

The History of Gothic Publishing, 1800–1835

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THE MONSTER MADE BY MAN: A Compendium of Gothic Adaptations

The History of Gothic Publishing, 1800–1835

Exhuming the Trade

Franz J. Potter

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For Serena, MaCall and Eloise

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Chapter 6, 'The Romance of Real Life: Sarah Wilkinson' is reprinted with permission from *Cardiff Corvey: Reading the Romantic Text*, No. 11 (December 2003) where it first appeared as *Writing for the Spectre of Poverty: Exhuming Sarah Wilkinson's Bluebooks and Novels*.

Preface

The History of Gothic Publishing focuses on the explicit conflict between the Gothic canon and the trade, in order to understand the changing form of the Gothic in the early nineteenth century. It is divided into two parts. The first part is an empirical and statistical analysis of the trade context focusing simultaneously on the development of trade Gothic and the shifting interests of the readers, including the combining of the historical novel with Gothic fiction. The second part presents four case studies of trade novelists whose works were prominent in the 'twilight' of the genre during the 1820s and 1830s, and who exemplified the ability to diversify while apparently maintaining the readers' interest.

To organise the numerous novels, bluebooks and Gothic tales I have compiled three appendices which are designed as a guide to the trade in the twilight of the Gothic. To broaden our understanding of the twilight, the appendices concentrate on the years 1800–1835, as opposed to the early phase (1764–1799) which is well documented.¹ Appendix 1 consists of three hundred and forty-two Gothic novels included in Maurice Lévy's 'Bibliographie Chronologique du Roman "Gothique," 1764–1824' (1968) and Frederick Frank's *The First Gothics: A Critical Guide to the English Gothic Novel* (1987) bibliographies and integrated with the recent bibliographical study *The English Novel 1770–1829: A Bibliographical Survey of Prose Fiction Published in the British Isles* (2000) to give a fuller account of Gothic novel production. Appendix 2 has similarly drawn on larger Gothic bibliographies as well as extensive searches of rare book collections and contains three hundred and fifty Gothic bluebooks. Appendix 3 contains three hundred Gothic tales gathered from sixteen periodicals including *The Ladies' Pocket Magazine*, *Endless Entertainment* and *The Literary Magnet*, five annuals such as *Forget Me Not* and *Literary Souvenir* and five collections of short stories including *Legends of Terror!* (1826 and 1830) and *Popular Tales and Romances of the Northern Nations* (1823), along with information on reprints or alterations.

I have also relied heavily on the Corvey project located at both Sheffield Hallam University and Cardiff University. This vast collection of Gothic, Romantic, domestic and didactic novels from the early nineteenth century has for the first time allowed us a glimpse of the actual nature of the

London Book Trade and provides access to hitherto rare and inaccessible Gothic novels.

Titles of specific works are numbered according to appendix (1, 2 or 3), and the entry number is given to provide complete publishing information and in some cases availability. If the title is not included in any appendix, the date of publication is then provided.

Franz J. Potter