

## WORDSWORTH AFTER WAR

William Wordsworth's later poetry complicates possibilities of life and art in war's aftermath. This illuminating study provides new perspectives and reveals how his work following the end of the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars reflects a passionate, lifelong engagement with the poetics and politics of peace. Focussing on poetry and prose from between 1814 and 1822, Philip Shaw constructs a unique and compelling account of how Wordsworth, in both his ongoing poetic output and in his revisions to earlier works, sought to modify, refute, and sometimes sustain his early engagement with these issues as both an artist and a political thinker. In an engaging style, Shaw reorients our understanding of the later writings of a major British poet and the post-war literary culture in which his reputation was forged. **This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.**

PHILIP SHAW is Professor of Romantic Studies at the University of Leicester. He has written extensively on Romantic-period literature, specialising in literary and visual responses to the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars. His books include *Romantic Wars* (2000), *Waterloo and the Romantic Imagination* (2002), *The Sublime* (2006/2017), and *Suffering and Sentiment in Romantic Military Art* (2013).

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN ROMANTICISM

*Founding Editor*

Marilyn Butler, University of Oxford

*General Editor*

James Chandler, University of Chicago

*Editorial Board*

Claire Connolly, University College Cork

Paul Hamilton, University of London

Claudia Johnson, Princeton University

Essaka Joshua, University of Notre Dame

Nigel Leask, University of Glasgow

Alan Liu, University of California, Santa Barbara

Deidre Lynch, Harvard University

Jerome McGann, University of Virginia

David Simpson, University of California, Davis

This series aims to foster the best new work in one of the most challenging fields within English literary studies. From the early 1780s to the early 1830s, a formidable array of talented men and women took to literary composition, not just in poetry, which some of them famously transformed, but in many modes of writing. The expansion of publishing created new opportunities for writers, and the political stakes of what they wrote were raised again by what Wordsworth called those ‘great national events’ that were ‘almost daily taking place’: the French Revolution, the Napoleonic and American wars, urbanization, industrialization, religious revival, an expanded empire abroad, and the reform movement at home. This was an enormous ambition, even when it pretended otherwise. The relations between science, philosophy, religion, and literature were reworked in texts such as *Frankenstein* and *Biographia Literaria*; gender relations in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* and *Don Juan*; journalism by Cobbett and Hazlitt; and poetic form, content, and style by the Lake School and the Cockney School. Outside Shakespeare studies, probably no body of writing has produced such a wealth of commentary or done so much to shape the responses of modern criticism. This indeed is the period that saw the emergence of those notions of literature and of literary history, especially national literary history, on which modern scholarship in English has been founded.

The categories produced by Romanticism have also been challenged by recent historicist arguments. The task of the series is to engage both with a challenging corpus of Romantic writings and with the changing field of criticism they have helped to shape. As with other literary series published by Cambridge University Press, this one will represent the work of both younger and more established scholars on either side of the Atlantic and elsewhere.

*See the end of the book for a complete list of published titles.*

# WORDSWORTH AFTER WAR

*Recovering Peace in the Later Poetry*

PHILIP SHAW

*University of Leicester*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009363181](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009363181)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009363150](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009363150)

© Philip Shaw 2023

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009363150](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009363150) under a Creative Commons

Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009363150](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009363150)

First published 2023

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

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Shaw, Philip, 1965– author.

TITLE: Wordsworth after war : recovering peace in the later poetry / Philip Shaw.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2023. |

Series: Cambridge studies in Romanticism | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2023005171 | ISBN 9781009363181 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009363150 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Wordsworth, William, 1770–1850 – Criticism and interpretation. | Peace in literature. | English poetry – 19th century – History and criticism.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PR5892.P43 S53 2023 | DDC 821.7–dc23/eng/2023005171

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2023005171>

ISBN 978-1-009-36318-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-36316-7 Paperback

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