

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-80481-3 - The Persistence of Romanticism: Essays in Philosophy and Literature

Richard Eldridge

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE PERSISTENCE OF ROMANTICISM

Has Romanticism been superseded by realism, modernism, and postmodernism, all of which are often taken to acknowledge reality more fully than Romanticism? What is it that Romantic thinkers and writers do? Why does what they do matter? Is Romanticism a thing of the past?

These challenging essays defend Romanticism against its critics. They argue that Romantic thought, interpreted as the ongoing pursuit of freedom in concrete contexts, crossed by frustration and marked by desire, remains a central and exemplary form of both artistic work and philosophical understanding. Marshaling a wide range of texts from literature, philosophy, and criticism, Richard Eldridge traces the central themes and stylistic features of Romantic thinking in the work of Kant, Hölderlin, Wordsworth, Hardy, Wittgenstein, Cavell, and Updike. Through his analysis he shows that Romanticism is neither empty literary and escapist nor dogmatically optimistic and sentimental.

This philosophical defense of the ideals and practice of Romanticism will appeal particularly to all professionals and students in philosophy, literature, and aesthetics who are interested in expressivist thinking about value and freedom, as it is developed in both literary and philosophical texts.

Richard Eldridge is Professor of Philosophy at Swarthmore College and author of *On Moral Personhood* (1989) and *Leading a Human Life* (1998).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-80481-3 - The Persistence of Romanticism: Essays in Philosophy and Literature

Richard Eldridge

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

General Editor

ROBERT B. PIPPIN, *University of Chicago*

Advisory Board

GARY GUTTING, *University of Notre Dame*

ROLF-PETER HORSTMANN, *Humboldt University, Berlin*

MARK SACKS, *University of Essex*

Some Recent Titles

Frederick A. Olafson: *What Is a Human Being?*

Stanley Rosen: *The Mask of Enlightenment: Nietzsche's Zarathustra*

Robert C. Scharff: *Comte after Positivism*

F. C. T. Moore: *Bergson: Thinking Backwards*

Charles Larmore: *The Morals of Modernity*

Robert B. Pippin: *Idealism as Modernism*

Daniel W. Conway: *Nietzsche's Dangerous Game*

John P. McCormick: *Carl Schmitt's Critique of Liberalism*

Frederick A. Olafson: *Heidegger and the Ground of Ethics*

Günter Zöller: *Fichte's Transcendental Philosophy*

Warren Breckman: *Marx, the Young Hegelians, and the Origins of Radical Social Theory*

William Blattner: *Heidegger's Temporal Idealism*

Charles Griswold: *Adam Smith and the Virtues of the Enlightenment*

Gary Gutting: *Pragmatic Liberalism and the Critique of Modernity*

Allen Wood: *Kant's Ethical Thought*

Karl Ameriks: *Kant and the Fate of Autonomy*

Alfredo Ferrarin: *Hegel and Aristotle*

Cristina Lafont: *Heidegger, Language and World-Discourse*

Nicholas Wolterstorff: *Thomas Reid and the Story of Epistemology*

Daniel Dahlstrom: *Heidegger's Concept of Truth*

Michelle Grier: *Kant's Doctrine of Transcendental Illusion*

Henry Allison: *Kant's Theory of Taste*

Allen Speight: *Hegel, Literature and the Problem of Agency*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-80481-3 - The Persistence of Romanticism: Essays in Philosophy and Literature

Richard Eldridge

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE PERSISTENCE OF
ROMANTICISM
Essays in Philosophy and Literature

RICHARD ELDRIDGE

Swarthmore College



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-80481-3 - The Persistence of Romanticism: Essays in Philosophy and Literature

Richard Eldridge

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA

10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, VIC 3166, Australia

Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain

Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cup.org>

© Cambridge University Press 2001

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2001

Printed in the United States of America

Typeface New Baskerville 10.25/13 pt. *System* QuarkXPress® [MG]

*A catalog record for this book is available from
the British Library*

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Eldridge, Richard.

The persistence of Romanticism: essays in philosophy and literature /
Richard Eldridge.

p. cm.

ISBN 0 521 80046 3 (hb) – ISBN 0 521 80481 7 (pb)

1. Romanticism. I. Title.

B836.5 .E43 2001

141'.6 – dc21

00–064226

ISBN 0 521 80046 3 hardback

ISBN 0 521 80481 7 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-80481-3 - The Persistence of Romanticism: Essays in Philosophy and Literature

Richard Eldridge

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Gewiß, du hast recht, Bester, der Schmerzen wären minder unter den Menschen, wenn sie nicht – Gott weiß, warum sie so gemacht sind – mit so viel Emsigkeit der Einbildungskraft sich beschäftigten, die Erinnerungen des vergangenen Übels zurückzurufen, eher als eine gleichgültige Gegenwart zu ertragen.

– Goethe, *Die Leiden des jungen Werther*,
Am 4. Mai 1771

... and we see too sure
Nor worth nor beauty dwells from out the mind's
Ideal shape of such; yet still it binds
The fatal spell, and still it draws us on,
Reaping the whirlwind from the oft-sown winds.

– Lord Byron, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*,
Canto IV, Stanza 123

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page xi</i>
1 Introduction: The Persistence of Romanticism	1
PART I KANT AND POST-KANTIAN ROMANTICISM	
2 Kant, Hölderlin, and the Experience of Longing	31
3 Modernity and Expression: Kant on the Value of Absolute Music	52
4 How Is the Kantian Moral Criticism of Literature Possible?	71
5 Hölderlin’s Ethical Thinking: “The Processes of the Actual” in “Heidelberg”	85
6 Internal Transcendentalism: Wordsworth and “A New Condition of Philosophy”	102
PART II TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHICAL ROMANTICISMS: WITTGENSTEIN, CAVELL, AND THE ARTS	
7 Hypotheses, Criterial Claims, and Perspicuous Representations: Wittgenstein’s “Remarks on Frazer’s <i>The Golden Bough</i> ”	127
8 How Can Tragedy Matter for Us?	145
9 Althusser and Ideological Criticism of the Arts	165
10 “A Continuing Task”: Cavell and the Truth of Skepticism	189
11 Plights of Embodied Soul: Dramas of Sin and Salvation in Augustine and Updike	205
12 Cavell and Hölderlin on Human Immigrancy	229
<i>Index</i>	<i>247</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-80481-3 - The Persistence of Romanticism: Essays in Philosophy and Literature

Richard Eldridge

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Kant, Hölderlin, and the Experience of Longing,” in *Beyond Representation: Philosophy and Poetic Imagination*, ed. Richard Eldridge (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 175–96. Reprinted by permission of Cambridge University Press.

“How Is the Kantian Moral Criticism of Literature Possible?” in *Proceedings of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters – Symposium: Skjønnlitteratur og etikk*, ed. Bjørn Tysdahl et al. (Oslo: Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and University of Oslo, 1992), pp. 85–98. Reprinted by permission of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and the University of Oslo.

“Hölderlin’s Ethical Thinking: ‘The Processes of the Actual’ in ‘Heidelberg,’” *Annals of Scholarship* 13, 1–2 (1999), pp. 51–65. Reprinted by permission of Annals of Scholarship, Inc.

“Internal Transcendentalism: Wordsworth and ‘A New Condition of Philosophy,’” *Philosophy and Literature* 18, 1 (April 1994), pp. 50–71. The Johns Hopkins University Press. Reprinted by permission of the Johns Hopkins University Press for this edition only.

“Hypotheses, Criterial Claims, and Perspicuous Representations: Wittgenstein’s ‘Remarks on Frazer’s *The Golden Bough*,’” *Philosophical Investigations* 10, 3 (July 1987), pp. 226–45. Blackwell Publishers Ltd. Reprinted by permission of Blackwell Publishers Ltd. for this edition only.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-80481-3 - The Persistence of Romanticism: Essays in Philosophy and Literature

Richard Eldridge

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

“How Can Tragedy Matter for Us?” *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 52, 3 (Summer 1994), pp. 287–98. Reprinted by permission of the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*.

“Althusser and Ideological Criticism of the Arts,” in *Explanation and Value in the Literary and Visual Arts*, eds. Ivan Gaskell and Salim Kemal (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), pp. 190–214. Reprinted by permission of Cambridge University Press.

“‘A Continuing Task’: Cavell and the Truth of Skepticism,” in *The Senses of Stanley Cavell*, eds. Richard Fleming and Michael Payne, *Bucknell Review* (special issue) 32, 1 (1989), pp. 73–89. Reprinted by permission of Associated University Presses.

“Plights of Embodied Soul: Dramas of Sin and Salvation in Augustine and Updike,” in *The Augustinian Tradition*, ed. Gareth B. Matthews (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), pp. 361–81. Reprinted by permission of University of California Press.