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0521554551 - Landscape, Liberty and Authority: Poetry, Criticism and Politics from Thomson to Wordsworth

Tim Fulford

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Eighteenth-century landscape description was a discourse in which the nature of liberty and authority was debated – a vital discourse in a Britain defining its nationhood in the contexts of growing imperial power and rapid economic change. Tim Fulford examines this discourse in the writings of Thomson, Cowper, Johnson, Gilpin, Repton, Wordsworth, Coleridge and others, arguing that it is the site of culturally revealing tensions which arose as writers both struggled for authority over the public sphere and sought to redefine the nature of that authority.

Dr Fulford investigates political and aesthetic writing as well as poetry and throws new light upon the legacy of Commonwealthsman and Country-party ideas of liberty. He discusses the significance of the Miltonic sublime, the politics of the picturesque and the post-colonial encounter of the Scottish tour. He intervenes in the critical debate over the politics of Romanticism by showing Wordsworth's and Coleridge's early radicalism and later conservatism to have been shaped as much by their ambivalent emulation of/definition against the political and literary authorities of eighteenth-century England as by their response to the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon. Containing both historicist and rhetorical criticism of canonical and non-canonical writers, Dr Fulford's quietly innovative study will be of interest to all those looking for an understanding of literary and political influence that cuts across conventional periodization and finds new links between the early eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

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Frontmatter

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TIM FULFORD

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Tim Fulford

Frontmatter

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Tim Fulford

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For my mother and father

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0521554551 - Landscape, Liberty and Authority: Poetry, Criticism and Politics from
Thomson to Wordsworth
Tim Fulford
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction	1
1 Thomson and Cowper: the ‘stubborn Country tam’d’?	18
2 Johnson: the usurpations of virility	73
3 Unreliable authorities? Squires, tourists and the picturesque	116
4 Wordsworth: the politics of landscape	157
5 Coleridge: fields of liberty	214
<i>Index</i>	245

Cambridge University Press

0521554551 - Landscape, Liberty and Authority: Poetry, Criticism and Politics from Thomson to Wordsworth

Tim Fulford

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Abbreviations

<i>B Corr</i>	<i>The Correspondence of Edmund Burke</i> , ed. Thomas W. Copeland et al., 10 vols. (Cambridge, 1958–78)
<i>BL</i>	<i>Biographia Literaria</i> , ed. J. Engell and W. Jackson Bate, 2 vols. (London and Princeton, NJ, 1983). <i>CC</i> v11
Boswell	<i>Boswell’s Life of Johnson</i> , ed. G. B. Hill, rev. L. F. Powell, 6 vols. (Oxford, 1934, rpt. 1971)
<i>BWS</i>	<i>The Writings and Speeches of Edmund Burke</i> , gen. ed. Paul Langford, 17 vols. (Oxford, 1981)
<i>CC</i>	<i>The Collected Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge</i> , Bollingen Series lxxv (Collected Coleridge)
<i>CL</i>	<i>The Collected Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge</i> , ed. E. L. Griggs, 6 vols. (Oxford, 1956–71)
<i>CM</i>	S. T. Coleridge, <i>Marginalia</i> , ed. George Whalley, 5 vols. (London and Princeton, NJ, 1980–). <i>CC</i> x11
<i>CN</i>	<i>The Notebooks of S. T. Coleridge</i> , ed. Kathleen Coburn, 5 vols. (London and Princeton, NJ, 1957–)
<i>CoL</i>	<i>The Letters and Prose Writings of William Cowper</i> , ed. James King and Charles Ryskamp, 5 vols. (Oxford, 1979–86)
Cowper	<i>The Poems of William Cowper</i> , ed. John D. Baird and Charles Ryskamp (Oxford, 1980)
<i>CPW</i>	<i>The Complete Poetical Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge</i> , ed. E. H. Coleridge, 2 vols. (London, 1912)
Darlington	William Wordsworth, <i>Home at Grasmere</i> , ed. Beth Darlington (Ithaca, 1977)
Dennis	<i>The Critical Works of John Dennis</i> , ed. E. N. Hooker, 2 vols. (Baltimore, 1939–43)
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>EOT</i>	S. T. Coleridge, <i>Essays on His Times</i> , ed. David V. Erdman, 3 vols. (London and Princeton, NJ, 1978). <i>CC</i> 111
<i>Friend</i>	S. T. Coleridge, <i>The Friend</i> , ed. B. Rooke, 2 vols. (London and Princeton, NJ, 1969). <i>CC</i> 1v
Goldsmith	<i>Collected Works of Oliver Goldsmith</i> , ed. Arthur Friedman, 5 vols. (Oxford, 1966)

Cambridge University Press

0521554551 - Landscape, Liberty and Authority: Poetry, Criticism and Politics from Thomson to Wordsworth

Tim Fulford

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

List of abbreviations

<i>J Letters</i>	<i>The Letters of Samuel Johnson</i> , ed. Bruce Redford, 3 vols. (Oxford, 1992)
<i>JPP</i>	<i>Johnson Prose and Poetry</i> , ed. Mona Wilson (London, 1950)
<i>JW</i>	<i>The Works of Samuel Johnson</i> , gen. ed. John H. Middendorf, (New Haven, 1958–)
<i>LB</i>	W. Wordsworth and S. T. Coleridge, <i>Lyrical Ballads 1798</i> , ed. W. J. B. Owen, 2nd edn (Oxford, 1969)
<i>Lects 1808–19</i>	S. T. Coleridge, <i>Lectures 1808–19 on Literature</i> , ed. R. A. Foakes, 2 vols. (London and Princeton, NJ, 1987). <i>CC v</i>
<i>Lives</i>	Samuel Johnson, <i>Lives of the English Poets</i> , ed. G. B. Hill, 3 vols. (Oxford, 1905)
<i>LPR</i>	S. T. Coleridge, <i>Lectures 1795 on Politics and Religion</i> , ed. L. Patton and P. Mann (London and Princeton, NJ, 1971). <i>CC i</i>
<i>LS</i>	S. T. Coleridge, <i>Lay Sermons</i> , ed. R. J. White (London and Princeton, NJ, 1972). <i>CC vi</i>
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
<i>MLR</i>	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
<i>Observations</i>	William Gilpin, <i>Observations relative chiefly to Picturesque Beauty made in 1772, in several parts of England; particularly the Mountains and Lakes of Cumberland and Westmoreland</i> , 2 vols. (London, 1786 (facsimile rpt. Richmond, 1973))
<i>PE</i>	Edmund Burke, <i>A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful</i> , ed. J. T. Boulton (London, 1958)
<i>Pope</i>	<i>The Twickenham Edition of the Poems of Alexander Pope</i> , gen. ed. John Butt, 11 vols. (London, 1961–9)
<i>Prelude</i>	William Wordsworth, <i>The Prelude, 1799, 1805, 1850</i> , ed. Jonathan Wordsworth, M. H. Abrams, Stephen Gill (New York and London, 1979)
<i>Price</i>	Uvedale Price, <i>An Essay on the Picturesque as compared with the Sublime and the Beautiful: and on the use of Studying pictures for the purpose of improving real landscape</i> , 3 vols. (London, 1810 (facsimile rpt. Farnborough, Hants, 1971))
<i>Prior</i>	<i>The Literary Works of Matthew Prior</i> , ed. H. Bunker Wright and Monroe K. Spears, 2nd edn, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1971)
<i>SiR</i>	<i>Studies in Romanticism</i>
<i>Task</i>	William Cowper, <i>The Task 1785</i> (Ilkley and London: facsimile edn, 1973)
<i>Thomson</i>	James Thomson, <i>The Seasons</i> , ed. James Sambrook (Oxford, 1981)
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
<i>TWC</i>	<i>The Wordsworth Circle</i>

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Thomson to Wordsworth
Tim Fulford
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

List of abbreviations xiii

<i>Watchman</i>	<i>The Watchman</i> , ed. Lewis Patton (London and Princeton, NJ, 1970). CC, 11
<i>WL(EY)</i>	<i>The Letters of William and Dorothy Wordsworth</i> , ed. E. de Selincourt, <i>The Early Years, 1787–1805</i> , 2nd edn, rev. C. L. Shaver (Oxford, 1967)
<i>WL(MY)</i>	<i>The Letters of William and Dorothy Wordsworth</i> , ed. E. de Selincourt, <i>The Middle Years, 1806–17</i> , 2nd edn, 2 vols., rev. Mary Moorman (Oxford, 1969)
<i>WL(LY)</i>	<i>The Letters of William and Dorothy Wordsworth</i> , ed. E. de Selincourt, <i>The Later Years</i> , rev. Alan G. Hill, 3 vols. (Oxford, 1979–81)
<i>W Prose</i>	<i>The Prose Works of William Wordsworth</i> , ed. W. J. B. Owen and J. W. Smyser, 3 vols. (Oxford, 1974)
<i>WPW</i>	<i>The Poetical Works of William Wordsworth</i> , ed. E. de Selincourt and Helen Darbishire, 5 vols. (Oxford, 1940–49)