

COLLABORATIVE WRITING IN THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY

Bringing the collaborative process to life through an array of examples, Heather Bozant Witcher shows that sympathetic co-creation is far more than the mere act of writing together. While foregrounding the material aspects of collaboration – hands uniting on the page, blank space left for fellow contributors, the writing and exchanging of drafts – this study also illuminates its social aspects and reliance on Victorian liberalism: dialogue, the circulation of correspondence, the lived experience of collaboration, and, on a less material plane, transhistorical collaborations with figures of the past. Witcher takes a broad approach to these partnerships and, in doing so, challenges traditional expectations surrounding the nature of authorship itself, not least its typical classification as a solitary activity. Within this new framework, collaboration enables the titles of “coauthor,” “influencer,” “editor,” “critic,” and “inspiration” to coexist. This book celebrates the plurality of collaboration and underscores the truly social nature of nineteenth-century writing.

HEATHER BOZANT WITCHER is an assistant professor at Auburn University at Montgomery. Her research focuses on nineteenth-century poetics, collaboration, and sociability, as well as archival theory and digital humanities. She is the co-editor of *Defining Pre-Raphaelite Poetics* (2020) and was the 2016 Amy P. Goldman Fellow in Pre-Raphaelite Studies.

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COLLABORATIVE
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Sympathetic Partnerships and Artistic Creation

HEATHER BOZANT WITCHER

Auburn University at Montgomery



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*To my husband, my lifetime collaborator,
and Lottie, my ever-faithful, furry muse*

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