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.

Additional Information:

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Robert Southey was born in Wine Street, Bristol, England, to Thomas Southey and Margaret Hill and educated at Westminster School, London, (from which he was expelled for writing a magazine article in The Flagellant condemning flogging) and Balliol College, Oxford, of his time at Oxford Southey was later to say "All I learnt was a little swimming...". Later iterations of the plan moved the commune to Wales, but Southey was later the first of the group to reject the idea as unworkable. In 1799, both Southey and Coleridge were involved with early experiments with nitrous oxide (laughing gas). Experiments were performed by Cornishman Humphry Davy. [http://www.nndb.com/people/028/000083776/]. 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 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 prosateur—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.