# Reviews Editorial

Jeffrey W. Barbeau

Before Richard Gravil's death, *The Coleridge Bulletin* had already commissioned a review of the new edition of Gravils' celebrated study, *Wordsworth's Bardic Vocation, 1787–1842* (2003). Michael Raiger's review has taken on fresh importance in the wake of Gravil's unexpected passing and offers a fulsome explanation of Gravil's groundbreaking examination of Wordsworth's "self-consciously bardic vocation," explaining in illuminating detail precisely why we should revisit Gravil's work again.

In fact, the current issue also includes what may be Richard Gravil's last published book review, written with characteristic insight. Richard was best known for his lectures and writings on William Wordsworth, and before his death he completed a review of Jessica Fay's *Wordsworth's Monastic Inheritance* (2018), which he praises for its "rich and highly stimulating argument." Gravil's intellectual energy was apparent even in correspondence, and he remarked that he could have written even more on the subject had we permitted him the space! We are grateful for his contributions to Romantic studies.

Other reviews will similarly motivate readers to inquire about new and interesting books on Coleridge and the wide circle of his work and influence. Peter Cheyne reviews Cecilia Muratori's *The First German Philosopher: The Mysticism of Jakob Böhme as Interpreted by Hegel* and shows how Böhme's influence on Hegel "provides an illuminating account of a contemporaneous parallel" to Coleridge. Jeff Strabone's review of Michael Gamer's *Romanticism, Self-Canonization, and the Business of Poetry* shows how our much-loved poets weren't concerned with aesthetics alone. Rather, the Romantic poets worried over the business of print and the material conditions of book publishing, bringing copyright, reprint editions, and royalties all into play in the establishment of poetic legacies.

The legacy of Coleridge and Romanticism features prominently in several recent books. Anastasia Stelse reviews *The Vocation of Sara Coleridge* by Robin Schofield, which Stelse recommends for understanding how Coleridge's daughter used innovative and subversive rhetorical strategies and compositional methods in her writings on religion and literature. In this way, Sara Coleridge not only edited her father's works, but carefully shaped her contemporaries' understanding of his reputation. Dometa Brothers writes of Philip Aherne's *The Coleridge Legacy* that the Coleridge who emerges in Aherne's book is one who shaped the philosophical and educational systems of British and American life in profound ways during the one-hundred years following his death. This sense of understanding the afterlife of a person or movement also motivates William Davis's review of *The Handbook of British Romanticism*, edited by Ralf Haekel. Davis asks, "Who needs a heavy and hardbound 'handbook' in the age of the Internet?" and explains that such weighty works as the *Handbook* draw readers into the current debates in the study of British Romanticism and reveal unexpected insights we might otherwise miss as we continue to interpret and assess the movement.

Finally, two reviews take up the philosophical dimensions of Coleridge and Wordsworth. Heidi Snow reviews Mark Offord's *Wordsworth and the Art of Philosophical Travel*, an ambitious study of Wordsworth's "search for an individual autonomy" in the "essence of things." Then, Andrea Timar surveys the essays that comprise Peter Cheyne's collection *Coleridge and Contemplation*. Cheyne's volume includes discussions of poetics, ethics, politics, and metaphysics. Her careful summary of each essay will help readers to trace the range of work that Coleridge's philosophical writings continue to inspire.

The next volume of *The Coleridge Bulletin* will feature reviews of several important new studies of interest to readers of Coleridge, including

- Jessica Oliver on Jonathan Edwards, *Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and the Supernatural Will in American Literature* by Brad Bannon
- Richard Gibson on *Remaking Romanticism: The Radical Politics of the Excerpt* by Casie LeGette
- Sean Barry on *Poetry and British Nationalisms in the Bardic Eighteenth Century: Imagined Antiquities* by Jeff Strabone
- Linda L. Reesman on *Wordsworth Before Coleridge: The Growth of the Poet's Philosophical Mind, 1785–1797* by Mark J. Bruhn