



The Complete Poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley, Vol. 2 (Volume 2)

By Percy Bysshe Shelley

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Writing to his publisher in 1813, Shelley expressed the hope that two of his major works "should form one volume"; nearly two centuries later, the second volume of the Johns Hopkins edition of *The Complete Poetry* fulfills that wish for the first time. This volume collects two important pieces: *Queen Mab* and *The Esdaile Notebook*. Privately issued in 1813, *Queen Mab* was perhaps Shelley's most intellectually ambitious work, articulating his views of science, politics, history, religion, society, and individual human relations. Subtitled *A Philosophical Poem: With Notes*, it became his most influential?and pirated?poem during much of the nineteenth century, a favorite among reformers and radicals. *The Esdaile Notebook*, a cycle of fifty-eight early poems, exhibits an astonishing range of verse forms. Unpublished until 1964, this sequence is vital in understanding how the poet mastered his craft.

As in the acclaimed first volume, these works have been critically edited by Donald H. Reiman and Neil Fraistat. The poems are presented as Shelley intended, with textual variants included in footnotes. Following the poems are extensive discussions of the circumstances of their composition and the influences they reflect; their publication or circulation by other means; their reception at the time of publication and in the decades since; their re-publication, both authorized and unauthorized; and their place in Shelley's intellectual and aesthetic development.

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The Complete Poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley, Vol. 2 (Volume 2) By Percy Bysshe Shelley Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3062327 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Johns Hopkins University Press
- Published on: 2004-12-16
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 2.12" w x 6.13" l, 3.06 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 920 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

A scholarly delight.

(*Romanticism on the Net*)

Once it is completed, this will be *the* definitive critical edition of the *complete* poetry of P.B. Shelley that the scholarly community has been awaiting for such a long time. We can already say: it will have been worth the wait.

(Christoph Bode *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik (ZAA)*)

Review

An indispensable reference work for all who study Shelley... Auspiciously inaugurates Shelley studies for a new millennium.

(Morton D. Paley *Studies in Romanticism*)

A more comprehensive collation of relevant materials, or a more sensitive, sensible, and reader-friendly presentation of evidence, is inconceivable. All Shelleyans owe Reiman and Fraistat a debt of gratitude.

(Zachary Leader *The Wordsworth Circle*)

Will almost certainly be the standard in Shelley scholarship... It is more than a reader hopes for in editorial scholarship.

(Susan Morgan *Studies in English Literature*)

A monumental edition?the Shelley edition for our time.

(Steven E. Jones *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*)

About the Author

Donald H. Reiman is an Adjunct Professor of English at the University of Delaware. **Neil Fraistat** is a Professor of English at the University of Maryland.

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