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978-0-521-43207-8 - Reinventing Allegory  
Theresa M. Kelley  
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*Reinventing Allegory* asks how and why allegory has survived as a literary mode from the late Renaissance to the postmodern present. Three chapters on Romanticism, including one on the painter J. M. W. Turner, present this era as the pivotal moment in allegory's modern survival. Other chapters describe larger historical and philosophical contexts, including classical rhetoric and Spenser, Milton and seventeenth-century rhetoric, Neoclassical distrust of allegory, and recent theory and metafiction. By using a series of key historical moments to define the special character of modern allegory, this study offers an important framework for assessing allegory's role in contemporary literary culture.

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# REINVENTING ALLEGORY

THERESA M. KELLEY

*University of Texas at Austin*



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*For Thomas and Patrick Baylis*

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## *Acknowledgments*

Oh, there's nothing to be hoped for from her! she's as head-  
 strong as an allegory on the banks of the Nile.

Sheridan, *The Rivals* 3.3, in *Plays* 60

Sheridan tells the truth, but there is more. I began this book as a fellow of the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University. I thank its director Jonathan Culler, as well as Mary Jacobus, Reeve Parker, and Cynthia Chase, for conversations then and since. I complete this book in gratitude and homage to Elizabeth Dipple, whose generous intellect and spirit were gifts indeed to her students and friends. I am fortunate to have been both. Other colleagues, far-flung and close at hand, have helped me to think about this project: Leah Marcus, Rita Copeland, Peter Manning, Susan Wolfson, Neil Fraistat, Andrew Cooper, Kurt Heinzelman, Sheila Kearns, Warner Barnes, Richard Sha, Frederick Hoerner, Elizabeth Hedrick, John Farrell, Lance Bertelsen, Frank Whigham, Berndt Lindfors, Michael Simpson, Barbara Goff and Kevin Gilmartin. At Cambridge University Press, Kevin Taylor encouraged this project, as have Marilyn Butler and James Chandler, general editors of Cambridge Studies in Romanticism. Josie Dixon has given this book unwavering support at every stage. Linda Bree, Leigh Mueller, and the production staff at the Press meticulously supervised the last stages. Albert Field kindly gave permission to use the image that appears on the cover. The American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Research Institute of the University of Texas at Austin have generously supported my research and writing of this book. The curatorial staffs at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, the New York Public Library, and the Yale Center for British Art welcomed all research inquiries and made my work much easier. For all kinds of help along the way, I thank other friends and, from first to last, Thomas and Patrick Baylis.

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## *List of Abbreviations*

### Note to the reader

In addition to the abbreviations listed below, parenthetical and note references follow these conventions: vi:10 (meaning volume and page); 10.2 or 10.2.2, p. 35 (book/canto . line/stanza, followed by page); 5.4.2 (act.scene.line); and 365, *Blake* 45 (meaning line 365 in *Blake*, page 45).

<i>Annals</i>	<i>Annals of the Fine Arts.</i>
<i>BL</i>	S. T. Coleridge. <i>Biographia Literaria.</i>
<i>Blake</i>	William Blake. <i>Complete Poetry and Prose.</i>
<i>Browning</i>	Robert Browning. <i>Poems.</i>
<i>CN</i>	S. T. Coleridge. <i>Notebooks.</i>
<i>Coleridge</i>	S. T. Coleridge. <i>Poetical Works.</i>
<i>CPW</i>	John Milton. <i>Complete Prose Works.</i>
<i>FQ</i>	Edmund Spenser. <i>The Faerie Queene.</i>
<i>GS</i>	Walter Benjamin. <i>Gesammelte Schriften.</i>
<i>Keats</i>	John Keats. <i>The Poems of John Keats.</i>
<i>LJK</i>	John Keats. <i>Letters.</i>
<i>PL</i>	John Milton. <i>Paradise Lost.</i>
<i>PR</i>	John Milton. <i>Paradise Regained, the Minor Poems, and Samson Agonistes.</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	William Wordsworth. <i>The Prelude 1799, 1805, 1850.</i>
<i>PU</i>	Percy B. Shelley. <i>The Prometheus Unbound Notebooks.</i>
<i>PW</i>	Percy B. Shelley. <i>Complete Poetical Works.</i>
“SM”	S. T. Coleridge. “Statesman’s Manual.” In <i>Lay Sermons.</i>
<i>SPP</i>	Percy B. Shelley. <i>Selected Poetry and Prose.</i>
<i>SWorks</i>	Percy B. Shelley. <i>Complete Works.</i>
<i>TL</i>	Percy B. Shelley. <i>The Triumph of Life.</i>
<i>RB</i>	Robert Browning. <i>The Ring and the Book.</i>
<i>WProse</i>	William Wordsworth. <i>Prose Works.</i>