English Fiction of the Romantic Period
1789–1830

Gary Kelly

Longman
London and New York
Contents

Editors' Preface vii
Longman Literature in English Series viii
Author's Preface x

1 Fiction and British Society 1789–1830 1

2 The 1790s: From Enlightenment and Sensibility to Romanticism—'Modern Novels' and 'Tales of the Times' 24

From Enlightenment to English Jacobin Fiction 26
From Sensibility to Gothic 42
The Novel of Manners, Sentiment, and Emulation 42
The 'Gothic Romance' 48
Against Enlightenment, Sensibility and Revolution: Anti-Jacobinism and Romanticism 59

3 1800–1814: Beyond 'Tales of the Times' 71

'Tnational Tales', 'Moral Tales' and 'Tales of Fashionable Life' 74
'Tales of the Heart' and 'Tales of Real Life' 83
'Village Anecdotes' 86
'Tnational Tales' and 'Historical Romances' 92
'Tales for Youth' 98
Excess and Transgression: 'Tales of Wonder' 104

4 'Only A Novel': Jane Austen 111

5 History and Romance: Sir Walter Scott 139

'A Castle-Building Romance Writer & Poet' 139
History and Romance 142
The 'Scotch Novels': Waverley to The Bride of Lammermoor 149
The Romance of History: Ivanhoe to Redgauntlet 157
Heroism and the Abyss: The Betrothed to Castle Dangerous 163
6 1815–1830: Romance, Realism, and Satire — The Limits of Romantic Culture 182

The Limits of Self and the Domestic Affections: Later Romantic Novels of Passion and Gothic Romance 184
Centres, Margins and Limits of British Society: Novels of Country, Town, Region and the Exotic 201
Later Romantic Novels of Self versus Society: ‘Silver-fork’ and ‘Newgate Novels’ 220
Artists and Utilitarians: The Limits of Romantic Culture 228

7 Conclusion: The Limits of Romantic Fiction 251

The Limits of Genre: The Romantic Quasi-Novel 252
‘What Kind of Book Is This?’: The Limits of Romantic Fiction 260

Chronology 274

General Bibliographies 287

(i) English fiction: history and criticism 287
(ii) Romantic background: social, historical, cultural 288
(iii) Romantic fiction 289

Individual Authors 293

Notes on biography, major works and criticism 293

Index 322