

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88477-8 - Romanticism and Celebrity Culture, 1750-1850

Tom Mole

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ROMANTICISM AND
CELEBRITY CULTURE,
1750–1850

We live in a celebrity-obsessed culture, but until recently the history of celebrity has been little discussed. The contributors to this innovative collection locate the origins of a distinctively modern kind of celebrity in the Romantic period. Celebrity was from the beginning a multi-media phenomenon whose cultural pervasiveness – in literature and the theatre, music and visual culture, fashion and boxing – overflows modern disciplinary boundaries and requires attention from scholars with different kinds of expertise. Looking back to the 1720s and forward to the 1890s, this volume identifies the people and institutions that made the Romantic period a pivotal moment in the creation of celebrity. Tracing connections between celebrity and the period's discourses of heroism, genius, nationalism, patronage and gender, these essays investigate a cultural apparatus that many of the period's central figures became implicated in, even as they sought to distance themselves from it.

TOM MOLE is Associate Professor of English at McGill University. He is the author of *Byron's Romantic Celebrity: Industrial Culture and the Hermeneutic of Intimacy* (2007).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88477-8 - Romanticism and Celebrity Culture, 1750-1850

Tom Mole

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ROMANTICISM AND
CELEBRITY CULTURE,
1750–1850

TOM MOLE



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-88477-8 - Romanticism and Celebrity Culture, 1750-1850
Tom Mole
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi
Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521884778

© Cambridge University Press 2009

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2009

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-88477-8 hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for
the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or
third-party internet websites referred to in this book,
and does not guarantee that any content on such
websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction	
<i>Tom Mole</i>	i
PART I: APPARATUS	
19	
1. Celebrity and the spectacle of nation	
<i>Jason Goldsmith</i>	21
2. Celebrity, politics and the rhetoric of genius	
<i>David Higgins</i>	41
3. The physiognomy of the lion: encountering literary celebrity in the nineteenth century	
<i>Richard Salmon</i>	60
PART II: SITES	
79	
4. Rara avis or fozy turnip: Rossini as celebrity in 1820s London	
<i>Benjamin Walton</i>	81
5. Daniel Mendoza and sporting celebrity: a case study	
<i>Peter M. Briggs</i>	103
6. Siddons rediviva: death, memory and theatrical afterlife	
<i>Heather McPherson</i>	120

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
	PART III: GENDER	141
7.	Trials of the dandy: George Brummell's scandalous celebrity <i>Clara Tuite</i>	143
8.	Celebrity violence in the careers of Savage, Pope and Johnson <i>Linda Zionkowski</i>	168
9.	Mary Robinson's conflicted celebrity <i>Tom Mole</i>	186
	PART IV: AUDIENCE	207
10.	Patron or patronised?: 'fans' and the eighteenth-century English stage <i>Cheryl Wanko</i>	209
11.	Byron, commonplacings and early fan culture <i>Corin Throsby</i>	227
12.	Ann Hatton's celebrity pursuits <i>Judith Pascoe</i>	245
	<i>Bibliography</i>	264
	<i>Index</i>	283

Illustrations

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Fig. 1.1 George Hayter, <i>The Duke of Wellington visiting the Effigy and Personal Relics of Napoleon</i> (1852), mezzotint (1854) by James Scott. National Portrait Gallery, London. | page 24 |
| Fig. 3.1 Kenny Meadows, <i>The 'Lion' of a Party</i> , engraved by Orrin Smith, from <i>Heads of the People: or, Portraits of the English</i> , drawn by Kenny Meadows; with original essays by Distinguished Writers, 2 vols. (London: Robert Tyas, 1840–1). Special Collections, Leeds University Library. | 62 |
| Fig. 5.1 James Gillray (?), <i>The Battle Between Mendoza and Humphrey</i> , published by J. Aitken, 7 May 1789. National Portrait Gallery, London. | 109 |
| Fig. 6.1 Henry Perronet Briggs, <i>Sarah Siddons and Fanny Kemble</i> (c.1830). Boston Athenaeum. | 129 |
| Fig. 6.2 Bette Davis as <i>Sarah Siddons as the Tragic Muse</i> , tableau-vivant at the 1957 Laguna Beach Festival. Courtesy of the Laguna Beach Festival of Arts. | 135 |
| Fig. 7.1 William Hogarth, <i>Calais Gate, or the Roast Beef of Old England</i> (1749). British Museum Department of Prints and Drawings. | 144 |
| Fig. 7.2 'The Dowager Dandy', in Captain Jesse, <i>The Life of George Brummell, Esq., commonly called Beau Brummell</i> , 2 vols. (London: Saunders and Otley, 1844), frontispiece to Volume I. Collection of the Author. | 150 |
| Fig. 7.3 'The Broken Beau', in Captain Jesse, <i>The Life of George Brummell</i> , frontispiece to Volume II. Collection of the Author. | 152 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88477-8 - Romanticism and Celebrity Culture, 1750-1850

Tom Mole

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

PETER M. BRIGGS is Professor of English at Bryn Mawr College and the author of 'Laurence Sterne and Literary Celebrity in 1760', *The Age of Johnson*, 4 (1991), 251–80. A frequent contributor to the *Scriblerian*, he has also recently published essays on Swift and Addison.

JASON GOLDSMITH is Assistant Professor of English at Butler University, where he works on Romanticism, nineteenth-century British literature and culture, and modern critical theory. He has published articles and translations in *SEL*, *Studies in Hogg and His World*, *Hispanofila* and *Meridian*. He is currently at work on a book exploring the relationship between popular celebrity and the Romantic nation entitled *Cult Figures: The Spectacle of Romantic Nationalism*.

DAVID HIGGINS is a Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Leeds. He is the author of *Romantic Genius and the Literary Magazine: Biography, Celebrity, Politics* (Routledge, 2005) and *Frankenstein: Character Studies* (Continuum, 2008). He is co-editing (with Sharon Ruston) a collection of essays entitled *Teaching Romanticism*. His current research explores how nationalism and imperialism impact on Romantic autobiography.

HEATHER MCPHERSON is Professor of Art History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is the author of *The Modern Portrait in Nineteenth-Century France* (Cambridge University Press, 2001). Her articles on Sarah Siddons and theatrical politics have appeared in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* and *Notorious Muse: The Actress in British Art and Culture, 1776–1812*, ed. Robyn Asleson (Yale University Press, 2003). She is currently completing a book on art and celebrity in eighteenth-century England.

TOM MOLE is Associate Professor of English at McGill University and the author of *Byron's Romantic Celebrity: Industrial Culture and the*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88477-8 - Romanticism and Celebrity Culture, 1750-1850

Tom Mole

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

ix

Hermeneutic of Intimacy (Palgrave, 2007). He edited a volume of *Blackwood's Magazine 1817–1825: Selections from Maga's Infancy* (Pickering and Chatto, 2005) and has published articles in *Romanticism*, the *Keats-Shelley Journal*, the *Byron Journal*, the *International Journal of Cultural Studies* and *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*.

JUDITH PASCOE is Professor of English at the University of Iowa and the author of two books on Romantic literary culture: *Romantic Theatricality: Gender, Poetry, and Spectatorship* (Cornell, 1997) and *The Hummingbird Cabinet: A Rare and Curious History of Romantic Collectors* (Cornell, 2006). She is the editor of *Mary Robinson: Selected Poems* (Broadview, 2000). She is currently at work on a book-length study of Sarah Siddons's voice.

RICHARD SALMON is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Leeds, with research interests spanning a wide range of nineteenth-century literature and culture. He is the author of *Henry James and the Culture of Publicity* (Cambridge University Press, 1997) and *William Makepeace Thackeray* (Northcote House, 2005), and of essays on journalism, biography and celebrity culture. He is currently completing a book on early Victorian literary professionalism, provisionally titled *The Disenchantment of the Author*.

CORIN THROSBY is a Senior Scholar at Hertford College, Oxford University. She has published articles on Byron, Conrad and literary responses to the sinking of the *Titanic*.

CLARA TUIITE is Senior Lecturer in English Literary Studies, University of Melbourne. She is the author of *Romantic Austen: Sexual Politics and the Literary Canon* (Cambridge University Press, 2002, 2008) and co-editor with Gillian Russell of *Romantic Sociability: Social Networks and Literary Culture in Britain, 1770–1840* (Cambridge University Press, 2002, 2006). She has published 'Tainted Love and Romantic Literary Celebrity', *ELH* (Spring 2007), and is currently completing a book entitled 'Lord Byron and the Rites of Scandalous Celebrity'.

BENJAMIN WALTON is a University Lecturer in Music at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Jesus College. His work centres on the cultural history of music in the first half of the nineteenth century and he is the author of *Rossini in Restoration Paris: The Sound of Modern Life* (Cambridge University Press, 2007). He has also published work in *19th-Century Music*, *The Cambridge Companion to Rossini* and the *Blackwell*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88477-8 - Romanticism and Celebrity Culture, 1750-1850

Tom Mole

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

Contributors

Companion to European Romanticism. His article on Rossini's *Guillaume Tell* in the *Cambridge Opera Journal* received the 2004 Jerome Roche Award from the Royal Musical Association.

CHERYL WANKO is a Professor in the Department of English, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches Restoration and eighteenth-century British literature and culture. She is the author of *Roles of Authority: Thespian Biography and Celebrity in Eighteenth-Century England* (Texas Tech University Press, 2003) and of essays on theatre in the long eighteenth century in *Studies in English Literature* and *Harvard Library Bulletin*. She has been a contributor to the new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

LINDA ZIONKOWSKI is Professor of English at Ohio University and the author of *Men's Work: Gender, Class, and the Professionalization of Poetry, 1660-1784* (Palgrave, 2001). She served as editor of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, volumes 37 and 38, and has edited and contributed to a collection of essays with Cynthia Klekar entitled *The Culture of the Gift in Eighteenth-Century England* (Palgrave, 2009). Her most recent project is a book on women and gift economies in the fiction of Richardson, Burney and Austen.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88477-8 - Romanticism and Celebrity Culture, 1750-1850

Tom Mole

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

My principal debt is to the scholars who have contributed essays to this volume; their erudition and intellectual curiosity have been an inspiration, their professionalism has made my job as editor a pleasure, and their insights have broadened and deepened my understanding of celebrity culture in Romantic Britain. I am also indebted to Linda Bree and Maartje Scheltens at Cambridge University Press, who believed in this collection's potential before the essays were written, and have seen it into print patiently and attentively. I am grateful for the helpful comments of the press's anonymous readers. Tara MacDonald read every essay with care and intelligence and offered valuable assistance with the editorial process; this collection owes much to her conscientious work.

Start by marking "Romanticism and Celebrity Culture, 1750-1850" as Want to Read: Want to Read savingâ€¦ Want to Read. We live in a celebrity-obsessed culture, but until recently the history of celebrity has been little discussed. The contributors to this innovative collection locate the origins of a distinctively modern kind of celebrity in the Romantic period. Celebrity was from the beginning a multi-media phenomenon whose cultural pervasiveness - in literature and the theatre, music and We live in a celebrity-obsessed culture, but until recently the history of celebrity has been little discussed. The contributors to this innovative collection locate the origins of a distinctively modern kind of celebrity in

