

Grevel Lindop

Lamb, Hazlitt and De Quincey

first published in

The Coleridge Connection
Essays for Thomas McFarland

edited by Richard Gravil & Molly Lefebure (Macmillan 1990)

Digitized by [Humanities-Ebooks](http://www.humanities-ebooks.org/) 2007

PUBLICATION DATA

© Grevel Lindop, 1990, 2007

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this Work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published in 1990 by Macmillan in *The Coleridge Connection*, edited by Richard Gravil and Molly Lefebure.

This chapter is extracted from *The Coleridge Connection*, 2nd edition, 2007. *Humanities-Ebooks LLP*, Tirril Hall, Tirril, Penrith CA10 2JE.

READING OPTIONS

- * To use the navigation tools, the search facility, and other features of the Adobe toolbar, this Ebook should be read in default view.
- * To navigate through the contents use the hyperlinked 'Bookmarks' at the left of the screen.
- * To search, expand the search column at the right of the screen or click on the binocular symbol in the toolbar.
- * For ease of reading, use <CTRL+L> to enlarge the page to full screen
- * Use <Esc> to return to the full menu.

LICENCE AND PERMISSIONS

This book is licensed for a particular computer or computers. The file itself may be copied, but the copy will not open until the new user obtains a licence from the Humanities-Ebooks website in the usual manner. The original purchaser may license the same work for a second computer by applying to support@humanities-ebooks.co.uk with proof of purchase.

Permissions: it is permissible to print a copy of this book for your own use, but not to copy and paste text.

from
The Coleridge Connection:
Essays for Thomas McFarland

edited by Richard Gravil and Molly Lefebure

Volume Contents

Table of Abbreviations

1. *Richard Gravil*, Introduction and Orientation

Part One: The Sometime Jacobin?

2. *Ian Wylie*, Coleridge and the Lunaticks
3. *Nicola Trott*, The Coleridge Circle and the ‘Answer to Godwin’
4. *Nicholas Roe*, Coleridge and John Thelwall: the Road to Nether Stowey

Part Two: Friend and Ventriloquist

5. *Molly Lefebure*, Humphry Davy: Philosophic Alchemist
6. *Grevel Lindop*, Lamb, Hazlitt and De Quincey
7. *Tim Fulford*, Coleridge and J. H. Green: The Anatomy of Beauty

Part Three: The German Connection

8. *James Engell*, Coleridge and German Idealism: First Postulates, Final Causes
9. *Frederick Burwick*, Coleridge and Schelling on Mimesis
10. *E. S. Shaffer*, The Hermeneutic Community: Coleridge and Schleiermacher

Part Four: The American Connection

11. *Anthony John Harding*, Coleridge and Transcendentalism
12. *Jonathan Bate*, Edgar Allan Poe: A Debt Repaid

Part Five: Sage and Evangelist

13. *H. W. Piper*, Coleridge and the Unitarian Consensus
14. *Robert Barth SJ*, Coleridge and the Church of England
15. *John Beer*, Transatlantic and Scottish Connections: Uncollected Records

Select Bibliography: Revised and Updated
Search Terms

Volume ISBN 978-1-84760-006-6

Lamb, Hazlitt and De Quincey

GREVEL LINDOP

I

However much our sense of Coleridge may derive from his own writings, it requires a biographical focus, and it is to Charles Lamb (1775–1834), William Hazlitt (1778–1830) and Thomas De Quincey (1785–1859) that we owe the documents on which our awareness of Coleridge as a personality, a social presence, is most firmly founded. No view of Coleridge can be adequate that altogether ignores Lamb's 'Christ's Hospital Five-and-Thirty Years ago', or Hazlitt's 'My First Acquaintance with Poets', or De Quincey's 'Samuel Taylor Coleridge'. All these accounts occur, however, in autobiographical contexts, and (as their authors well knew) to write about Coleridge was not only to contribute to a tradition of anecdotal biography inaugurated by STC himself in the headnote to *Kubla Khan*, in the *Biographia Literaria* and elsewhere; it was also to review and redefine oneself. A meeting with Coleridge was a significant event in many people's lives; for Lamb, Hazlitt and De Quincey the encounter was crucial. More than a literary influence, Coleridge became a reference point by which they located their tasks, their values and themselves.

This was natural enough. All were young when they first met him; all three, to use Lamb's metaphor (*LW*, i, 1), entered the 'warfare' of the literary life 'under cover of the greater Ajax', Coleridge himself. All shared with him important personal experiences and aspirations. Lamb was a boyhood friend and schoolfellow, and later an aspiring poet; De Quincey and Hazlitt cherished ambitions as philosophers; De Quincey was already an intermittent opium user when he met the addicted Coleridge; Hazlitt was a radical who had recently given up plans for the Unitarian ministry when he heard Coleridge preach in 1798; and so on. But more than this is involved. The depth and range of Coleridge's abilities, combined with his gift for prompt (if not always sustained) friendship and his readiness to communicate to even the humblest