

NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE IN TRANSITION: THE 1830s

This instalment in the Nineteenth-Century Literature in Transition series concerns a decade that was as technologically transitional as it was eventful on a global scale. It collects work from a group of internationally renowned scholars across disciplinary boundaries in order to engage with the wide array of cultural developments that defined the 1830s. Often overlooked as a boundary between the Romantic and the Victorian periods, this decade was, the book proposes, the central pivot of the nineteenth century. Far from being a time of peaceful reform, it was marked by violent colonial expansion, political resistance, and revolutionary technologies such as the photograph, the expansion of steam power, and the railway that changed the world irreversibly. Contributors explore a flurry of cultural forms to take the pulse of the decade, from Silver Fork fiction to lithography, from working-class periodicals to photographs, and from urban sketches to magazine fiction.

JOHN GARDNER is Dean of the Doctoral School and Professor of English Literature at Anglia Ruskin University. Gardner is also the Leverhulme Trust Research Fellow on 'Turning the Screw: Engineering Romanticism', a project which examines convergences between literary and engineering cultures.

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NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE IN TRANSITION

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This series aims to move beyond existing preconceptions of the British literature of each decade of the nineteenth century ('the reforming thirties', the 'hungry forties', and the 'naughty nineties') in favour of a mode of characterisation that considers each ten-year period as a dynamic field of synchronic and diachronic forces, and as sites of energetic tension between what came before and what followed. Viewing the decade as a vivid and relational concept will reinvigorate critical understanding of British literary production and consumption in a century in which unprecedented historical self-reflexivity ensured that the concepts of a 'century' and a 'decade' became important structures for lived experience. As literacy increased to near-ubiquity and modern print media emerged, British literature evolved as a set of social practices and expressive modalities. The volumes in this series produce fresh characterisations enabled by attention to recent (particularly digital) methodologies, as well as by examination of nineteenth-century concerns that continue to shape our contemporary world, such as globalisation, the refugee crisis, and the changing nature of war. Each volume places British literary history within transnational and global contexts, and, although rooted in the study of literary texts, works within an explicitly interdisciplinary frame of reference. This series represents a unique and innovative approach to the nineteenth century. It acknowledges the enormity of the changes witnessed by that period, and investigates the ways in which literature colludes with and contests the century's shifting contours.

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