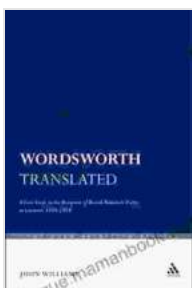


# Case Study in the Reception of British Romantic Poetry in Germany, 1804-1914

This case study aims to examine the reception of British Romantic poetry in Germany from 1804 to 1914. It will analyze the factors that contributed to its popularity, the ways in which it was interpreted and appropriated by German writers and critics, and its impact on German literature and thought.

## The Early Reception of British Romantic Poetry in Germany

British Romantic poetry was first introduced to Germany in the early 19th century by a group of writers and intellectuals known as the "Sturm und Drang" movement. These writers, disillusioned with the Enlightenment's emphasis on reason and order, found in Romantic poetry a new form of expression that celebrated emotion, imagination, and individuality. As a result, British Romantic poets such as William Wordsworth, Samuel Coleridge, and Lord Byron quickly became popular in Germany, and their works were widely translated and imitated.



## Wordsworth Translated: A Case Study in the Reception of British Romantic Poetry in Germany 1804-1914 (Continuum Reception Studies Book 25) by John Williams

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2328 KB  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 174 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Item Weight : 14.3 ounces



## **Factors Contributing to the Popularity of British Romantic Poetry in Germany**

Several factors contributed to the popularity of British Romantic poetry in Germany. First, Romanticism was a natural fit for the German literary tradition, which already emphasized emotionality and imagination. Second, the political climate in Germany was ripe for Romantic ideas. The Napoleonic Wars and the subsequent political fragmentation of Germany led to a sense of disillusionment and alienation, which Romanticism could address. Third, the development of a German university system in the early 19th century provided a forum for scholars and critics to discuss and promote Romantic literature.

## **The Influence of British Romantic Poetry on German Literature and Thought**

British Romantic poetry had a profound influence on German literature and thought. It inspired German poets to develop their own Romantic style, which emphasized subjectivity, emotionality, and the celebration of nature. It also influenced German philosophy, particularly the work of Friedrich Schelling and Arthur Schopenhauer, who were drawn to Romanticism's emphasis on intuition and the unity of all things. In addition, Romantic poetry became a source of inspiration for German musicians, artists, and political activists.

## **The Reception of British Romantic Poetry in Germany: A Case Study**

The reception of British Romantic poetry in Germany can be divided into three main periods. The first period, from 1804 to 1830, was characterized

by a fascination with the Romantic poets' celebration of emotionality and individuality. The second period, from 1830 to 1870, saw a more critical and nuanced approach, as German writers and critics began to grapple with the political and philosophical implications of Romanticism. The third period, from 1870 to 1914, marked a decline in the influence of British Romantic poetry, as German literature began to move in new directions.

### **The First Period: Enthusiastic Reception (1804–1830)**

The first period of the reception of British Romantic poetry in Germany was characterized by a general enthusiasm for the new literary movement. German writers and critics were captivated by the Romantic poets' celebration of emotionality, individuality, and the power of imagination. As a result, British Romantic poetry was widely translated and imitated in Germany. The most popular British Romantic poets in this period were William Wordsworth, Samuel Coleridge, and Lord Byron.

Wordsworth's emphasis on the importance of nature and the common man resonated with German readers, who were weary of the Enlightenment's emphasis on reason and order. Coleridge's exploration of the supernatural and the subconscious touched on themes that were already popular in German literature. Byron's rebellious spirit and his celebration of individualism appealed to a generation of young Germans who were disillusioned with the political and social status quo.

### **The Second Period: Critical Reception (1830–1870)**

The second period of the reception of British Romantic poetry in Germany was marked by a more critical and nuanced approach. German writers and critics began to grapple with the political and philosophical implications of

Romanticism. As a result, the reception of British Romantic poetry became more complex and diverse.

One of the major criticisms of British Romantic poetry in this period was its lack of political engagement. German writers and critics argued that the Romantic poets were too focused on their own personal experiences and emotions, and that they ignored the social and political issues that were facing their country. This criticism led to a decline in the popularity of some British Romantic poets, such as Lord Byron, who was seen as too apolitical.

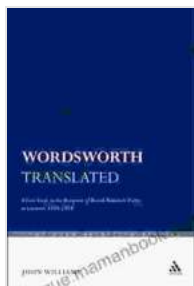
Despite this criticism, other British Romantic poets continued to be popular in Germany. Wordsworth's emphasis on nature and the common man remained appealing, and Coleridge's exploration of the supernatural and the subconscious continued to be influential in German literature.

### **The Third Period: Decline in Influence (1870–1914)**

The third period of the reception of British Romantic poetry in Germany was marked by a decline in its influence. German literature began to move in new directions, such as realism and naturalism, which were more in tune with the social and political conditions of the time. As a result, British Romantic poetry became less popular, although it continued to be read and studied by a small number of German writers and critics.

The reception of British Romantic poetry in Germany was a complex and dynamic process that spanned over a century. British Romantic poetry had a profound influence on German literature and thought, and it helped to shape the development of German Romanticism. The reception of British

Romantic poetry in Germany is a fascinating example of how literature can cross borders and influence other cultures.



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