

THE READING OF SOUTHEY AND COLERIDGE: THE  
RECORD OF THEIR BORROWINGS FROM THE  
BRISTOL LIBRARY, 1793-98

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Through the recovery of the original records of the books borrowed from the Bristol Library<sup>1</sup> we are now enabled to follow month by month and even at times day by day the reading of Southey and Coleridge during their critical formative years, 1793-98. Although exhibiting, of course, only a comparatively small proportion of their entire reading during this memorable period, the list which follows reconstructs a part of the picture of the spiritual development of the poets. I attempt no interpretation of the influence of these volumes in the contemporary and subsequent work of Southey and Coleridge, but I present the complete record as a body of source material.

BOOKS BORROWED BY SOUTHEY

	1793	
Oct. 22-25		Enfield's <i>History of Philosophy</i> , Vol. I <sup>2</sup>
Oct. 25-Nov. 13		Enfield's <i>History of Philosophy</i> , Vol. II
Oct. 28-Nov. 4		Gillies' <i>History of Greece</i> , Vol. II
Nov. 4-18		Smith's <i>Wealth of Nations</i> , Vol. I

<sup>1</sup> The discovery of the registers, which had lain neglected for nearly a century, was announced in *The Bristol Times and Mirror* for April 11, 1889, by E. R. Norris Mathews, Librarian of the Bristol Museum and Library, as follows: "While searching recently for some missing volumes in the upper story of the Museum and Library, I was attracted by a heap of books of small folio size, all bound alike, in old 'rough calf.'" A summary of the reading of Southey and Coleridge by James Baker appeared under the title, "Books Read by Coleridge and Southey," in *Chamber's Journal* for February 1, 1890, pp. 75-76, reprinted in *Literary and Biographical Studies*, 1908, pp. 211-18, but this list makes no pretensions to completeness and the inaccuracies therein are deplorable.

The registers which I consulted in compiling the catalogue below are eight in number. Among the prominent names of borrowers are those of Dr. John Beddoe, Dr. Thomas Beddoes, Joseph Cottle, Sir Humphrey Davy, Landor, Robert Lovell, Richard Lovell Edgeworth (father of Maria), and John Hallam, Dean of Bristol, the father of Henry Hallam, the historian. The borrower often signed his own name against the volume drawn, so that we have many signatures of Southey and Coleridge. Landor's signature, executed October 25, 1836, when he first wrote his name as required of new subscribers, is most characteristic, with its angry splutter of heavy drops of ink (unblotted!) over the "d."

For permission to examine the registers and to publish material therefrom I am indebted to the City Librarian, L. Aclan Taylor, Esq. I wish to express also my obligation to Miss Winifred Parry of the library staff, who aided me untiringly in every way.

<sup>2</sup> The dates show when the volume was borrowed and returned. Titles are given verbatim, parts supplied being inclosed in brackets and supplementary notes in parentheses.

- Nov. 18-25 Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, Vol. II  
 Nov. 25-28 Godwin *On Political Justice*, Vol. I  
 Nov. 26-28 Robertson's *Topographical Survey*, Vol. I  
 Nov. 29-Dec. 2 Gilpin's *Forest Scenery*, Vol. I  
 Dec. 2-9 Gilpin's *Observations on the Mountains and Lakes of Cumberland, etc.*, Vol. I  
 Dec. 9-18 Godwin *On Political Justice*, Vol. II  
 Dec. 18-20 Wollstonecraft's *Rights of Woman*  
 Dec. 20-23 Headley's *Ancient English Poetry*, Vol. I  
 Dec. 23-27 Cowper's *Homer*, Vol. I  
 Dec. 27-30 Cowper's *Homer*, Vol. II, *Odyssey*, etc.  
 Dec. 30-Jan. 13, 1794 Gilpin's *Forest Scenery*, Vol. II  
 1794  
 Jan. 14-27 Polwhele's *Theocritus*  
 Jan. 29-Feb. 10 Gillies' *History of Greece*, Vol. II  
 Feb. 10-March 26 Hooke's *Roman History*, Vol. I  
 Mar. 26-31 Mitford's *History of Greece*, Vol. I  
 Mar. 31-Apr. 30 Gillies' *History of Greece*, Vol. II  
 Apr. 30-May 7 Gast's *History of Greece*  
 July 8-Aug. 7 Hartley *On Man*, Vol. I  
 Aug. 7-22 Hartley *On Man*, Vol. II  
 Aug. 22-Sept. 1 Coxe's *Travels into Poland, etc.*, Vol. I  
 Sept. 1-5 Coxe's *Travels*, Vol. II  
 Sept. 5-10 Cartwright's *Journal*, Vol. I  
 Sept. 10-16 Cartwright's *Journal*, Vol. II  
 Sept. 16-18 Cartwright's *Journal*, Vol. III  
 Sept. 18-22 Clavigero's *History of Mexico*, Vol. II  
 Sept. 22-23 Clavigero's *History of Mexico*, Vol. II  
 Sept. 23-25 Helvetius' *Child of Nature*  
 Sept. 25-26 Boyd's *Dante*, Vol. I  
 Sept. 26-Oct. 24 Boyd's *Dante*, Vol. II  
 Oct. 3-29 Lillo's *Works*, Vol. II  
 Nov. 3-Jan. 26, 1795 Holinshed's *Chronicle*  
 1795  
 Jan. 1-21 Williams' *Observation on the Discovery of America*  
 Jan. 28-Feb. 26 Carte's *History of England*, Vol. IV  
 Mar. 5-23 Mitford's *History of Greece*, Vol. I  
 Mar. 23-27 Ferguson's *Roman Republic*  
 Mar. 27-Apr. 14 Priestley's *Corruption of Man*, Vol. I  
 Apr. 6-9 Burns's *Poems*  
 Apr. 13-May 18 *History of Paraguay*  
 Apr. 16-20 Raynall's *European Settlements*, Vol. V  
 Apr. 20-27 Burnet's *History of His Own Time*, Vol. II (Vol. I entered to Coleridge same date)

May 4–June 1	Fuller's <i>Worthies</i>
May 18–June 1	Maclaurin's <i>Newton</i>
June 1–11	Michaelis, Vol. II
July 13–16	<i>Edda Saemundina</i>
Aug. 10–Oct. 14	D'Herbelot's <i>Bibliothèque Orientale</i>
Oct. 14–Nov. 12	<i>Edda Saemundina</i>

## BOOKS BORROWED BY COLERIDGE

1795	
Mar. 2–20	<i>Poetical Tracts</i> , Vol. III
Mar. 13–20	Mosheim [ <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> ], Vol. III
Mar. 19–29	Gast's <i>History of Greece</i>
Mar. 23–Apr. 6	[Edward] Young's <i>Works</i> , Vol. V
Mar. 27–Apr. 6	Enfield's <i>History of Philosophy</i> , Vol. I
Mar. 27–Apr. 14	Priestley's <i>Corruption [of Man]</i> , Vol. I (signing Southey's name for this)
Apr. 6–14	Robertson's <i>Charles 5</i> , Vol. I (signing Southey's name)
Apr. 20–27	Burnet's <i>History of His Own Time</i> , Vol. I
Apr. 27–May 12	<i>History of George the Third</i> , Vol. II
Apr. 27–May 12	<i>History of George the Third</i> , Vol. III (signing Southey's name)
May 15–June 6	Cudworth's <i>Intellectual System</i>
May 18–June 11	Balguy [ <i>Divine Benevolence Asserted</i> ] and Sturges [ <i>On the Present State of Church Establishment</i> ]
June 1–11	Michaelis, Vol. I
June 1–11	Paley's <i>Evidences</i> , Vol. I
June 15–25	Clarkson <i>On the Slave Trade</i>
June 15–25	Wedstrom <i>On Colonization</i> (signing Southey's name after scratching out his own)
July 14–Aug. 7	Edwards' <i>West Indies</i> , Vol. II
July 21–Sept. 21	Rowley's <i>Poems</i> . Cambridge edition
Oct. 19–19 (!)	<i>Carmina Quadragesimalia</i> , Vol. II
Nov. 4–9	<i>Apuleia Opera</i> , Vol. V (Coleridge adds the note: "9 Dutch ships taken, with 3000 troops Bravo.")
Nov. 25–Dec. 23	Burgh's <i>Political Disquisitions</i> , Vols. I and II (Vol. III signed for in Cottle's name)
Dec. 23–23 (!)	<i>Essay on Material World</i>
Dec. 24–Jan. 6, 1796	Akenside's <i>Poems</i>
Dec. 30–Jan. 28, 1796	<i>Poetical Tracts</i> , Vol. III
1796	
Jan. 6–Feb. 24	Ossian's <i>Poems</i> , Vols. I and II
Feb. 26–Mar. 10	<i>Annual Register</i> for 1782–83
Mar. 10–28	Berkeley's <i>Works</i> , Vol. II
Mar. 28–Apr. 25	<i>Anthologia Hibernica</i>

- Apr. 25–May 6 *Harleian Miscellany*, Vol. VI  
 May 6–June 6 *Observer*, Vols. I and V  
 June 6–29 *Essay on Existence and Nature of an External World*  
 June 23–July 4 *Boyd's Dante*, Vols. I and II  
 July 4–Aug. 31 *Veterum Persarum Religio*  
 July 13–Aug. 31 *D[avid] Williams on Education*  
 Sept. 2–16 *Ramsay's Philosophical Principles*, Vols. I and II  
 Sept. 22–Oct. 12 *Taylor's Sermons*  
 Sept. 27–28 *Critical Rev.*, May 1796  
 Oct. 12–14 *Ramsay's Philosophical Principles*, Vol. III  
 Oct. 25–Nov. 9 *Foster On Accent and Quantity*  
 Nov. 9–Dec. 13 *Cudworth's Intellectual System*  
 Nov. 25–30 *Monstrelet [Chroniques de France, etc.]*, Vols. I and II  
 Dec. 13–Mar. 9, 1797 *Foster On Accent and Quantity*  
 1797  
 Mar. 23–May 11 *Brucker's Historia Critica Philosophiae*  
 Aug. 18–28 *Massinger's Works*, Vols. I and II  
 Aug. 25–Oct. 13 *Nash's Worcestershire*, Vols. I and II  
 Oct. 25–Nov. 9 *Burney's History of Music*, Vol. II  
 Dec. 1–15 *Benyowsky's Mem[oirs]*  
 Dec. 11–Jan. 24, 1798 *Saemunda Edda*  
 Dec. 13–14 *Rosseau (sic)*, Vol. VII (containing 1750 Dijon prize  
 discourse)  
 1798  
 Jan. 8–15 *Middleton's Life of Cicero*, Vol. I  
 Jan. 29–Feb. 26 *Blair's Lectures*, Vol. II  
 Apr. 20–May 22 *Manchester Memoirs*, Vol. II  
 Apr. 23–May 22 *Philosophical Transactions*, Vol. LXXV  
 May 25–June 1 *Transactions of the Society for the Encouragement of  
 Arts*, Vols. X and XI  
 May 31–July 13 *Benyowsky's Memoirs*, Vols. I and II  
 June 8–14 *Massinger's Dramatic Works*, Vols. III and IV

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