

Anti-Semitism and British Gothic Literature

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Anti-Semitism and British Gothic Literature

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palgrave
macmillan



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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2004 978-0-333-92951-3

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First published 2004 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS and
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

Companies and representatives throughout the world

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ISBN 978-1-349-42562-4

ISBN 978-0-230-00603-4 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9780230006034

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

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Davison, Carol Margaret.

Anti-Semitism and British gothic literature / Carol Margaret Davison.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-349-42562-4

1. Horror tales, English – History and criticism.
2. Gothic revival (Literature) – Great Britain.
3. Antisemitism – Great Britain.
4. Wandering Jew in literature.
5. Antisemitism in literature.
6. Jews in literature.
- I. Title.

PR830.T3D385 2004

823'.08738—dc22

2004043618

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05

Transferred to digital printing 2005

*For my precious parents, my castle keep,
And Keeper and Katmandu, gargoyles extraordinaire*

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Preface and Acknowledgements

Like the demonic Wandering Jew in Gothic literature who constitutes my focus here, this study in cultural pathology has had various incarnations. It began life as a doctoral dissertation written under the extremely astute and rigorous guidance of Maggie Kilgour at McGill University whose own very provocative work, *The Rise of the Gothic Novel* (Routledge, 1995), sparked my interest at a time when I barely even knew what 'Gothic' meant. She was vital to the genesis and presentation of these ideas, the oversights of which are entirely mine, and I am forever thankful for her ongoing support. Dr Kilgour has my 'undying' respect and admiration for re-teaching me the meaning of caution and precision, and especially for expertly preparing me in early 1998 for that terrifying primal scene in every academic's professional life – the doctoral defence.

My tremendous thanks are also due to numerous others at McGill – Michael Bristol for his thorough examination of this dissertation at a very early stage, and Gary Wihl, David Hensley, Tess O'Toole, Josef Schmidt, and Eugene Orenstein, whose perceptive questions and comments during and subsequent to my doctoral defence were invaluable to what has been, due to pressing practical issues and serious health difficulties, a fairly lengthy revisionary process.

Profound thanks are especially due to two friends and fellow Gothicists – Marie Mulvey-Roberts, whose early encouragement as my external dissertation examiner opened the door for me at Palgrave Macmillan, and William Hughes, whose insatiable thirst for all things *Dracula*-related is a source of constant amazement. Their assiduous comments have helped me reconceptualize components of this project and saved me, in numerous instances, from possible embarrassment.

I would also like to thank Concordia University's Part Time Faculty Association for several substantial awards for research in Romania, Ireland, Philadelphia, and New York while this project was in its early stages. For his crucial role in helping me to acquire this funding and his consistently provocative questions and invaluable suggestions during many lengthy and exciting discussions over the years, I am eternally grateful to G. David Sheps, former Chair of English at Concordia University in Montreal. If this book makes any valuable contribution whatsoever to the field of Gothic Studies, it is a result of his unflagging encouragement and incalculable influence. As my bibliography attests, I also stand on the shoulders of hundreds of other dedicated and disciplined scholars in related fields without whose bold investigations this study would not have been possible.

Special thanks are also due to Helen Smailes, the Assistant Keeper of British Art at the National Gallery of Scotland, who very graciously provided me with contemporary commentaries about William Fettes Douglas's painting, *The Spell*, which was first presented at the Royal Scottish Academy Exhibition in 1864 and a detail of which graces this study's cover. Ms. Smailes also facilitated the permissions process. This painting is one of thousands of cultural artifacts that attest to the deeply entrenched association between the Jews and magical/secret societies in the European consciousness. The two gentlemen engaged in invoking spirits possess traditionally Jewish physiognomies, but what is particularly striking is the very telling inscription on the wall of the Star of David instead of a pentagram, a traditional occult symbol. This image of the alchemist Jew also captures his traditional ambivalent semiotics: depending on one's perspective, he may be regarded as dreadfully atavistic or treacherously progressive.

Various editors at Macmillan are also due my thanks – Charmian Hearne, Emily Rosser, and Paula Kennedy – for their great patience, timely reminders, and helpful advice regarding manuscript requirements. I am also grateful to Kate McCrone, former Dean of Arts at the University of Windsor, who granted me the necessary course release over the 2002–03 academic year that enabled my revisions, and to Susan Wendt-Hildebrandt at the University of Windsor for some linguistic clarification. I am also deeply indebted to the various Interlibrary Loan Departments at Concordia University (Montreal), the University of Toronto at Scarborough, and the University of Windsor, and to Dima Ayoub who provided some research assistance. Corey Evan Thompson is also due my thanks for his very astute proofreading and verification of the bibliographic data. Finally, I am especially grateful to this book's extremely patient and assiduous project manager, Veena Krishnan, for her detailed attention to the text in every aspect.

On a more personal note, I am, as always, indebted to my loving and supportive family for instilling in me a sense of passion for knowledge and pride in hard work and, on a more pragmatic note, helping me out financially and otherwise during the last leg of my doctorate. Their unconditional love and encouragement, in both sickness and health, has helped me to prepare this manuscript, as it merited, for its final resting place.