### SENTIMENTAL LITERATURE AND ANGLO-SCOTTISH IDENTITY, 1745–1820

What did it mean to be British, and more specifically to feel British, in the century following the Parliamentary Union of Scotland and England? Juliet Shields departs from recent accounts of the Romantic emergence of nationalism by recovering the terms in which eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century writers understood nationhood. She argues that, in the wake of the turmoil surrounding the Union, Scottish writers appealed to sentiment, or refined feeling, to imagine the nation as a community. They sought to transform a Great Britain united by political and economic interests into one united by shared sympathies, even while they used the gendered and racial connotations of sentiment to differentiate sharply between Scottish, English, and British identities. By moving Scotland from the margins to the center of literary history, the book explores how sentiment shaped both the development of British identity and the literature within which writers responded creatively to the idea of nationhood.

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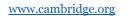
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JULIET SHIELDS





#### **CAMBRIDGE** UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521190947

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> First published 2010 First paperback edition 2015

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

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data Shields, Juliet, 1976– Sentimental literature and Anglo-Scottish identity, 1745–1820 / Juliet Shields. p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in Romanticism ; 86) Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 978-0-521-19094-7 (Hardback) I. English literature–Scottish authors–History and criticism. 2. Scottish literature–18th

century–History and criticism. 3. Scottish literature–19th century–History and criticism.

 National characteristics, British, in literature. 5. National characteristics, Scottish, in literature. 6. Nationalism and literature–Great Britain–History–18th century.
7. Nationalism and literature–Great Britain–History–19th century.
8. Sympathy in literature. 1. Title. 11. Series.

PR8522.N24855 2010 820.909411-dc22

2010008978

ISBN 978-0-521-19094-7 Hardback ISBN 978-1-107-44914-5 Paperback

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### Contents

Ac	knowledgments	<i>page</i> viii
Int	troduction: The politics and sentiments of union	I
I	The Ossian controversy and the racial beginnings of Britain	24
2	British masculinity and Scottish self-control	55
3	Sentimental correspondences and the boundaries of British identity	83
4	National tales and the domestication of the Scottish Highlan	ds 110
5	Rebellions and re-unions in the historical novel	139
Notes Bibliography		173 204
Index		221

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-0-521-19094-7 — Sentimental Literature and Anglo-Scottish Identity, 1745–1820 Juliet Shields Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

## Acknowledgments

I'd like to thank the people who helped me to write this book. Penny Fielding's graduate course at the University of Pennsylvania first inspired my interest in eighteenth-century Scottish writers. Toni Bowers provided expert guidance during the project's beginning as a dissertation, and my readers, Michael Gamer, Suvir Kaul, and John Richetti, also offered valuable suggestions. Several portions of the manuscript benefited from Nancy Henry's and Roxann Wheeler's careful reading. Their thoughtful comments encouraged me to refine my arguments and their generous collegiality continues to inspire me. A James M. Osborn postdoctoral fellowship in British Studies at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library provided me with resources and time to finish the book. I appreciate the assistance of the staff at the Beinecke, who made my year in New Haven enjoyable and productive. A section of Chapter 2 reworks material from "Smollett's Scots and Sodomites: British Masculinity in Roderick Random," The Eighteenth Century (2005) and part of Chapter 4 appeared as "From Family Roots to the Routes of Empire: National Tales and the Domestication of the Scottish Highlands" in ELH (2006); I thank both journals for allowing me to reuse material. I am grateful to the anonymous readers at Cambridge University Press, whose comments helped me to tighten the focus of the manuscript, and to Linda Bree and Elizabeth Hanlon for their expertise in overseeing the final stages of the project. My deepest thanks go to my family and friends for their support, encouragement, and companionship. The book is dedicated to the memory of my grandmother, Mary Rose Wills.