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BYRON, POETICS AND HISTORY

Jane Stabler offers the first full-scale examination of Byron's poetic form in relation to historical debates of his time. Responding to recent studies of publishing and audiences in the Romantic period, Stabler argues that Byron's poetics developed in response to contemporary cultural history and his reception by the English reading public. Drawing on extensive new archive research into Byron's correspondence and reading, Stabler traces the complexity of the inter-textual dialogues that run through his work. For example, Stabler analyses *Don Juan* alongside *Galvani's Messenger* – Byron's principal source of news about British politics while in Italy – and refers to hitherto unpublished letters between Byron's publishers and his friends revealing a powerful impulse among his contemporaries to direct his controversial poetic style to their own political ends. This fascinating study will be of interest to Byronists and, more broadly, to scholars of Romanticism in general.

JANE STABLER is Lecturer in English at the University of Dundee. She is the author of *The Longman Critical Reader on Byron* (1998) and *Burke to Byron, Barbauld to Baillie 1790–1830* (2001).

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all these things – like most things are a lottery – it may be as well at least to have the ticket drawn.

(BLJ, x, pp. 92–3)

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Note on texts

All quotations from Byron's poetry unless otherwise stated are taken from *CPW*. *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* and *Don Juan* are referred to by canto and stanza numbers; all other poems are referred to by line reference or stanza and line reference.

Plays are referred to by act, scene, and line. The edition of Shakespeare used is *The Arden Shakespeare*, second series, general editors: Harold F. Brooks, Harold Jenkins and Brian Morris (London and New York: Methuen, 1951–82). All references to *Paradise Lost* are taken from Milton, *Paradise Lost*, (ed.) Alastair Fowler, 2nd edn (Harlow: Longman, 1968; repr. 1982): references are to book and line numbers.

All references to the *OED* are to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd edn, prepared by J.A. Simpson and E.S.C. Weiner, 20 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989).

All quotations from the Bible are from the Authorised Version.

Abbreviations

<i>BLJ</i>	Lord Byron, <i>Byron's Letters and Journals</i> , (ed.) Leslie A. Marchand, 13 vols. (London: John Murray, 1973–94)
<i>CPW</i>	Lord Byron, <i>The Complete Poetical Works</i> , (ed.) Jerome J. McGann, 7 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980–93)
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>GM</i>	<i>Galignani's Messenger</i>
<i>GLG</i>	<i>Galignani's Literary Gazette</i>
<i>HLRO</i>	House of Lords Record Office
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publication of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>RR, A</i>	Donald H. Reiman (ed.), <i>The Romantics Reviewed: Contemporary Reviews of British Romantic Writers, Part A: The Lake Poets</i> , 2 vols. (New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1972)
<i>RR, B</i>	Donald H. Reiman (ed.), <i>The Romantics Reviewed: Contemporary Reviews of British Romantic Writers, Part B: Byron and Regency Society Poets</i> , 5 vols. (New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1972)
<i>RR, C</i>	Donald H. Reiman (ed.), <i>The Romantics Reviewed: Contemporary Reviews of British Romantic Writers, Part C: Shelley, Keats, and London Radical Writers</i> , 2 vols. (New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1972)
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