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978-0-521-49729-9 - The Self-Fashioning of Disraeli 1818–1851

Edited by Charles Richmond and Paul Smith

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The Self-Fashioning of Disraeli, 1818–1851

Benjamin Disraeli remains a commanding figure in the history and ideology of the British Conservative party, and a remarkable example of ascent to high office from outside the traditional elite. This is the first book to bring together specialists in history, literary studies and psychiatry to show how he successfully fashioned his personality in the formative years up to his emergence as Conservative leader in the House of Commons.

The analysis of this process of self-fashioning – the situation to which it responded, the problems of an outsider's integration and advancement in British society, the goals it sought to reach, the techniques which it employed, and the sources on which it drew – offers fresh insight into Disraeli's character and career. Vital aspects of his personality and outlook discussed here include his education, Jewishness, romanticism, orientalism, historical scholarship and political ideas, and the psychiatric disorder of his mid-twenties, which is examined seriously for the first time.

CHARLES RICHMOND has practised law in New York and London, and is a member of the New York Bar and of the Institute of Historical Research, University of London.

PAUL SMITH was formerly Professor of Modern History, University of Southampton. His books include *Disraelian Conservatism and Social Reform* (1967), *Disraeli: A Brief Life* (1996) and, as editor, *Lord Salisbury on Politics* (1972).

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Preface

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In order to allow consultation of any edition, Disraeli's novels, together with *Lord George Bentinck*, are normally cited by reference to book or part (large roman) and chapter number (small roman) (in the case of *Hartlebury*, the large roman numerals denote the volume number). Letters are cited by reference to their serial number and volume and page number in *Benjamin Disraeli Letters*.