



Poetic Form and British Romanticism

By Stuart Curran

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Across Europe, and particularly in Great Britain, the Romantic age coincided with a large-scale revival of lost literatures and the first attempts to create a coherent history of Western literature. Calling into question that history, Stuart Curran demonstrates that the Romantic poets, far from being indifferent or hostile to popular forms of literature were actually obsessed with them as repositories of literary conventions and conveyors of implicit ideological value. Whether in their prooccupation with fixed forms, which resulted in the incomparable artistry of Romantic odes, or in their rethinking of major genres like the pastoral, the epic, and the romance, the Romantic poets transformed every element they touched to suit their own democratic, secular and skeptical ethos--a world view recognizably modern in its dimensions.

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Poetic Form and British Romanticism By Stuart Curran Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2988257 in Books
- Published on: 1990-02-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .58" w x 6.06" l, .94 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Review

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"Definitive. Curran's work will be the standard work on the subject of poetic form and British romanticism for a long time to come....A book like this comes along only rarely, so apparently modest and merely industrious in procedure, yet so sweepingly important in its scope and implication for critical theory and practice....An essential text for the study of British romantic poetry, and every serious scholar and student of the period should have a copy on the shelf of his or her working library."--*Modern Philology*

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About the Author

Stuart Curran is at University of Pennsylvania.

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