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Mary Robinson: Selected Poems (Broadview Literary Texts)



Synopsis

Mary Robinson's work has begun again to assume a central place in discussions of Romanticism. A writer of the 1790s—a decade which saw the birth of Romanticism, revolution, and enormous popular engagement with political ideas—Robinson was acknowledged in her time as a leading poet. Her writing exhibits great variety: charm, theatricality, and emotional resonance are all characteristics Robinson displays. She was by turns a poet of sensibility, a poet of popular culture, a chronicler of the major events of the time, and a participant in some of its chief aesthetic innovations. This long-awaited collection is the first critical edition of her poems.

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Customer Reviews

“Mary Robinson was one of the most significant authors of the Romantic era; her poetic vision is in many ways a counterpoint to that of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. At last, this expertly edited, well researched and affordable edition makes Robinson's innovative and influential poetry accessible again to a wide audience. It is a superb selection which gives a fully rounded view of Robinson's poetic production.” — Paula Feldman, University of South Carolina
“This rich and varied selection of poems, letters and reviews, centered and guided by Judith Pascoe's rich and sympathetic scholarship, amply illustrates why Mary Robinson is so crucial a figure for understanding the development of English verse between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. With its range and inclusiveness, its authentic artistic claims, and its scholarly weight, *Mary Robinson: Selected Poems* is an edition to be universally celebrated as repaying a

long overdue debt, and with generous interest. Even in Broadview's exemplary list of recovered literature, it is a standout, a truly major accomplishment. • • Stuart Curran, University of Pennsylvania

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At a time when Mary Robinson's work is being recovered with much enthusiasm, Judith Pascoe's long awaited volume of her poetry is useful both as an introduction to Robinson and as a tool for further advanced study. Pascoe's introduction to the volume combines biographical information, an overview of available criticism, keen critical insight, and suggestions for further research, making it a valuable starting point to the collection. Pascoe has included selections from all of Robinson's published volumes of poetry together with samples of Robinson's letters, reviews of her poetry, and a complete publication history for the poetry. She includes poems to Robinson by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, contextualizing Robinson and her poetry among her more well-known contemporaries. Interspersed amongst the poems are well-chosen illustrations which contribute to the cultural context that Pascoe evokes. As the cover suggests, Robinson was "a poet of sensibility, a poet of popular culture, a chronicler of the major events of the time, and a participant in some of its chief aesthetic innovations" and this is clearly highlighted by Pascoe's editorial choices. Pascoe's editorial comments and footnotes are insightful and useful; furthermore, they are non-intrusive, making this volume a must to anyone just beginning their study of women in the Romantic Period, to those doing further work on Robinson specifically, or to anyone simply interested in reading the work of an accomplished poet.

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