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0521604443 - British Romantic Writers and the East: Anxieties of Empire

Nigel Leask

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The recent turn to political and historical readings of Romanticism has given us a more complex picture of the institutional, cultural and sexual politics of the period. There has been a tendency, however, to confine such study to the European scene. In this book, Nigel Leask sets out to study the work of Byron, Shelley and De Quincey (together with a number of other major and minor Romantic writers, including Robert Southey and Tom Moore) in relation to Britain's imperial designs on the 'Orient'. Combining historical and theoretical approaches with detailed analyses of specific works, it examines the anxieties and instabilities of Romantic representations of the Ottoman Empire, India, China and the Far East. It argues that these anxieties were not marginal but central to the major concerns of British Romantic writers. The book is illustrated with a number of engravings from the period, giving a visual dimension to the discussion of Romantic representations of the East.

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The categories produced by Romanticism have also been challenged by recent historicist arguments. The task of the series is to engage both with a challenging corpus of Romantic writings and with the changing field of criticism they have helped to shape. As with other literary series published by Cambridge, this one will represent the work of both younger and more established scholars, on either side of the Atlantic and elsewhere.

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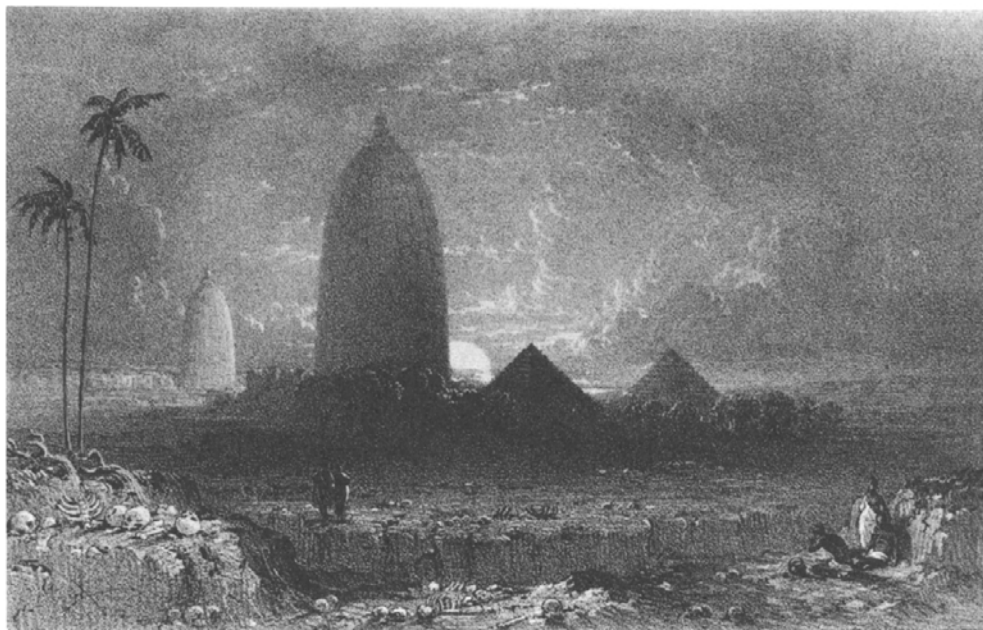
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‘Juggernaut’, by Thomas Bacon, in *First Impressions and Studies from Nature in Hindostan 1831–36*, 2 vols. (London 1837). Frontispiece, vol. 1.

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0521604443 - British Romantic Writers and the East: Anxieties of Empire

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Evelyn

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiv
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xv
Introduction	I
1 'Byron turns Turk': Orientalism and the 'Eastern Tales'	13
1 Byron's 'Eastern Tales'	13
2 The context of the 'Eastern Tales'. 'Samples of the Finest Orientalism'	17
3 Epics against empire? Samuel Rogers' 'Voyage of Columbus' and Byron's 'The Giaour'	25
4 Satire against the grain	33
5 'The Bride of Abydos'	38
6 'The Corsair'	44
7 Resolving 'The Corsair': 'Lara' and 'The Island'	54
2 'Sharp Philanthropy': Percy Bysshe Shelley and Romantic India	68
1 Shelley and India	68
2 'The Assassins'	76
3 The word in the wilderness	80
4 Brahmins, temples and pyres: some Romantic representations of India	91
5 The European dimensions of orientalism	103
6 'The Revolt of Islam' and 'Alastor': liberating the Orient?	108
7 'Revolutions of Empire' or empire as revolution?	118
8 Engendering India: the poet and the 'Light of Asia'	120
9 'Alastor: or the Spirit of Solitude'	122
10 'Can Man be free if Woman be a Slave?': the problem of 'The Revolt's' feminism.	130
11 The 'Reforming Brahmin' and 'Prometheus Unbound'.	134
12 'Prometheus Unbound': reorientating Greece	140

Cambridge University Press
0521604443 - British Romantic Writers and the East: Anxieties of Empire
Nigel Leask
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii	<i>Contents</i>	
	13 The role of Asia	146
	14 Coda: the Indian writings of Thomas Medwin	154
3	‘Murdering one’s double’: Thomas De Quincey and S. T. Coleridge. Autobiography, Opium and Empire in ‘Confessions of an English Opium Eater’ and ‘Biographia Literaria’	170
	1 Introduction	170
	2 The ‘Confessions’: nervous reactions	172
	3 John Brown and the debate about the therapeutic use of opium	175
	4 ‘Two Transcendentalists who are also [opium eaters]’	179
	5 The ‘Confessions’ and the ‘Biographia Literaria’	187
	6 Autobiography as exculpation	190
	7 Stately homes, temples and banks	195
	8 <i>Merely</i> a man of letters?	198
	9 Saturday night fever	201
	10 A vision of Liverpool	206
	11 Fear and loathing in Grasmere	209
	12 Opium wars	215
	13 Troubled dreams	220
	<i>Notes</i>	229
	<i>Index</i>	258

Illustrations

Frontispiece: ‘Juggernaut’, by Thomas Bacon, in *First Impressions and Studies from Nature in Hindostan 1831–36*, 2 vols. (London 1837).
 Frontispiece, vol. 1.

1	‘The Corsair’, <i>Illustrations to the Works of Lord Byron</i> (London 1840) unpaginated.	page 48
2	‘Neuha’, <i>Illustrations to the Works of Lord Byron</i> (London 1840) unpaginated.	65
3	‘Tom Raw at a Hindoo Entertainment’, in <i>Tom Raw the Griffin</i> , by Charles D’Oyly (London 1828), facing p. 182.	81
4	‘Tom Raw rejects the Embraces of the Nabob of Bengal’, <i>Tom Raw the Griffin</i> , facing p. 205.	83
5	‘A Mahratta Surdar entertaining Brahmins’, in T. D. Broughton, <i>Letters Written in a Mahratta Camp</i> (London 1813), facing p. 48.	99
6	‘Procession of Hindoo Woman to the Funeral Pyre of her Husband’, in William Hodges, <i>Travels in India</i> (London 1793), facing p. 84.	117
7	‘Raja Ram Mohan Roy’, unknown artist, India Office Library and Records. WD 1288.	135
8	‘Interior View... of the Temple of Elephanta’, in J. Forbes, <i>Oriental Memoirs</i> , 4 vols. (London 1813), 1 facing p. 454.	157
9	‘Bhadra’, an 1830 lithograph by R. M. Grindley of a carving in Ellora caves, <i>Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> , vol. 11 (London 1830), facing p. 327.	159

Cambridge University Press

0521604443 - British Romantic Writers and the East: Anxieties of Empire

Nigel Leask

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgements*

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations**Chapter 1*

BPW *Byron: Poetical Works*, ed. Frederick Page, corrected by John Jump (Oxford University Press 1970)

CPW *The Complete Poetical Works of Lord Byron*, ed. Jerome McGann (Oxford: Clarendon Press 1980–)

LJ *Byron's Letters and Journals*, ed. Leslie Marchand, 12 vols. (London: John Murray 1973–82)

Chapter 2

CL *Collected Letters of S. T. Coleridge*, ed. E. L. Griggs, 6 vols. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1956–71)

CN *The Notebooks of S. T. Coleridge*, ed. K. Coburn, 5 vols. (New York, Princeton and London: Routledge & Kegan Paul and Princeton University Press, 1976)

MPW *Poetical Works of Thomas Moore* (London and Edinburgh: William Nimmo 1875)

SL *Collected Letters of P. B. Shelley*, ed. Frederick L. Jones, 2 vols. (Oxford 1964)

SPW *Shelley's Poetical Works*, ed. Thomas Hutchinson (London: Oxford University Press 1934)

S Prose *Shelley's Prose or The Trumpet of a Prophecy*, ed. David Lee Clark, new preface by Harold Bloom (1954, reprinted London: Fourth Estate 1988)

WJW *The Works of Sir William Jones*, ed. Lady Jones, 6 vols. (London 1799)

Chapter 3

BL S. T. Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*, ed. James Engell and W. Jackson Bate (Bollingen Series LXXV, Princeton University Press 1983)

C *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*, ed. Alethea Hayter,

xvi	<i>List of abbreviations</i>
	(Harmondsworth 1971). Based on the text as it first appeared anonymously and in two parts, in the Sept. and Oct. 1821 issues of <i>The London Magazine</i> , (vol. iv, nos. xxi, 293–312, and xxii, 35–79)
C 1856	<i>Confessions of an English Opium Eater</i> , revised 1856 (London and New York: Routledge and Dutton ND)
Mass	<i>The Collected Writings of Thomas De Quincey</i> , ed. David Masson, 14 vols. (Edinburgh 1890)
Recoll.	<i>Recollections of the Lakes and the Lake Poets</i> , ed. David Wright (Harmondsworth 1970). Text based on the original articles in <i>Tait's Edinburgh Magazine</i> between 1834 and 1840