

# Mary Shelley

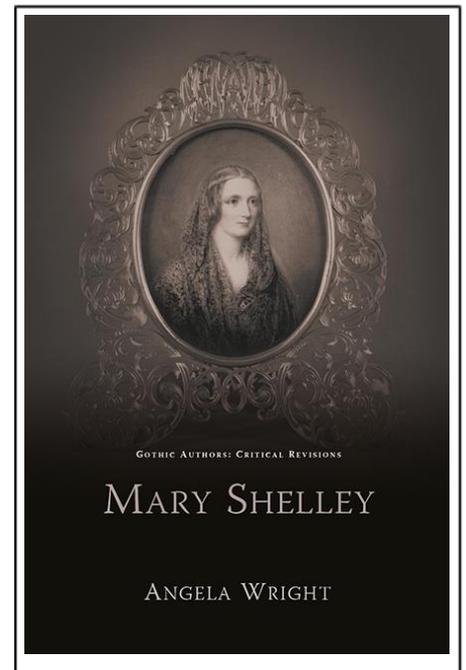
Angela Wright

Series: Gothic Authors: Critical Revisions

January 2018

£85 • HB • 9781783168460 • 216 x 138mm • 192pp

£24.99 • PB • 9781786831736 • 216 x 138mm • 192pp



Market:

This book will be essential reading for A-Level students, Undergraduates and Postgraduates. It will also be of interest to any academic audiences.

Blurb:

*Mary Shelley* reappraises the significance of *Frankenstein* alongside other works by Shelley which could be considered to revise the significance and fluctuating meanings of 'Gothic' during the Romantic period. It offers scholarly, fresh readings of the 1818 and 1831 editions of *Frankenstein*, as well as chapters upon the fiction that Shelley composed in between both editions, and during the same decade as its second edition.

In its broader examination of Mary Shelley's work, this study is the first of its kind within the field of Gothic studies. Alongside sustained explorations of *Frankenstein*, *Matilda*, *Valperga* and *The Last Man*, the volume *Mary Shelley* reappraises some of the shorter essays and tales that the author composed for contemporary magazines. Angela Wright argues that the time is now right for a re-examination of the extent to which Shelley participated in and redirected the Gothic tradition.

Key Selling Points:

- A sustained and extensive analysis of the 1818 and 1831 editions of *Frankenstein*.
- New readings of Shelley's later works *Matilda*, *Valperga*, *The Last Man* and some of her short stories which reveal how they too strive to understand and redefine Shelley's ongoing preoccupation with the Gothic.
- A thoroughly contextualised appraisal of the author and her works, which also discuss her parental heritage, her famous relationship with Percy Bysshe Shelley and the summer of 1816, when *Frankenstein* was first conceived.

Author Details:

**Angela Wright** is Professor of Romantic Literature at the University of Sheffield, and is currently co-President of the International Gothic Association. She is the author of *Gothic Fiction* (2007), *Britain, France and the Gothic: The Import of Terror* (2013), and co-editor with Dale Townshend of *Ann Radcliffe, Romanticism and the Gothic* (2014) and *Romantic Gothic: an Edinburgh Companion* (2015).

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Acknowledgements

Mary Shelley: A Chronology

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1 *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*

2 Testimonial and Refusal in *Matilda* (1819)

3 Of Women, History and Romance in *Valperga* (1823)

4 'On Ghosts' and *The Last Man*: Mourning,  
Melancholia and Transformational Terror

5 Terror, Horror and Transformation:  
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Conclusion

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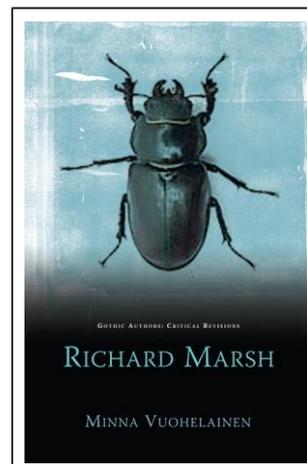
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# Seals and Society

## Medieval Wales, the Welsh Marches and their English Border Region

Edited by P.R. Schofield, E.A. New and S.M Johns

January 2018

£24.99 • PB • 9781783168750 • 234x156 mm • 352pp • 81 colour images

Market:

College and university readership, as well as academic and specialist readers, and a wider public interested in the latest research on sigillography and aspects of medieval Wales and its place in a wider British and European context.

Blurb:

*Seals and Society* arises from a major project investigating seals and their use in medieval Wales, the Welsh March and neighbouring counties in England. The first major study of seals in the context of one part of medieval Western European society, the volume also offers a new perspective on the history of medieval Wales and its periphery by addressing a variety of themes in terms of the insight that seals can offer the historian. Though the present study suggests important regional distinctions in the take-up of seals in medieval Wales, it is also clear that seal usage increased from the later twelfth century and spread widely in Welsh society, especially in those parts of Wales neighbouring England or where there had been an early English incursion. Through a series of chapters, the authors examine the ways in which seals can shed light on the legal, administrative, social and economic history of the period in Wales and its border region. Seals provide unique insights into the choices individuals, men and women, made in representing themselves to the wider world, and this issue is examined closely. Supported by almost 100 images gathered by the project team, the volume is of great interest to those working on seals, their motifs, their use and developments in their usage over the high and later Middle Ages.

*This volume breaks new ground by providing the most comprehensive survey so far of seals used to authenticate documents in medieval Wales and its borders with England. Drawing on research that has identified almost 2,500 seals, the authors show how close study of these artefacts, attentive both to their particular form and to the contexts in which they were used, can offer fresh perspectives on many aspects of the history of medieval Wales. The result is an important contribution to our understanding of the significance of seals in the Middle Ages.*

– Huw Pryce, Professor of Welsh History, Bangor University

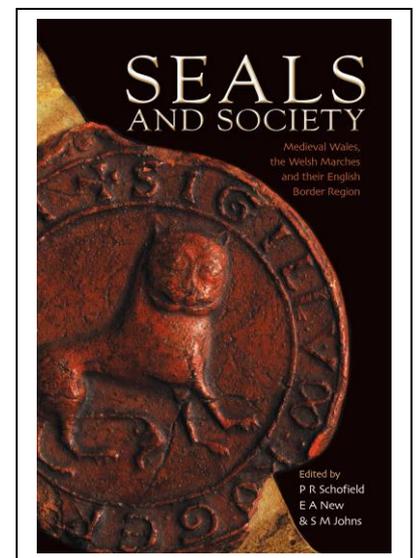
*This is a fine achievement. Emanating from the Seals in Medieval Wales project, it shines new light on all aspects of sigillographic study, from design and motifs, symbolism, iconography, fashion and production, to seal usage in terms of both law and administration (including the church) and expressions of personal and social identity. These four scholars, uniquely qualified for the task, have considerably advanced our knowledge of this subject and in doing so illuminated many aspects of the social history of Wales and the Marches.*

– Peter Coss, Emeritus Professor of Medieval History, Cardiff University

Key Selling Points:

- Considers seals from medieval Wales and neighbouring England (the Borders)
- Ground-breaking treatment of seals as historical documents
- A multidisciplinary scope, covering Art history, Cultural history, Celtic Studies and medieval history
- Uses sigillographic evidence to provide new insights into the history of medieval Wales and the English border counties

Author Details:



**Phillipp Schofield** is Professor of Medieval History at Aberystwyth University; **Elizabeth New** is Lecturer in Medieval History at Aberystwyth University; **Sue Johns** is Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at Bangor University. Contents:

Introduction, Elizabeth A. New and Phillipp R. Schofield  
Chapter 1: Seals in medieval Wales and its neighbouring counties: trends in motifs, John McEwan  
Chapter 2. Seals: administration and law, Phillipp R. Schofield  
Chapter 3. Seals and exchange, Phillipp R. Schofield  
Chapter 4: Ecclesiastical Seals, Elizabeth A. New  
Chapter 5: Seals and lordship, Susan M. Johns  
Chapter 6: Seals, women and identity, Susan M. Johns  
Chapter 7: Seals as expressions of identity, Elizabeth A. New  
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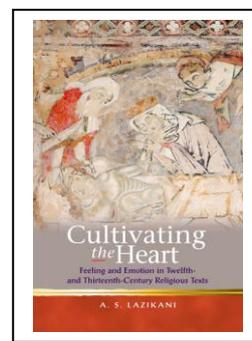
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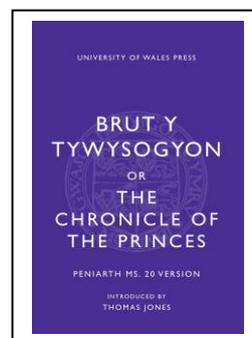


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