ELN* *English Language Notes*
- K-SJ* *Keats-Shelley Journal*
- K-SMB* *Keats-Shelley Memorial Bulletin*
- MLQ* *Modern Language Quarterly*
- MLR* *Modern Language Review*
- PMLA* *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*

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List of abbreviations

<i>N&Q</i>	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
<i>PQ</i>	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>SiR</i>	<i>Studies in Romanticism</i>