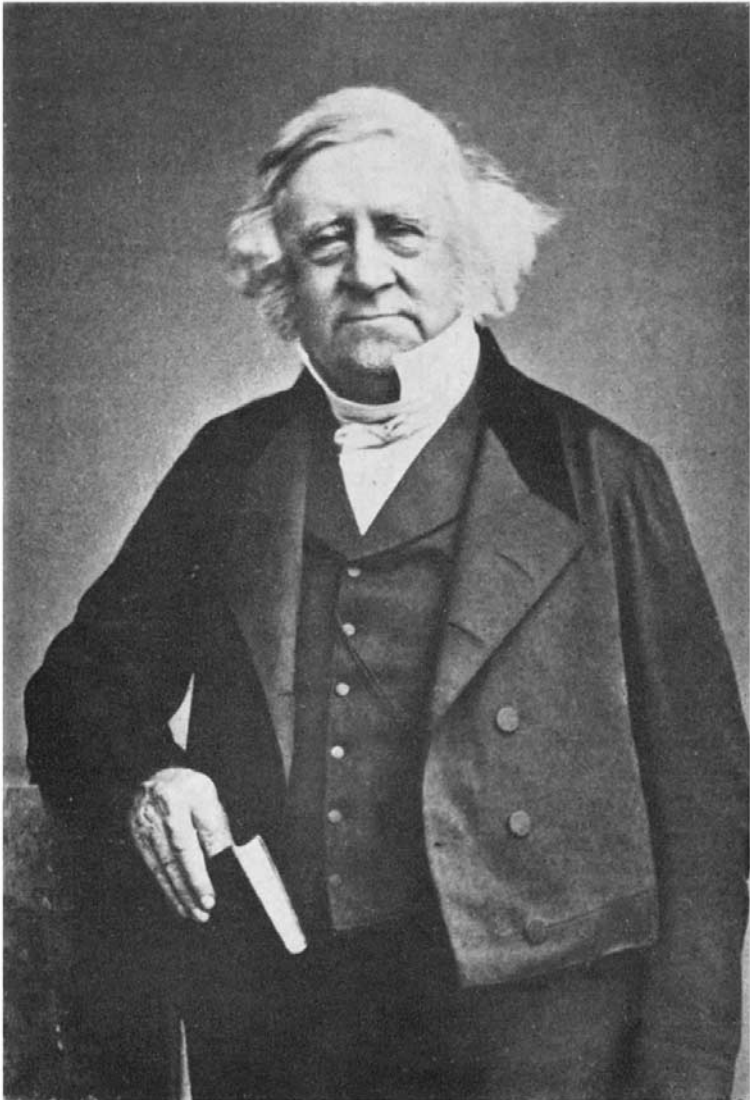


Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
Howard Mills
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PEACOCK
his Circle and his Age

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
Howard Mills
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



Peacock, aged seventy-two: from a photograph

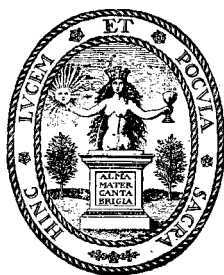
Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
Howard Mills
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PEACOCK

his Circle and his Age

HOWARD MILLS

*Lecturer in English
University of Kent at Canterbury*



CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1969

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
Howard Mills
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

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
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521148306

© Cambridge University Press 1969

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1969
First paperback printing 2010

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

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 68-23183

ISBN 978-0-521-07262-5 Hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-14830-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in
this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is,
or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
Howard Mills
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

FOR MARY

Contents

	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page xi
	<i>Chronological table</i>	xiii
1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	PEACOCK IN THE REGENCY The 'individual talent' and 'the spirit of the age'; developments and fashions in Regency verse; Peacock's way of life, and early poetry; 'exclusively Greek' studies	8
3	PEACOCK ON THE REGENCY 'An essay on fashionable literature', 1818; change of attitude through the letters; 'The four ages of poetry', 1820; the change in Peacock's way of life, 1818–20	31
4	PEACOCK AND SHELLEY Introductory; Shelley's self-portraits in his letters; social and political ideas; temperament and personal life; the memoirs of Shelley	57
5	'HEADLONG HALL', 1815 Introduction to the novels; general character of <i>Headlong Hall</i> ; serious debates; the philosophers satirised crotchets: Cranium and Panscope; general limitations	84
6	'MELINCOURT', 1817 General character of the novel; Fax and Forester, Malthus and Shelley; other serious themes; satirical episodes: reactionaries, elections, paper-money and broken banks; literary satire; <i>Melincourt</i> and 1817: comparisons with Southey and Samuel Bamford	97
7	'NIGHTMARE ABBEY', 1818 Shelleyan origins, and Shelleyan reactions; ideas and character: Scythrop; Flosky and Coleridge; general discussions of the spirit of the age; conclusion	135

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
Howard Mills
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

8	THREE COMPARISONS Crabb Robinson; Hazlitt; Byron	<i>page</i> 165
9	PEACOCK AFTER THE REGENCY Later life and character; the later novels; literary reviews; music reviews and articles	203
10	CONCLUSION	238
	<i>Select bibliography</i>	241
	<i>Index</i>	255

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
Howard Mills
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Illustrations

Peacock, aged seventy-two: from a photograph *frontispiece*

Peacock, aged eighteen: from a miniature *facing page 13*

Peacock's Shelley: the drawing of Antonio Leisman *page 66*

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
Howard Mills
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

This study developed from my Cambridge Ph.D. dissertation, and I am grateful to my research supervisor, Mr L. G. Salingar, for his help and patience. Mr Charles Cudworth and Dr Nicholas Temperley have been generous with their time and knowledge in discussing nineteenth-century music, and in letting me test out on them my estimate of Peacock as a music critic. In addition, Mr Cudworth not only let me use but served as an enthusiastic guide to the Pendlebury Music Library at Cambridge.

Among the many friends and former teachers who have helped I wish in particular to thank Mr H. A. Mason and Mr Charles Page for their encouragement throughout my work on Peacock and their radical suggestions at crucial stages.

Mr Joseph Barrell kindly help to compile the index.

Chronological Table

- 1785 Born at Weymouth, spent first three years of life in London.
- 1788 Father died: Peacock and mother move to Chertsey, Surrey.
- 1791 Went to school at Englefield Green, Surrey.
- 1798 Left school and became a clerk in London.
- 1804 *The monks of St Mark* printed, but probably not published.
- 1806 *Palmyra, and other poems* published. Walking tour of Scotland in autumn.
- 1807 Affair with Fanny Falkner.
- 1808–9 Worked as secretary on board H.M.S. *Venerable*: wrote several pieces of verse and *The genius of the Thames*, part 1.
- 1809 Left *Venerable*; walked from Chertsey to source of Thames.
- 1810 In Wales; met future wife. *The genius of the Thames: a lyrical poem* published.
- 1811–13 *The dilettanti* and *The three doctors* (farces) written.
- 1812 *The philosophy of melancholy: a poem in four parts* published. *The genius of the Thames, Palmyra and other poems* published (revised versions).
 October: met Shelley.
- 1813 April: second meeting with Shelley; then second tour of Wales.
 July: returned to Marlow, Bucks: Shelley and Harriet now living nearby at Bracknell.
 October and November: went with the Shelleys to Scotland. *Sir Hornbrook; or Childe Launcelot's expedition. A grammatico-allegorical ballad*, published. 'Ahrimanes a mythological poem', written 1813–14.
- 1814 July: Shelley and Mary eloped to the Continent.
 September: they returned to London; Peacock and mother moved to London.
 Peacock's affair with Marianne St Croix.
Sir Proteus: a satirical ballad 'by P. M. O'Donovan' published.
- 1815 Moved from London to Marlow; Shelley and Mary moved to Bishopsgate, within walking distance, then to Marlow itself. *Headlong Hall* published (post-dated 1816).

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
 Howard Mills
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

- 1817 *Melincourt* and *The Round Table: or King Arthur's feast* published.
- 1818 Shelley and Mary left England.
Nightmare Abbey and *Rhododaphne: or the Thessalian spell* published. 'An essay on fashionable literature' written, and *Maid Marian* begun.
- 1819 Began work at East India House.
- 1820 Married Jane Gryffydd.
 'The four ages of poetry' published in *Ollier's literary miscellany*.
- 1822 Shelley drowned.
Maid Marian published.
- 1827 Review of Moore's *Epicurean* in *Westminster review*.
- 1829 *The misfortunes of Elphin*.
- 1830 Review of Moore's *Letters and journals of Lord Byron, vol. I; of Memoirs, correspondence and private papers of Thomas Jefferson*; and of *Chronicles of London Bridge*: all in *Westminster review*.
- 1831 *Crotchet Castle*.
- 1833 Mother died.
- 1834 Contributed to *Report from the Select Committee on steam navigation to India*.
- 1835 Review of Mount Edgcumbe's *Musical reminiscences* in *London review*.
 Article on 'French comic romances' in *London review*.
- 1836 Articles on 'The *Epicriere*' and Bellini in *London review*.
- 1837 'The Legend of Manor Hall' and 'Recollections of Childhood', in *Bentley's Miscellany*.
Headlong Hall, *Nightmare Abbey*, *Maid Marian* and *Crotchet Castle* reprinted in Bentley's *Standard novels and romances*.
Paper money lyrics published.
- 1849 Daughter married George Meredith.
- 1851 'Gastronomy and civilization', written with his daughter, published in *Fraser's magazine*.
- 1852 'Horae dramaticae: Querolus; or the buried treasure' and 'The Phaëthon of Euripides' in *Fraser's magazine*.
- 1856 Retired from East India House.

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-14830-6 - Peacock: His Circle and His Age
 Howard Mills
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

- 1857 'Horae dramaticae: The flask of cratinus', in *Fraser's magazine*.
- 1858 Daughter left Meredith. 'Memoirs of Percy Bysshe Shelley', in *Fraser's magazine*.
- 1859 Review of Müller and Donaldson's *History of Greek literature*, in *Fraser's magazine*.
- 1860 'Memoirs of Shelley' (second paper), 'Unpublished letters of Shelley' and Postscript in *Fraser's magazine*. *Gryll grange* serialised in *Fraser's magazine*.
- 1861 *Gryll Grange* published in book form.
- 1862 'Memoirs of Shelley. Supplementary notice', in *Fraser's magazine*.
Gl'Ingannati. The deceived: a comedy performed at Siena in 1531: and Aelia Laelia Crispis.
- 1866 Died.