

COLERIDGE AND THE GEOMETRIC IDIOM

When Coleridge described the landscapes he passed through while scrambling among the fells, mountains, and valleys of Britain, he did something unprecedented in Romantic writing: to capture what emerged before his eyes, he enlisted a geometric idiom. Immersed in a culture still beholden to Euclid's *Elements* and schooled by those who subscribed to its principles, he valued geometry both for its pragmatic function and for its role as a conduit to abstract thought. Indeed, his geometric training would often structure his observations on religion, aesthetics, politics, and philosophy. For Coleridge, however, this perspective never competed with his sensitivity to the organic nature of his surroundings but, rather, intermingled with it. Situating Coleridge's remarkable ways of seeing within the history and teaching of mathematics and alongside the eighteenth century's budding interest in non-Euclidean geometry, Ann C. Colley illuminates the richness of the culture of walking and the surprising potential of landscape writing.

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GEOMETRIC IDIOM

Walking with Euclid

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This book is dedicated to the landscape of my childhood walking in Britain.

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Abbreviations

- CC* Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Collected Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 16 vols., General Editor Kathleen Coburn (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1971–2002). References include volume and page numbers.
- CL* Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Collected Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 6 vols., ed. Earl Leslie Griggs (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956–71). References include volume and page numbers.
- CN* Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Notebooks of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 5 vols., ed. Kathleen Coburn (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1957–2002). References include volume and entry numbers followed by British Library folio number.
- CP* Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Complete Poetical Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 2 vols., ed. Ernest Hartley Coleridge (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1957). References include volume and page numbers.