

ROMANTICISM IN PERSPECTIVE:
TEXTS, CULTURES, HISTORIES

General Editors:

Marilyn Gaull, *Professor of English,
Temple University/New York University*

Stephen Prickett, *Regius Professor of English Language and Literature,
University of Glasgow*

This series aims to offer a fresh assessment of Romanticism by looking at it from a wide variety of perspectives. Both comparative and interdisciplinary, it will bring together cognate themes from architecture, art history, landscape gardening, linguistics, literature, philosophy, politics, science, social and political history and theology to deal with original, contentious or as yet unexplored aspects of Romanticism as a Europe-wide phenomenon.

Titles include

Richard Cronin (*editor*)

1798: THE YEAR OF THE LYRICAL BALLADS

Péter Dávidházi

THE ROMANTIC CULT OF SHAKESPEARE: Literary
Reception in Anthropological Perspective

David Jasper

THE SACRED AND SECULAR CANON IN ROMANTICISM
Preserving the Sacred Truths

Malcolm Kelsall

JEFFERSON AND THE ICONOGRAPHY OF ROMANTICISM
Folk, Land, Culture and the Romantic Nation

Andrew McCann

CULTURAL POLITICS IN THE 1790s: Literature, Radicalism
and the Public Sphere

Ashton Nichols
THE REVOLUTIONARY 'I': Wordsworth and the Politics of
Self-Presentation

Jeffrey C. Robinson
RECEPTION AND POETICS IN KEATS: 'My Ended Poet'

Anya Taylor
BACCHUS IN ROMANTIC ENGLAND: Writers and Drink,
1780-1830

Michael Wiley
ROMANTIC GEOGRAPHY: Wordsworth and
Anglo-European Spaces

Eric Wilson
EMERSON'S SUBLIME SCIENCE

Romanticism in Perspective
Series Standing Order ISBN 978-0-333-71490-4
(*outside North America only*)

You can receive future titles in this series as they are published by placing a standing order. Please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address, the title of the series and the ISBN quoted above.

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS, England

The Sacred and Secular Canon in Romanticism

Preserving the Sacred Truths

David Jasper
Professor of Literature and Theology
and
Dean of Divinity
University of Glasgow





First published in Great Britain 1999 by

MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS and London
Companies and representatives throughout the world

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-349-40214-4

ISBN 978-0-230-37857-5 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9780230378575



First published in the United States of America 1999 by

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC.,

Scholarly and Reference Division,
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Jasper, David.

The sacred and secular canon in romanticism : preserving the
sacred truths / David Jasper.

p. cm. — (Romanticism in perspective)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. English literature—19th century—History and criticism.
2. German literature—19th century—History and criticism.
3. Religion and literature—History—19th century. 4. Romanticism—
Great Britain. 5. Holy, The, in literature. 6. Romanticism—
Germany. 7. Bible—In literature. 8. Romanticism in art.

I. Title. II. Series.

PR457.J37 1998

820.9'3822—dc21

98-7130

CIP

© David Jasper 1999

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HE.

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01 00 99

For
Hannah, Ruth and May

This page intentionally left blank

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
1 Introduction: Can These Dry Bones Live?	1
2 'Mediator between Old and New World'	11
3 Living Powers: Sacred and Secular Language	26
4 Hölderlin and Holy Scripture	41
5 Light and Darkness: J. M. W. Turner and the Bible	56
6 <i>Wellliteratur</i> and the Biblical Critics	72
7 Matthew Arnold: Between Two Worlds	88
8 The Death and Rebirth of Religious Language	100
9 Conclusion: Into the Twentieth Century	116
<i>Notes</i>	131
<i>Further Reading</i>	151
<i>Index</i>	153

This page intentionally left blank

Preface

This book is a series of studies in European Romanticism, and the modern university, with its ever increasing demands in the classroom and in administration, is not the most romantic of environments. Study and the writing of books take time, and although I am not convinced, *contra* Harold Bloom, that the larger community owes to people like myself salaried leisure for our meditation, I am grateful, nonetheless, to the University of Glasgow for granting me study-leave in the spring and summer of 1997 to complete this work. Its various chapters, at differing stages of development, have been inflicted on my long-suffering colleagues and students in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, and I thank them for their patience and constructive criticisms. My debt to Professor Stephen Prickett of the Department of English Literature in Glasgow is inestimable, and I thank him for his encouragement and guidance as a General Editor of the series of volumes of which this forms a part, for discussions over many years, and for everything that I have learnt from his own books on Romanticism and religion. Thanks are due also to Robert Detweiler, especially for his comments on Hölderlin, Thomas Altizer, Elisabeth Jay, Cheryl Exum, Zephyra Porat, Kiyoshi Tsuchiya and others whose comments in countless conversations have given me ideas and corrected my mistakes. (Those which remain are, of course, entirely my own responsibility.) In particular I would like to thank the Principal, staff and students of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, for inviting me to be the Jaspers Lecturer in Oxford in February 1996, and for the opportunity then to explore ideas which eventually became Chapter 8. I am no relation whatsoever of the philosopher Karl Jaspers, but this particular connection amused me, and I appreciated it. In addition, Dennis Taylor of Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, gave me invaluable assistance in the writing of Chapter 8.

But it has been my family, inevitably, who have borne the brunt of my abstraction and obsession. Writing a book is not a particularly sociable activity, and this book has taken up more of my time than any family could reasonably expect. As a small token of my gratitude I dedicate it to my three children, Hannah, Ruth and May,

though in no way does this lay upon them any requirement to read it, unless they so wish!

An earlier version of Chapter 3 was published in Stanley E. Porter (ed.), *The Nature of Religious Language: A Colloquium*, Roehampton Institute London Papers No. 1 (Sheffield Academic Press, 1996), pp. 214–25. A version of Chapter 5 is to appear in Cheryl Exum (ed.), *The Bible and Culture* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1998). Material from Chapter 8 appeared in the journal *Religion and Literature*, vol. 28, no. 1 (Spring 1996), pp. 5–19. To these editors and publishers I express my thanks for allowing me to use this material here.

D. J.

Glasgow, April 1997

All quotations from the Bible use the New English Bible version.