

The
Sublime Savage
James Macpherson and the Poems of Ossian

FIONA STAFFORD

Sublime Savage

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Sublime Savage:

From Gaelic to Romantic, 2023-12-21 The appearance of James Macpherson's Ossian in the 1760s caused an international sensation. The discovery of poetic fragments that seemed to have survived in the Highlands of Scotland for some 1500 years gripped the imagination of the reading public who seized eagerly on the newly available texts for glimpses of a lost primitive world. That Macpherson's versions of the ancient heroic verse were more creative adaptations of the oral tradition than literal translations of a clearly identifiable original may have exercised contemporary antiquarians and contributed eventually to a decline in the popularity of Ossian. Yet for most early readers as for generations of enthusiastic followers what mattered was not the accuracy of the translation but the excitement of encountering the primitive and the mood engendered by the process of reading. The essays in this collection represent an attempt by late twentieth century readers to chart the cultural currents that flowed into Macpherson's texts and to examine their peculiar energy. Scholars distinguished in the fields of Gaelic, German, Irish, Scottish, French, English and American literature, language history and cultural studies have each contributed to the exploration of Macpherson's achievement with the aim of situating his notoriously elusive texts in a web of diverse contexts. Important new research into the traditional Gaelic sources is placed side by side with discussions of the more immediate political impetus of his poetry while studies of the reception of Ossian in Scotland, Germany, France and England are part of the larger recognition of the cultural significance of Macpherson's work and its importance to issues of fragmentation, liminality, colonialism, national identity, sensibility and gender.

Epic and Empire, David Quint, 2021-01-12 Alexander the Great according to Plutarch carried on his campaigns a copy of the Iliad kept alongside a dagger on a more pronounced ideological level ancient Romans looked to the Aeneid as an argument for imperialism. In this major reinterpretation of epic poetry beginning with Virgil, David Quint explores the political context and meanings of key works in Western literature. He divides the history of the genre into two political traditions: the Virgilian epics of conquest and empire that take the victors' side, the Aeneid itself, Camões's *Lusadas*, Tasso's *Gerusalemme liberata* and the countervailing epic of the defeated and of republican liberty, Lucan's *Pharsalia*, Ercilla's *Araucana* and d'Aubigné's *Les tragiques*. These traditions produce opposing ideas of historical narrative: a linear teleological narrative that belongs to the imperial conquerors and an episodic and open-ended narrative identified with romance, the story told of and by the defeated. Quint situates *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained* within these rival traditions. He extends his political analysis to the scholarly revival of medieval epic in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and to Sergei Eisenstein's epic film *Alexander Nevsky*. Attending both to the topical contexts of individual poems and to the larger historical development of the epic genre, *Epic and Empire* provides new models for exploring the relationship between ideology and literary form.

Divining Nature, Tili Boon Cuillé, 2020-12-15 The Enlightenment remains widely associated with the rise of scientific progress and the loss of religious faith, a dual tendency that is thought to have contributed to the disenchantment of the

world In her wide ranging and richly illustrated book *Tili Boon Cuill* questions the accuracy of this narrative by investigating the fate of the marvelous in the age of reason Exploring the affinities between the natural sciences and the fine arts Cuill examines the representation of natural phenomena whether harmonious or discordant in natural history painting opera and the novel from Buffon and Rameau to Ossian and Stael She demonstrates that philosophical artistic and emotional responses to the spectacle of nature in eighteenth century France included wonder enthusiasm melancholy and the sentiment of divinity These passions of the soul traditionally associated with religion and considered antithetical to enlightenment were linked to the faculties of reason imagination and memory that structured Diderot's *Encyclopédie* and to contemporary theorizations of the sublime As Cuill reveals the marvelous was not eradicated but instead preserved through the establishment and reform of major French cultural institutions dedicated to science art religion and folklore that were designed to inform enchant and persuade This book has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities Exploring the human endeavor

Racing the Street Robert J. Topinka, 2020-08-18 *Racing the Street* traces the history of how race was used as a technology for gathering assembling and networking the early cosmopolitan city Drawing on an archive that ranges from engineering blueprints and parliamentary committee reports to sensationalistic pamphlets and periodical press accounts Robert J Topinka conducts an original genealogy of the nineteenth century London street demonstrating how race as a technology gathers sorts and assembles the teeming particularities of the street into a manageable network This interdisciplinary study offers a novel approach to the intersections of race rhetoric media technology and urban government

Literature After Euclid Matthew Wickman, 2016-02-16 *Literature After Euclid* tells the story of the creative adaptation of geometry in Scotland during and after the long eighteenth century Analyzing the work of Scottish literati Matthew Wickman challenges how we perceive the Scottish Enlightenment and the modernist ethos that relegated classical Enlightenment to the dustbin of history

The Celts Ian Stewart, 2025-03-04 A history of Celtic thought and identity over the last three centuries This book will be the first synoptic historical study of Celtic ideas in the modern era The Celts are perennially popular in both academic and popular culture having been the subject of several recent books scholarly and otherwise as well as a major exhibition *The Celts Art and Identity* at the British Museum and National Museum of Scotland in 2015 16 However attention remains overwhelmingly focused on the ancient peoples labelled Celts with little interrogation of how and why they became known as such during the modern period In addressing these questions this study will be the first to account for the trajectory of ideas of the Celts or Celticism and how they became fundamental pillars of national identities in western Europe especially in Britain Ireland and France A transnational approach covering the period from roughly 1700 to the present day will allow the proposed volume to chart the transformation of perceptions of the Celts from those of a sought after European ancestor to those of a marginalised people living on the fringes of western Europe In doing so it will illustrate the wider intellectual cultural and political ramifications of this protracted ideological shift in different national

contexts As nationalism resurfaces across Europe this timely study will reveal the intellectual history of a prominent cultural identity and show the historical contingency of Celtic based nations national identities and nationalisms **The Making of Percy's Reliques** Nick Groom,1999 Percy's Reliques is the seminal collection of historical and lyrical ballads that defined English literature at the end of the 18th century This study examines his working methods *The Complexion of Race* Roxann Wheeler,2010-08-03 In the 1723 Journal of a Voyage up the Gambia an English narrator describes the native translators vital to the expedition's success as being Black as Coal Such a description of dark skin color was not unusual for eighteenth century Britons but neither was the statement that followed here through Custom being Christians they account themselves White Men The Complexion of Race asks how such categories would have been possible when and how such statements came to seem illogical and how our understanding of the eighteenth century has been distorted by the imposition of nineteenth and twentieth century notions of race on an earlier period Wheeler traces the emergence of skin color as a predominant marker of identity in British thought and juxtaposes the Enlightenment's scientific speculation on the biology of race with accounts in travel literature fiction and other documents that remain grounded in different models of human variety As a consequence of a burgeoning empire in the second half of the eighteenth century English writers were increasingly preoccupied with differentiating the British nation from its imperial outposts by naming traits that set off the rulers from the ruled although race was one of these traits it was by no means the distinguishing one In the fiction of the time non European characters could still be redeemed by baptism or conversion and the British nation could embrace its mixed race progeny In Wheeler's eighteenth century we see the coexistence of two systems of racialization and to detect a moment when an older order based on the division between Christian and heathen gives way to a new one based on the assertion of difference between black and white Tretower to Clyro Karl Miller,2014-08-12 In his latest book of essays Karl Miller turns his attention to appreciate certain writers of the English speaking modern world A new ruralism has come to notice in this country and the book is drawn to country lives as they have figured in the literature of the last century An introductory essay is centered on the Anglo Welsh borderlands Journeys taken with Seamus Heaney and Andrew O Hagan to this countryside and others are threaded throughout the book The poets Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes are discussed together with the fiction of Ian McEwan the Canadian writer Alistair Macleod the Irish writer John McGahern and the Baltimorean Anne Tyler Scotland is a preoccupation of the later pieces including the letters of Henry Cockburn a lifelong interest of the author who is also interested here in foxes and their current metropolitan profile *Representing Non-Western Music in Nineteenth-century Britain* Bennett Zon,2007 Explores the influence of anthropological theories travel literature psychology and other intellectual trends on the perception of non Western music and elucidates the roots of today's field of ethnomusicology

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