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978-0-521-19379-5 - Real Money and Romanticism  
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## REAL MONEY AND ROMANTICISM

*Real Money and Romanticism* interprets poetry and fiction by Sir Walter Scott, John Keats, and Charles Dickens in the context of changes in the British monetary system and in the broader economy during the early nineteenth century. In this period, modern systems of paper money and intellectual property became established; Matthew Rowlinson describes the consequent changes in relations between writers and publishers and shows how a new conception of material artifacts as the bearers of abstract value shaped Romantic conceptions of character, material culture, and labor.

A fresh and radically different contribution to the growing field of inquiry into the economics of literature, this is an ingenious and challenging reading of Romantic discourse from the point of view of monetary theory and history.

MATTHEW ROWLINSON is an associate professor at the University of Western Ontario, where he teaches in the Department of English and the Centre for Theory and Criticism.

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*For Sasha, who knows that a book should have an argument,  
and for my parents.*

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“A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you’re talking real money.”

Attributed to US Senator Everett L. Dirksen

“How the price of goods in each case is arrived at can never quite be foreseen, neither in the course of their production nor later when they enter the market. It is exactly the same with the object in its allegorical existence. At no point is it written in the stars that the allegorist’s profundity will lead it to one meaning rather than another.”

Walter Benjamin, *The Arcades Project*, Convolut J.