



Strange Truths in Undiscovered Lands: Shelley's Poetic Development and Romantic Geography

Nahoko Miyamoto Alvey

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The great Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley had a complicated relationship with the British Empire and the culture of colonialism. Considered politically radical and scandalous in Britain, Shelley lived in self-imposed exile and set much of his writing in foreign places. In *Strange Truths in Undiscovered Lands* Nahoko Miyamoto Alvey examines the ways in which Shelley developed a 'Romantic geography' to provide visionary alternatives to an earth devastated by a new type of European colonialism and global expansion.

Intertextually rich, Alvey's work establishes the context in which poems by Shelley and other Romantics were written by presenting relevant histories, travel texts, scientific writings, and archival material, and are all complemented by postcolonial analysis. Unique in its emphasis on the optimistic and positive aspects of Shelley's poetical works, *Strange Truths in Undiscovered Lands* offers a different perspective on Romantic Orientalism, and a new look at how the poet imagined the relationship between the Self and the Other.

Thorough and original, this book will be of interest to Romanticists, postcolonialists, and anyone interested in alternative responses to acts of colonialism and empire.



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