Robert Southey: later poetical works, 1811-1838. Volume 3: poems from the laureate period, 1813-1823


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Abstract

Robert Southey (1774-1843) was a prolific and celebrated poet, author, journalist and commentator on public affairs. But research on Southey's later poetry (and the violent responses it provoked at the time of its publication) has been hampered by the lack of a modern critical edition. These volumes provide fully-annotated and edited texts of the poems Southey wrote in the latter half of his career, allowing a full reassessment of Southey's work and significance.

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As poet—and eventually poet laureate—he produced epics, romances, and metrical tales, ballads, plays, monodramas, odes, eclogues, sonnets, and miscellaneous lyrics. His prose works include histories, biographies, essays, reviews, translations, travelogues, semifictional journalism, polemical dialogues, and a farrago of work of fiction, autobiography, anecdote, and omnium-gatherum that defies classification. For all the volume of Southey's journalism and polemical writing, his chief aspiration as a prose writer—not surprisingly considering his predilection as a poet for the epic—was to be a historian. There is little to recommend Southey's later historical works. For Southey, see Robert Southey: Poetical Works 1793–1810, ed. Tim Fulford and Lynda Pratt, 5 vols, London: Pickering and Chatto, 2004; Robert Southey: Later Poetic...