

## Shelley The Pursuit

This is a book about the biographical afterlives of the Romantic poets and the creation of literary biography as a popular form. It focuses on the Lives of six major poets of the period: Byron, Shelley, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Felicia Hemans, and Letitia Landon, published from the 1820s, by Thomas Moore, Mary Shelley, Thomas De Quincey, and others. It situates these within the context of the development of biography as a genre from the 1780s to the 1840s. Starting with Johnson, Boswell, and female collective Lives, it looks at how the market success of biography was built on its representation and publication of domestic life. In the 1820s and 30s biographers ‘domesticated’ Byron, Shelley, and other poets by situating them at home, opening up their (often scandalous) private lives to view, and bringing readers into intimate contact with greatness. Biography was an influential transmitter of the myth of ‘the Romantic poet’, as the self-creating, masculine genius, but it also posed one of the first important challenges to that myth, by revealing failures in domestic responsibility that were often seen as indicative of these writers’ inattention to the needs of the reader. The Domestication of Genius is the most comprehensive account to date of the shaping of the Romantic poets by biography in the nineteenth-century. Written in a lively and accessible style, it casts new light on the literary culture of the 1830s and the transition between Romantic and Victorian conceptions of authorship. It offers a powerful re-evaluation of Romantic literary biography, of major biographers of the period, and of the posthumous reputations of the Romantic poets. Shelley: The Pursuit is the book with which Richard Holmes—the finest literary biographer of our day—made his name. Dispensing with the long-established Victorian picture of Shelley as a blandly ethereal character, Holmes projects a startling image of “a darker and more earthly, crueler and more capable figure.” Expelled from college, disowned by his aristocratic father, driven from England, Shelley led a life marked from its beginning to its early end by a violent rejection of society; he embraced rebellion and disgrace without thought of the cost to himself or to others. Here we have the real Shelley—radical agitator, atheist, apostle of free love, but above all a brilliant and uncompromising poetic innovator, whose life and work have proved an essential inspiration to poets as varied as W.B. Yeats and Allen Ginsberg. From Ann Wroe, a biographer of the first rank, comes a startlingly original look at one of the greatest poets in the Western tradition. Being Shelley aims to turn the poet’s life inside out: rather than tracing the external events of his life, she tracks the inner journey of a spirit struggling to create. In her quest to understand the radically unconventional Shelley, Wroe pursues the questions that consumed the poet himself. Shelley sought to free and empower the entire human race; his revolution was meant to shatter illusions, shock men and women with new visions, find true love and liberty—and take everyone with him. Now, for the first time, this passionate quest is put at the center of his life. The result is a Shelley who has never been seen in biography before. D-Day, the largest amphibious invasion in history, took place on 6 June 1944. The subsequent battle of Normandy involved over a million men, and helped seal the fate of the Third Reich. DDay: The Files is a unique multimedia archive providing a full account of the planning and execution of Operation Overlord, as well as the campaign which effectively destroyed the German forces in France, opening the way for the Allied advance. This insightful book includes D-Day: The Concise History by Richard Holmes, a beautifully reproduced photo album with over 100 contemporary photographs, a giant fold-out Overlord campaign map showing 20 separate battlefield situations in colour, a CD of veteran first-hand accounts and 12 facsimile documents.

A Study of Shelley’s Poetry

Starting from Scratch

Shelley’s Style

Darker Reflections, 1804-1834

Early Visions

Falling Upwards

*From Stay-At-Home Mom to Real Estate Entrepreneur HAVING IT ALL sometimes means throwing it all to the wind first. For Shelly Henderson, achieving her dream of starting a business meant giving up her role as a stay-at-home mom and embarking on a new path of chaos and unpredictability. In Starting from Scratch: One Woman’s Pursuit of Family, Business, and the American Dream, Shelly tells the story of how she and her husband, Phil, gave up everything to chase their entrepreneurial ambitions and open Henderson Properties. Shelly’s anecdotes, filled with the realities of motherhood, entrepreneurship, and the parallels between them, outline how she and Phil managed to grow their family while growing their business. Empowering and evocative, Starting from Scratch will help parents and community leaders mentor the next generation of entrepreneurs and offer practical advice for employees and employers on creating a dynamic atmosphere conducive to team and leadership building. No matter your phase in life or business, Starting from Scratch will inspire and encourage you to consider how your values lay the foundation for your success.*

*In this set of thorough and revisionary readings of Percy Bysshe Shelley’s best-known writings in verse and prose, Hogle argues that the logic and style in all these works are governed by a movement in every thought, memory, image, or word-pattern whereby each is seen and sees itself in terms of a radically different form. For any specified entity or figure to be known for “what it is,” it must be reconfigured by and in terms of another one at another level (which must then be dislocated itself). In so delineating Shelley’s “process,” Hogle reveals the revisionary procedure in the poet’s various texts and demonstrates the powerful effects of “radical transference” in Shelley’s visions of human possibility.*

*1816 was the fateful year when the Romantic poet Shelley and his lover Mary shared a hectic creative and sexual merger in Switzerland with Lord Byron. This intense period drew from the men some of the greatest poetry of the age; from Mary, it elicited the seminal figures of Frankenstein and his Creature. But for other women close to Shelley it was a time of tragedy. At the heart of the story are Fanny Wollstonecraft and Harriet Westbrook, women whose lives were literally overwhelmed by him—and who both committed suicide before the year was out. “Not only a splendid work of feminist history, this is an important addition to late 18th- and early 19-century literary criticism.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review)*

*Winner of the 1989 Whitbread Prize for Book of the Year, this is the first volume of Holmes’s seminal two-part examination of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, one of Britain’s greatest poets.*

*The Poet’s Search for Himself*

*Artificial Hearts*

*Davy on Davy*

*Being Shelley*

*Napoleonic Wars*

*Shelley*

As one of the most admired political leaders of the twentieth century, Winston Churchill holds iconic status in popular memory. But in this incisive new biography, acclaimed military historian Richard Holmes offers a remarkable reappraisal of Churchill by examining the influences that shaped his character. Drawing upon never-before-seen materials such as letters between the young Churchill and his parents, Holmes paints the most complete portrait to date of the man who stood up to Hitler and led his people to victory against all odds. Detailing the decisive events of Churchill’s life -- from his childhood to his experiences in the Boer War through his rapid rise in politics -- Holmes demonstrates the central role Churchill’s character played in the key decisions of his public life. With an already inflated sense of self, Churchill had several lucky escapes in combat -- in the Boer War and in the trenches of WWI -- convincing him that he was saved for a reason and was destined for greatness. In the Footsteps of Churchill uncovers a surprisingly different Churchill -- both admirable and difficult -- through the lens of his character. This book is a slightly revised translation of the author’s Percy Bysshe Shelley. Leben und Werk (1998), the first German biography of the deplorably neglected English romantic. It frees the poet from both melodramatic fictionalizing and idealizing mystification. By making use of the fascinating correspondence of the young avantgardist, his famous wife Mary, his friends and critics, as well as ample quotation from his poetry and prose, the biography awakens the reader to a deeper appreciation of a dramatic life, of modern dimensions, and a significant work of lasting poetical and political value. An updated bibliography and an index are included.

This major biography of Shelley, England’s most radical and controversial Romantic poet, is the first to appear in thirty years. Informed by the author’s extensive research, psychological insight, and recent scholarship on Shelley and his circle, the biography stresses the intimate relationship between the poet’s writing and his complex personality. James Bieri draws upon his dual background as a Shelley scholar and a psychologist to create a compelling narrative of Shelley’s multifaceted life. Shelley’s personality transcends any entreaty either to see it “plain” or to be labeled with a clinical diagnosis. Remarkably resilient, he was continually creative despite intervals of depression and periodic, hallucinatory panic attacks. Fascinated by the human psyche, he incorporated into his poetry his own self-analysis, including a remarkably sophisticated theory of love that provided the title to his most powerful erotic poem, Epipsychidion. Bieri also probes Shelley’s numerous emotional, romantic, and familial entanglements. Based on the author’s twenty years of research, the book includes new information on the discovery of Shelley’s older illegitimate half-brother; important letters of his father and grandfather; his mother’s early life, her letters about young Shelley, and her major influence upon Shelley; the first published portrait of Sophia Stacey, who beguiled Shelley in Florence; and further evidence on Shelley’s secretly adopted Neapolitan infant. This biography offers a sympathetic and nuanced view of Shelley’s tumultuous life, personality, and poetry.

Previously published as Natural Travelling, the Avatar Ad Me. This is the revamped version with an extra chapter. In 2000 my life hit rock bottom. Emotionally I was totally spent and did not see any way out of the mire that I found myself in. This book tells the story of how (with a little help) I managed to turn my life around. Miraculously at the onset of the new millennium I started to embark on a series of truly amazing out of body adventures, and as the years have gone by, I have learned to pass through solid objects, propel myself in whatever direction I wish to travel, and unbelievably, "will" myself back into my body when I become bored with the journey. As if that wasn't incredible enough, I have also been blessed by the Avatar of the age himself, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who first entered my life in 2001. Since then I have had a series of truly wonderous experiences with Baba, the highlights of which were being held in his arms during an out of body experience in 2006 and seeing him in physical form at his ashram, Prasanthi Nilayam (abode of the highest peace) in Puttaparthi, Southern India in October 2009. "If I were to say that it was a hairy experience the first time I left my body, it would be an understatement. However, as time went by it was something that I came to enjoy immensely!"

Radical Transference and the Development of His Major Works

The Shelleys, Byron and Other Tangled Lives

Shelley’s Poetry of Involvement

The First World War in Photographs

The Files

The Romantic Poets and Their Circle

A delightful booklet of spiritual insights, miracles and revelations derived mainly from the author’s actual experiences. Richard F Holmes seems to have the knack of taking potentially complicated spiritual topics and explaining them in a very reader-friendly, easy to understand and humorous way. A must read for anyone of any age who has an interest in spirituality. All royalties from online sales of this book are being donated to The Cotswold Care Hospice For more information visit www.cotswoldcare.org.uk

Includes entertaining, thumbnail biographies of the key figures at the forefront of the theme or movement, or who were closely connected to the personality in question Updated from the highly successful series Character Sketches and Insights, and refreshed with a contemporary design and accessible format The ideal of the 'inspired' artist owes its origin to the figures of the Romantic period, who revolutionized English art and literature. In this book, Richard Holmes explores the portraits and lives of such key poets as Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Keats, and assesses the impact of their work on contemporary culture and society.

Published to mark the 250th anniversary of Napoleon’s birth,Holmes relives Napoleon’s life and times in this extraordinary period byexamining letters, military maps, reports, proclamations, ship’s logs andcoded messages, which were previously filed away or exhibited inarchives in Europe.Napoleon was a charismatic and astute military leader who built anempire in a series of astounding campaigns from 1796 to 1812, inwhich he won many of the most famous battles of all time – thePyramids, Marengo, Austerlitz, Jena, Wagram and Borodino. At theheight of his powers he had transformed France’s administrative,educational and legal systems, and most of the continent of Europewas under his control, from Portugal to Moscow. He was eventuallybrought down by the combined forces of many nations, but hisinfluence on the times was so great that it has had a profound effect on history.

Attacked by T.S. Eliot and F.R. Leavis, Shelley’s poetry has, over the last few decades, enjoyed a revival of critical interest. His radical politics and arrestingly original poetic strategies have been studied from a variety of perspectives – formalist, deconstructionist, new historicist, feminist and others. Of all the Romantics, Shelly has benefited most from the so-called ‘theoretical revolution’, as is borne out by the wide range of recent critical work represented in this volume. The 134 essays selected analyse many of Shelley’s finest poems, including Alastor, Julian and Maddalo, Prometheus Unbound, Adonais and The Triumph of Life. Michael O’Neill’s informed Introduction explores the contours of this debate. Detailed headnotes to the individual essays, explanations of difficult terms, and a further reading section provide invaluable guides to the reader. This collection illuminates the enduring and contemporary significance of the work of a major poet.

Death and the Maidens

How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science

Percy Bysshe Shelley

A Voice Not Understood

Shelley Unbound

Biography and the Romantic Poet

In her newest well-timed, witty, and altogether wonderful novel, bestselling author Elinor Lipman dares to ask: Can an upper-middle-class doctor find love with a shady, fast-talking salesman? Meet Alice Thrift, surgical intern in a Boston hospital, high of I.Q. but low in social graces. She doesn't mean to be acerbic, clinical, or blunt, but where was she the day they taught Bedside Manner 101? Into Alice's workaholic and well-flavored life comes Ray Russo, a slick traveling fudge salesman in search of a nose job and well-heeled companionship, but not necessarily in that order. Is he a conman or a sincere suitor? Good guy or bad? Alice's parents, roommate, and best friend Sylvie are appalled at her choice of mate. Despite her doubts, Alice finds herself walking down the aisle, not so much won over as worn down. Will their marriage last the honeymoon? Only if Alice's best instincts can triumph over Ray's unsavory ways.

FALLING UPWARDS is a vivid group biography and adventure that tells how men and women first felt as they rose towards the clouds into a new dimension – of science, exploration, warfare, literature, discovery.Romantic biographer Richard Holmes floats across the world following the pioneer generation of balloon aeronauts, from the first heroic experiments of the Montgolfiers in 1780s to the tragic attempt to fly a balloon to the North Pole in the 1890s. Dramatic sequences move from the early Anglo-French balloon rivalries, the crazy firework flights of beautiful Sophie Blanchard; the revelatory ascents over sprawling Victorian industrial cities of Northern Europe; and the astonishing long-distance voyages of the American entrepreneur John Wise, and the French photographer Felix Nadar. Later we find balloons used to observe the horrors of battle during the American Civil War (including a memorable flight by General Custer); the tale of sixty balloons that escaped Paris during the Prussian siege of 1870; and the terrifying seven mile high flight – without oxygen – of James Glaisher, helping to establish the science of meteorology and the environmental notion of a 'fragile' planet. Readers will also discover the writers – from Mary Shelley to Edgar Alan Poe, Dickens to Verne – who allowed the imaginative impact of flight to soar in their work. In exploring the interplay between technology and science fiction, the understanding of the biosphere, and the metaphysics of flight itself, Holmes offers another of his subtle portraits of human endeavour, recklessness and vision.

Military history is now a best-selling publishing category, and in recent years there has been a spate of enormously successful books, films and television programmes devoted to it. The First World War in Photographs showcases 400 of the best images from the Imperial War Museum’s superb photographic archive, many never before published. Written by leading military historian Richard Holmes, the book presents the photographs in year-by-year chapters, covering all the great battles of the war and every theatre of operations. Dramatic, hard hitting and intensely moving, this book is a unique visual testament to the many millions of men and women who lost their lives in the war.

Frankenstein was first released in 1818 anonymously. The credit for Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley’s authorship first occurred in 1823 when a French edition was published. A year earlier, Mary’s revolutionary husband, the influential poet, dramatist, novelist, and essayist Percy Bysshe Shelley, died. The same year Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus (its full title) was first published, so was another work by Mary’s hand that shares the use of the word Prometheus. The drama Prometheus Unbound was indeed credited to Percy Shelley. The secret admission of many experts in English literature is that Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley did not write a good portion of Frankenstein. In Shelley Unbound, Oxford scholar Scott D. de Hart examines the critical information about Percy Shelley’s scientific avocations, his disputes against church and state, and his connection to the illegal and infamous anti-Catholic organization, the Illuminati. Scott D. de Hart’s fascinating investigation into Frankenstein and the Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Percy Shelley results in an inconvenient truth regarding what we have long believed to be a great early example of the feminist canon. Scott D. de Hart was born and raised in Southern California. He graduated from Oxford University with a PhD specializing in nineteenth-century English literature and legal controversies.

A Biography

Borrowing Life

The Pursuit of Alice Thrift

Shelley’s Italian Experience

From Logic to Enlightenment

Big River Turkey Farm

**Fighting heart disease with machines and devices– Multiple approaches to building artificial hearts : technological optimism and political support in the early years – Dispute and disappointment : heart transplantation and total artificial heart implant cases in the 1960s – Technology and risk : nuclear-powered artificial hearts and medical device regulation – Media spotlight : the Utah total artificial heart – Clinical and commercial rewards : ventricular assist devices – Securing a place : therapeutic clout and second-generation VADs – Artificial hearts in the 21st century**

Dismissed by much recent scholarship as an opium addict, plagiarist, political apostate and mystic charlatan, Richard Holmes’s “Coleridge” leaps out of the page as a brilliant, animated and endlessly provoking figure who invades the imagination. This is an act of biographical recreation which brings back to life Coleridge’s poetry and encyclopaedic thought, his creative energy and physical presence.

‘The web of our Life is of mingled Yarn’ John Keats In Young Romantics Daisy Hay shatters the myth of the Romantic poet as a solitary, introspective genius, telling the story of the communal existence of an astonishingly youthful circle. The fiery, generous spirit of Leigh Hunt, radical journalist and editor of The Examiner, took centre stage. He bound together the restless Shelley and his brilliant wife Mary, author of Frankenstein; Mary’s feisty step-sister Claire Clairmont, who became Byron’s lover and the mother of his child; and Hunt’s charismatic sister-in-law Elizabeth Kent. With authority, sparkling prose and constant insight Daisy Hay describes their travels in France, Switzerland and Italy, their artistic triumphs, their headstrong ways, their grievous losses and their devastating tragedies. Young Romantics explores the history of the group, from its inception in Leigh Hunt’s prison cell in 1813 to its ultimate disintegration in the years following 1822. It encompasses tales of love, betrayal, sacrifice and friendship, all of which were played out against a background of political turbulence and intense literary creativity. This smouldering turmoil of strained relationships and insular friendships would ferment to inspire the drama of Frankenstein, the heady idealism of Shelley’s poetry, and Byron’s own self-loathing, self-loving public persona. Above all the characters are rendered on the page with marvellous vitality, and this is a gloriously entrancing and revelatory read, the debut of a young biographer of the highest calibre and enormous promise.

‘A mastery performance by the greatest literary biographer of his generation’ Oldie

The Pursuit of Death

The Amazing Journey

Footsteps

How We Took to the Air

The Pursuit of Genius

Shelley: The Pursuit

Shelley: The Pursuit is the book with which Richard Holmes—the finest literary biographer of our day—made his name. Dispensing with the long-established Victorian picture of Shelley as a blandly ethereal character, Holmes projects a startling image of “a darker and more earthly, crueler and more capable figure.” Expelled from college, disowned by his aristocratic father, driven from England, Shelley led a life marked from its beginning to its early end by a violent rejection of society; he embraced rebellion and disgrace without thought of the cost to himself or to others. Here we have the real Shelley—radical agitator, atheist, apostle of free love, but above all a brilliant and uncompromising poetic innovator, whose life and work have proved an essential inspiration to poets as varied as W.B. Yeats and Allen Ginsberg.

Richard Holmes’s biography of Coleridge aims to transform the view of the poet of Kubla Khan and his place in the romantic movement. Dismissed by many as an opium addict, plagiarist, political apostate and mystic charlatan, Holmes’s Coleridge is shown as the brilliant, animated and endlessly provoking poet of genius that he was.

Biographer Richard Holmes moves seamlessly through Queen Victoria’s life from her lonely childhood, to her intrepid early years as an unmarried queen, through the heady days of betrothal, the loving years of marriage and finally to her heart-wrenching life as a widow. His lively narrative incorporates many fascinating snippets from Queen Victoria’s personal diaries and correspondence, creating a rare glimpse into the monarch’s personal tastes and characteristics.

The Age of Wonder is a colorful and utterly absorbing history of the men and women whose discoveries and inventions at the end of the eighteenth century gave birth to the Romantic Age of Science. When young Joseph Banks stepped onto a Tahitian beach in 1769, he hoped to discover Paradise. Inspired by the scientific ferment sweeping through Britain, the botanist had sailed with Captain Cook in search of new worlds. Other voyages of discovery—astronomical, chemical, poetical, philosophical—swiftly follow in Richard Holmes’s thrilling evocation of the second scientific revolution. Through the lives of William Herschel and his sister Caroline, who forever changed the public conception of the solar system; of Humphry Davy, whose near-suicidal gas experiments revolutionized chemistry; and of the great Romantic writers, from Mary Shelley to Coleridge and Keats, who were inspired by the scientific breakthroughs of their day, Holmes brings to life the era in which we first realized both the awe-inspiring and the frightening possibilities of science—an era whose consequences are with us still. BONUS MATERIAL: This ebook edition includes an excerpt from Richard Holmes’s Falling Upwards.

D-Day

Fanny Wollstonecraft and the Shelley circle

The Allure and Ambivalence of a Controversial Medical Technology

Discovering Frankenstein’s True Creator

Selected Writings

Adventures of a Romantic Biographer

*Focusing on Shelley’s ‘Italian experience’, the present study both addresses itself to the living context which nurtured Shelley’s creativity, and explores a neglected but essential component of his work. The poet’s four years of self-exile in Italy (1818-1822) were, in fact, the most decisive of his career. As he responded to Italy, his poetry acquired a new subtlety and complexity of vision. Endowed with remarkably keen powers of absorption, the poet imaginatively reshaped the rich cultural heritage of Italy and the vital qualities of its landscape and climate. Holmes’s Lives is a series of classic English biographies, edited and introduced by Richard Holmes. In this series, Richard Holmes sets out to recover the great forgotten tradition of English biography writing, and reaffirms the enduring excitement of classic non-fiction.*

*This book centers around one year of my life on my Father and Mother’s turkey farm in 1953 when I was only twelve years old.*

*Against a global backdrop of wartime suffering and postwar hope, Borrowing Life gathers the personal histories of the men and women behind the team that enabled and performed the modern medical miracle of the world’s first successful organ transplant. “An extraordinary work, Shelley Fraser Mickle has not only provided a detailed, fascinating documentation of the world’s first successful organ transplant, but she has also painted the lives of those involved—doctors, patients, family members—so vividly that the reader is completely enthralled and emotionally involved in their griefed assess as well as their successes. The result is a beautiful tribute to medical science as well as to humanity.” Jill McCorkle, NYT bestselling author of Life After Life “Working with Dr. Moore, Dr. Murray and Dr. Vandam to create the painting commemorating their historic operation and the research leading up to it was the greatest adventure of my artistic career. Having my painting on the cover of Borrowing Life renews that excitement, for I know what grand adventure is waiting for the reader.” Joel Babb, artist “I was so very pleased to be involved with Shelley as she wrote her captivating, compelling book. I only wish that Ron could be here with me to read it.” Cynthia Harrik, wife of the first successful organ transplant donor “Had these men and women not worked diligently to save the life of Charles Woods, I and my 5 brothers and 3 sisters, would not have been born. Charles Woods and Miriam Woods are my parents. It is thrilling to read Ms Mickle’s book as it closely mirrors the stories our dad and mom shared with us as children. The amazing thing is that as a disgraced war hero, our dad embraced his appearance as a badge of honor.” David Woods Performed at Boston’s Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in 1954, the first successful kidney transplant was the culmination of years of grit, compassion, and the pursuit of excellence by a remarkable medical team—Nobel Prize-winning surgeon Joseph Murray, his boss and fellow surgeon Francis Moore, and British scientist and fellow Nobel laureate Peter Medawar. Drawing on the lives of these members of the Greatest Generation, Borrowing Life creates a compelling narrative that begins in wartime and tracks decades of the ups and downs, personal and professional, of these inspiring men and their achievements, which continue to benefit humankind in so many ways.*

*One Woman’s Pursuit of Family, Business and the American Dream*

*Darker Reflections*

*Coleridge: Early Visions*

*Coleridge*

*Queen Victoria*

*In Pursuit of Love*

Richard Holmes brings together for the first time Shelley’s almost unknown prose writings as well as the better-known love poetry for which he is famous. The collection, which treats of love in all its forms and manifestations, presents on intellectual and emotional portrait of a great poet’s beliefs and personality.

First published 1984. In a provocative study, this book argues that the problems posed by Shelley ’s notoriously difficult style must be understood in relation to his ambivalence towards language itself as an artistic medium — the tension between the potential of language to mirror emotional experience and the recognition of it ’s inevitable limitations. Through an exposition of Shelley ’s idea of language, as reflected in his theoretical writings and individual poems, this book makes a strong case for his artistic worth. A definitive introduction to Shelley, useful for both scholars and newcomers, this book will be interest to students of literature.

Richard Holmes knew he had become a true biographer the day his bank bounced a check that he had inadvertently dated 1772. Because for the acclaimed chronicler of Shelley and Coleridge, biography is a physical pursuit, an ardent and arduous retracing of footsteps that may have vanished centuries before. In this gripping book, Holmes takes us from Franco’s Massif Central, where he followed the route taken by Robert Louis Stevenson and a sweet-natured donkey, to Mary Wollstonecraft’s Revolutionary Paris, to the Italian villages where Percy Shelley tried to cast off the strictures of English morality and marriage. Footsteps is a wonderful exploration of the ties between biographers and their subjects, filled with passion and revelations. “Deeply impressive . . . Footsteps is a singular event in the modern history of biography, and in itself a delightful reading experience.”—Alfred Kazin “This exhilarating book, part biography, part autobiography, shows the biographer as sleuth and huntsman, tracking his subjects through space and time.”—The Observer “A modern masterpiece. . . [Holmes is] the most romantic of contemporary biographers and probably the most revolutionary in spirit and form.”—Michael Holroyd, author of Bernard Shaw

Sheds new light on poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, revealing the intricacies of both his personality and his literary vision

Shelley on Love

This Long Pursuit: Reflections of a Romantic Biographer

Young Romantics

Shelley’s Process

