



Iconoclastic Departures: Mary Shelley After Frankenstein - Essays in Honor of the Bicentenary of Mary Shelley's Birth

By Syndy McMillen CONGER, Frederick S. FRANK & Gregory O'DEA (editors).

Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, Madison, 1997.

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Iconoclastic Departures contributes to the ongoing re-evaluation of Mary Shelley as a professional author in her own right with a lifelong commitment to the development of her craft. Many of its essays acknowledge the importance of her family to her work - the steady theme of much earlier scholarship - but for them the family has become an imperative socio-psychological context within which to better understand her innovations in the many literary forms she worked with during her career: journals, letters, travelogues, biographies, poems, dramas, tales, and novels. The book's essays also convey the conviction that even if Mary Shelley, after Percy Shelley's death, gradually retired from public life as his relatives wished, she retained a resiliently resistant attitude toward many of the established orders of her day, easily recovered by a careful look beyond her feelings' to the productions of her literary imagination'. The Mary Shelley who inhabits this three-part collection of portraits is a radical, even if a quiet radical. It seems significant to the contributors to this volume that this new, radical Mary Shelley was not invented...



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