Carlyle And German Thought, 1819-1834

Charles Frederick Harrold

Especially Carlyle’s dispersed commentaries on that other Romantic mediator of German thought, S.T. Coleridge, foreground the main tenets of Carlyle’s ambiguous Romanticism: its rhetorical struggle towards transcendental revelation and its Scottish intellectual context, which distinguishes it from English Romantic thought. An important preliminary observation in this context is that Carlyle obviously did not refer to himself or contemporaneous authors as ‘Romantic’. Although Schlegel’s Classic/Romantic-opposition entered Britain through Coleridge’s lectures of 1812 and 1813, the latter