

THE GOTHIC

This first volume of *The Cambridge History of the Gothic* provides a rigorous account of the Gothic in Western civilisation, from the Goths' sacking of Rome in 410 AD through to the mode's various manifestations in British and European culture of the long eighteenth century. Written by an international cast of leading scholars, the chapters explore the interdisciplinary nature of the Gothic in the fields of history, literature, architecture and fine art. As much a cultural history of the Gothic as an account of the ways in which the Gothic has participated within a number of formative historical events across time, the volume offers fresh perspectives on familiar themes while also drawing new critical attention to a range of hitherto overlooked concerns. From writers such as Horace Walpole and Ann Radcliffe to eighteenth-century politics and theatre, the volume provides a thorough and engaging overview of early Gothic culture in Britain and beyond.

Angela Wright is Professor of Romantic Literature at the University of Sheffield, and a former co-president of the International Gothic Association (IGA). Her books include *Britain*, *France and the Gothic: The Import of Terror*, 1764–1820 (Cambridge University Press, 2013), *Mary Shelley* (University of Wales Press, 2018), and the co-edited volumes *Ann Radcliffe*, *Romanticism and the Gothic* (with Dale Townshend, Cambridge University Press, 2014) and *Romantic Gothic: An Edinburgh Companion* (with Dale Townshend, Edinburgh University Press, 2016).

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How to write the history of a cultural mode that, for all its abiding fascination with the past, has challenged and complicated received notions of history from the very start? The Cambridge History of the Gothic rises to this challenge, charting the history of the Gothic even as it reflects continuously upon the mode's tendency to question, subvert and render incomplete all linear historical narratives. Taken together, the three chronologically sequenced volumes in the series provide a rigorous account of the origins, efflorescence and proliferation of the Gothic imagination, from its earliest manifestations in European history through to the present day. The chapters in Volume I span antiquity and the long eighteenth century (c. 1680–1800), covering such topics as the Gothic Sack of Rome in AD 410, the construction and reception of the Gothic past in eighteenth-century Britain, the revival of Gothic architecture, art and literature in British and European culture and their imbrication during the revolutionary decades, 1770-1800. Elaborating upon several of the themes introduced in the first volume, the chapters in Volume II address the Gothic cultures of Britain, America and Europe during the nineteenth century (1800-1900), thus covering while moving well beyond those areas that have traditionally been demarcated as the 'Romantic' and the 'Victorian'. Engaging with the themes of the earlier volumes, the chapters in Volume III also explore some of the myriad forms that the Gothic has assumed in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (c. 1896-present), beginning with an account of the appropriation of the mode in early cinema and concluding with the apocalyptic Gothic turns of much recent cultural production. Resolutely interdisciplinary in focus, The Cambridge History of the Gothic extends the critical focus well beyond literature and film to include discussions of Gothic historiography, politics, art, architecture and counterculture. All three volumes in the series are attentive to the ways in which history has been refracted through a Gothic lens, and are as keen to chart the inscription of Gothic in some of the formative events



of Western history as they are to provide a history of the Gothic mode itself. Written by an international cast of contributors, the chapters bring fresh scholarly attention to bear upon established Gothic themes while also highlighting a number of new critical concerns. As such, they are of relevance to the general reader, the

student and the established scholar alike.





THE CAMBRIDGE
HISTORY OF
THE GOTHIC

Gothic in the Long Eighteenth Century

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