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978-1-107-02492-2 - Metropolitan Art and Literature, 1810–1840: Cockney Adventures

Gregory Dart

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1810–1840

Gregory Dart expands upon existing notions of Cockneys and the ‘Cockney School’ in the late Romantic period by exploring some of the broader ramifications of the phenomenon in art and periodical literature. He argues that the term was not confined to discussion of the Leigh Hunt circle, but was fast becoming a way of gesturing towards everything in modern metropolitan life that seemed discrepant and disturbing. Covering the ground between Romanticism and Victorianism, Dart presents Cockneyism as a powerful critical currency in this period, which helps provide a link between the works of Leigh Hunt and Keats in the 1810s and the early works of Charles Dickens in the 1830s. Through an examination of literary history, art history, urban history and social history, this book identifies the early-nineteenth-century figure of the Cockney as the true ancestor of modernity.

GREGORY DART is a senior lecturer in the English Department of University College London. His research, both current and prospective, is centrally concerned with the modern city, as a cultural and material phenomenon. His first monograph, *Rousseau, Robespierre and English Romanticism* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), examined the influence of the French Revolution on English Romantic writers. Since then he has published widely on Romantics and the city, edited two selections of Hazlitt’s writings and co-edited a collection of essays called *Restless Cities* with Matthew Beaumont.

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To my father and mother

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