

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910958429203321
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Titolo	Romanticism and transcendence : Wordsworth, Coleridge, and the religious imagination // J. Robert Barth
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Columbia, : University of Missouri Press, c2003
ISBN	0-8262-6291-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (162 p.)
Disciplina	821/.709382
Soggetti	Religion and literature - England - History - 19th century Religious poetry, English - History and criticism Romanticism - England Transcendence (Philosophy) in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 137-142) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Romanticism and Transcendence -- Works Cited -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Grounded in the thought of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Romanticism and Transcendence explores the religious dimensions of imagination in the Romantic tradition, both theoretically and in the poetry of Wordsworth and Coleridge. J. Robert Barth suggests that we may look to Coleridge for the theoretical grounding of the view of religious imagination proposed in this book, but that it is in Wordsworth above all that we see this imagination at work. Barth first argues that the Romantic imagination -- with its profound symbolic import -- of its very nature has religious implications, and notes parallels between Coleridge's view of the imagination and that of Ignatius Loyola in his <i>Spiritual Exercises</i> . He then turns to the role of religious experience in Wordsworth, using <i>The Prelude</i> as a privileged source. Next, after comparing the conception of humanity and God in Wordsworth and Coleridge, Barth considers the role of religious experience and imagery in two of Coleridge's central poetic texts, <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> and <i>Christabel</i> . Finally, Barth examines the continuing role of the Romantic idea of the religious imagination today, in literature and all the arts, linking it with the thought of theologian Karl Rahner and literary critic

George Steiner. *Romanticism and Transcendence* brings together literary theory, poetry, and religious experience, areas that are interrelated but are often not seen in relationship. By exploring levels of Wordsworth's and Coleridge's poetry that are often ignored, Barth provides insight into how and why the imagination was so important to their work. He also demonstrates how rich with religious value and meaning poetry and the arts can be. The interdisciplinary nature of this important new study will make it useful not only to Wordsworth and Coleridge scholars and other Romantic specialists, but also to anyone concerned with the intellectual history of the nineteenth century and to theologians in general. Book jacket.

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