

## IDLENESS AND AESTHETIC CONSCIOUSNESS, 1815–1900

Charting the failure of the Romantic critique of political economy, Richard Adelman explores the changing significances and the developing concepts of idleness and aesthetic consciousness during the nineteenth century. Through careful analysis of some of the period's most influential thinkers, including John Stuart Mill, George Eliot, John Ruskin and Karl Marx, Adelman weaves together evolving ideas across a range of intellectual discourses – political economy, meditative poetry, the ideology of the 'gospel of work', cultural theory, the gothic and psychoanalysis. In doing so he reconstructs debates over passivity and repose and demonstrates their centrality to the cultural politics of the age. Arguing that hardened conceptions of aesthetic consciousness come into being at moments of civic unrest concerning political representation and that the fin-de-siècle witnesses the demonization of the once revolutionary category of aesthetic consciousness, the book demonstrates that late eighteenth-century positivity around human spirituality is comprehensively dismantled by the beginning of the twentieth century.

Richard Adelman is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Sussex. His previously published work includes *Idleness, Contemplation and the Aesthetic, 1750–1830* (Cambridge, 2011), *Political Economy, Literature and the Formation of Knowledge* (2018; edited with Catherine Packham), as well as numerous essays on figures including Dante Rossetti, John Ruskin, William Wordsworth, Percy Shelley, John Keats and J. M. Coetzee.

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# IDLENESS AND AESTHETIC CONSCIOUSNESS, 1815–1900

RICHARD ADELMAN



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*Abbreviations*

'Carmilla'	Sheridan Le Fanu, 'Carmilla', <i>In a Glass Darkly</i> , ed. R. Tracy (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993), pp. 243–319.
'Christabel'	Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 'Christabel', <i>Coleridge's Poetry and Prose</i> , eds. N. Halmi, P. Magnuson & R. Modiano (London: W. W. Norton, 2004), pp. 161–79.
<i>Culture</i>	Matthew Arnold, <i>Culture and Anarchy: An Essay in Political and Social Criticism, The Complete Prose Works of Matthew Arnold</i> , Volume V, ed. R. H. Super (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1965), pp. 85–256.
<i>Dracula</i>	Bram Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> , eds. N. Auerbach & D. J. Skal (London: Norton, 1997).
'GC'	Matthew Arnold, 'To a Gipsy Child by the Sea-Shore', <i>The Poetical Works of Matthew Arnold</i> , eds. C. B. Tinker & H. F. Lowry (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963), pp. 41–3.
<i>Letters</i>	John Keats, <i>The Letters of John Keats</i> , ed. Hyder E. Rollins, 2 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1958).
'LE'	Alfred Tennyson, 'The Lotos-Eaters', <i>Tennyson's Poetry</i> , ed. R. W. Hill Jr. (London: Norton, 1999), pp. 76–80.
Malthus, <i>Principles</i>	Thomas Malthus, <i>The Principles of Political Economy</i> , ed. J. Pullen, 2 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989).
'MB'	Percy Shelley, 'Mont Blanc', <i>The Major Works</i> , eds. Z. Leader & M. O'Neill (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), pp. 120–4.

Mill, <i>Principles</i>	John Stuart Mill, <i>Principles of Political Economy, Collected Words of John Stuart Mill</i> , vols. II–III, ed. J. M. Robson (London: Routledge, 1965).
<i>Past</i>	Thomas Carlyle, <i>Chartism, Past &amp; Present</i> (London: Chapman & Hall, 1858).
<i>Renaissance</i>	Walter Pater, <i>The Renaissance: Studies in Art and Poetry</i> , ed. Donald L. Hill (London: University of California Press, 1980).
Ricardo, <i>Principles</i>	David Ricardo, <i>Principles of Political Economy</i> , ed. P. Sraffa (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1951).
<i>Sartor</i>	Thomas Carlyle, <i>Sartor Resartus</i> , eds. K. McSweeney & P. Sabor (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999).
‘SG’	Matthew Arnold, ‘The Scholar-Gipsy’, <i>The Poetical Works of Matthew Arnold</i> , eds. C. B. Tinker & H. F. Lowry (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963), pp. 255–62.
‘SF’	Gerard Manley Hopkins, ‘Spring and Fall’, <i>The Major Works</i> , ed. Catherine Phillips (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 152.
<i>Stones</i>	John Ruskin, <i>The Stones of Venice</i> , 3 vols. (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1925).
‘SR’	Matthew Arnold, ‘The Strayed Reveller’, <i>The Poetical Works of Matthew Arnold</i> , eds. C. B. Tinker & H. F. Lowry (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963), pp. 185–94.
<i>Varney</i>	James Malcolm Rymer, <i>Varney the Vampyre; or, The Feast of Blood, A Romance</i> (Berkeley Heights, NJ: Wildside Press, 2000).
WH	Emily Brontë, <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , eds. P. Nestor & L. Miller (London: Penguin, 2003).