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978-1-107-03111-1 - New Essays on John Clare: Poetry, Culture and Community

Edited By Simon Kövesi and Scott McEathron

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NEW ESSAYS ON JOHN CLARE

John Clare (1793–1864) has long been recognized as one of England's foremost poets of nature, landscape and rural life. Scholars and general readers alike regard his tremendous creative output as a testament to a probing and powerful intellect. Clare was that rare amalgam – a poet who wrote from a working-class, impoverished background, who was steeped in folk and ballad culture, and who yet, against all social expectations and prejudices, read and wrote himself into a grand literary tradition. All the while he maintained a determined sense of his own commitments to the poor, to natural history and to the local. Through the diverse approaches of ten scholars, this collection shows how Clare's many angles of critical vision illuminate current understandings of environmental ethics, aesthetics, Romantic and Victorian literary history, and the nature of work.

SIMON KÖVESI is Professor of English Literature at Oxford Brookes University.

SCOTT MCEATHRON is Associate Professor of English at Southern Illinois University.

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JOHN BURNSIDE teaches at the University of St Andrews. His poetry collections include *Feast Days* (1992), winner of the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize; *The Asylum Dance* (2000), winner of the Whitbread Poetry Award; and *Black Cat Bone*, (2011) which won both the Forward and the T. S. Eliot Prize. In 2011, he received the Petrarca Preis for poetry. His novels include *The Devil's Footprints* (2007), *Glister* (2008) and *A Summer of Drowning* (2011). He is also the author of two collections of short stories – *Burning Elvis* (2000) and *Something Like Happy* (2013), which was the Saltire Society's Scottish Book of the Year, as well as the winner of the Edge Hill Short Story Prize. His memoirs to date include *A Lie About My Father* (2006), also a Saltire Book of the Year, and *Waking Up in Toytown* (2010). John Burnside's latest poetry collection is *All One Breath* (2014). A new prose book, *I Put A Spell On You: Several Digressions On Love and Glamour*, was recently published. He was writer in residence at the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst), Berlin, for 2014–15.

RICHARD CRONIN is Professor of English Literature at Oxford Brookes University. He began his career as a Shelley scholar but has subsequently written widely on nineteenth-century literature. His most recent books are *Romantic Victorians: English Literature 1824–1840*; *Paper Pellets: British Literary Culture after Waterloo*; and *Reading Victorian Poetry*. With Dorothy McMillan he has edited *Robert Browning* for Twenty-First Century Authors, and *Emma* for Cambridge University Press's new edition of Austen's work; he also co-edited a *Companion to Victorian Poetry*. He is currently working on a biography provisionally entitled *George Meredith: A Life in Writing*.

ROBERT HEYES was born and grew up in Lincolnshire, initially in Grantham and later in the villages of Metheringham and Scopwick. His first degrees were in Chemistry. His professional life was spent as a

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schoolteacher, mainly at a village primary school in Kent. Forty years ago he began to collect books and manuscripts by, and about, John Clare; eventually this resulted in what was probably the finest Clare collection in private hands. After taking early retirement, he began to disperse his collection, and the emphasis shifted from collecting to research. This resulted in the award of a PhD from the English department at Birkbeck College, for a thesis entitled *'Looking to Futurity': John Clare and Provincial Culture*. He contributed an essay to *John Clare: New Approaches* (2000) and has published essays and book reviews in the *John Clare Society Journal*, *English* and *Romanticism*. For many years he was the book review editor of the *John Clare Society Journal*.

SIMON KÖVESI is Professor of English Literature at Oxford Brookes University. He edited two prefatory collections of Clare's poetry – *Love Poems* (1999) and *Flower Poems* (2001) – and, with John Goodridge, co-edited *John Clare: New Approaches* (2000). His study of the contemporary Glaswegian writer, *James Kelman* (2007), was short-listed for the Saltire Scottish First Book of the Year Award in 2008. He is editor of the *John Clare Society Journal* and has published essays on Clare, ecology, copyright, editing and Romantic literary culture.

EMMA MASON is Professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Warwick. Her publications include *Elizabeth Jennings: The Collected Poems* (2012); *The Cambridge Introduction to Wordsworth* (Cambridge University Press, 2010); and *Women Poets of the Nineteenth Century* (2006). She is the editor of *Reading the Abrahamic Faiths: Rethinking Religion and Literature* (2014), and a 'new perspectives' issue of *La Questione Romantica* on William Wordsworth (with Elena Spandri; 2014). Her book *Christina Rossetti: Poet of Grace* is forthcoming.

SCOTT MCEATHRON is Associate Professor of English at Southern Illinois University. He has written extensively on the relationship between labouring-class poetry and canonical Romanticism, and, more recently, has published a series of essays on Romantic-era painters and paintings with links to Lamb, Hazlitt and Keats. He is the editor of *English Labouring-Class Poetry, 1800–1830* (2006) and *Thomas Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles: A Sourcebook* (2005). His current projects include work on the nineteenth-century labouring-class elegy and on the treatment of labouring-class poets by the Royal Literary Fund.

ADAM ROUNCE lectures at the University of Nottingham. He has written extensively on various seventeenth- and eighteenth-century writers,

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including Dryden, Pope, Churchill, Joseph Warton and Johnson. He is co-editing two volumes of the ongoing Cambridge edition of the writings of Jonathan Swift, as well as writing a separate Chronology. He has recently published a monograph on literary culture and lack of success in the long eighteenth century: *Fame and Failure, 1720–1800: the Unfulfilled Literary Life* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

FIONA STAFFORD is Professor of English at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Somerville College. Her recent books include *Reading Romantic Poetry* (2012) and *Local Attachments* (2010). She edited *Lyrical Ballads* and *Pride and Prejudice* and a collection of essays on *Burns and Other Poets* (2012). She has also written and delivered two series of 'The Essay' for BBC Radio 3 on 'The Meaning of Trees'. She is currently working on *The Oxford History of English Literature: Volume Seven, The Romantic Period* and on a book about trees.

SAM WARD is an Honorary Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Regional Literature and Culture at the University of Nottingham and teaches at Nottingham Trent University. He worked as an associate editor on *The Letters of Robert Bloomfield and His Circle* (2009) and parts 1–4 of *The Collected Letters of Robert Southey* (2009–13), and has recently edited Bloomfield's final volume of poetry, *May-Day with the Muses*. He is Archivist of the John Clare Society and is currently working on a book-length study entitled *John Clare, Ownership and Appropriation*.

SARAH M. ZIMMERMAN is Professor of English at Fordham University. Her work on the Romantic lyric includes *Romanticism, Lyricism, and History* (1999), which focused on Charlotte Smith, William Wordsworth, Dorothy Wordsworth and John Clare. She has also published essays on the lyric poetry of Smith, Clare and Keats. Her work on performance includes essays on Percy Bysshe Shelley's *The Cenci*, Samuel Taylor Coleridge's public lectures, and women writers in the Romantic lecture room. She has completed a study of the Romantic literary lecture that features Coleridge, John Thelwall, Thomas Campbell, William Hazlitt and their women auditors, including Mary Russell Mitford, Catherine Maria Fanshawe and Lady Charlotte Bury.

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Bate	Jonathan Bate, <i>John Clare: A Biography</i> (London: Picador, 2003)
<i>By Himself</i>	<i>John Clare By Himself</i> , ed. Eric Robinson and David Powell (Ashington and Manchester: MidNAG/Carcenet, 1996)
<i>Critical Heritage</i>	<i>Clare: The Critical Heritage</i> , ed. Mark Storey (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1973)
<i>Early Poems</i> (I–II)	<i>The Early Poems of John Clare 1804–1822</i> , ed. Eric Robinson and David Powell, assoc. ed. Margaret Grainger, 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989)
Eg. Haughton	British Library, Egerton Manuscript <i>John Clare in Context</i> , ed. Hugh Haughton, Adam Phillips and Geoffrey Summerfield (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994)
<i>JCSJ</i>	<i>The John Clare Society Journal</i> , vols. 1–33 (2014), continuing series
<i>Later Poems</i> (I–II)	<i>The Later Poems of John Clare 1837–1864</i> , ed. Eric Robinson and David Powell, assoc. ed. Margaret Grainger, 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984)
<i>Letters</i>	<i>The Letters of John Clare</i> , ed. Mark Storey (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985)
<i>LM</i>	<i>London Magazine</i> , various editors and publishers (London: 1820–9)
<i>Major Works</i>	<i>John Clare: Major Works</i> , ed. Eric Robinson and David Powell, with an Introduction by Tom Paulin (Oxford: Oxford World's Classics, 2004)
<i>Middle Period</i> (I–V)	<i>John Clare, Poems of the Middle Period 1822–1837</i> , ed. Eric Robinson, David Powell and

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	P. M. S. Dawson (Oxford: Clarendon Press. vols. I–II: 1996; vols. III–IV: 1998; vol. V: 2003)
<i>Natural History</i>	<i>The Natural History Prose Writings of John Clare</i> , ed. Margaret Grainger (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983)
<i>New Approaches</i>	<i>John Clare: New Approaches</i> , ed. John Goodridge and Simon Kövesi (Helpston: John Clare Society, 2000)
Nor.	Northampton Manuscript, John Clare Collection, Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service, as listed in [David Powell], <i>Catalogue of the John Clare Collection in the Northampton Public Library</i> (Northampton: County Borough of Northampton Public Libraries, Museums and Art Gallery Committee, 1964)
Pet.	Peterborough Manuscript, Central Library, Peterborough, as listed in Margaret Grainger, <i>A Descriptive Catalogue of the John Clare Collection in Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery</i> ([Peterborough]: [Peterborough Museum Society], 1973)
Sales	Roger Sales, <i>John Clare: A Literary Life</i> (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2002)
Tibbles (1972)	J. W. and Anne Tibble, <i>John Clare: A Life</i> (London: Michael Joseph, 1972)