CARICATURE AND REALISM IN THE ROMANTIC NOVEL

What was caricature to novelists in the Romantic period? Why does Jane Austen call Mr Dashwood's wife 'a strong caricature of *him*self'? Why does Mary Shelley describe the body of Frankenstein's creature as 'in proportion', but then 'distorted in its proportions' – and does caricature have anything to do with it? This book answers those questions, shifting our understanding of 'caricature' as a literary-critical term in the decades when 'the English novel' was first defined and canonised as a distinct literary entity. Novels incorporated caricature talk and anti-caricature rhetoric to tell readers what different realisms purported to show them. Recovering the period's concept of caricature, *Caricature and Realism in the Romantic Novel* sheds light on formal realism's self-reflexivity about the 'caricature' of artifice, exaggeration and imagination. This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available on Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

OLIVIA FERGUSON is a library worker, editorial consultant and writer based in North East Scotland. She has degrees in literature and linguistics from McGill University, the University of Victoria and the University of Edinburgh. She has published research articles in *Studies in Romanticism*, *Persuasions On-Line*, *Notes and Queries* and *Gothic Studies*, and has a chapter in the forthcoming *Edinburgh Companion to Jane Austen and the Arts*. Ferguson was a research fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, from 2018 to 2019, and was Lecturer in Romanticism at Birkbeck College, University of London, from 2019 to 2020.

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