



Multiple Authorship and the Myth of Solitary Genius

By Jack Stillinger

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This is a study of the collaborative creation behind literary works that are usually considered to be written by a single author. Although most theories of interpretation and editing depend on a concept of single authorship, many works are actually developed by more than one author. Stillinger examines case histories from Keats, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Mill, and T.S. Eliot, as well as from American fiction, plays, and films, demonstrating that multiple authorship is a widespread phenomenon. He shows that the reality of how an author produces a work is often more complex than is expressed in the romantic notion of the author as solitary genius. The cumulative evidence revealed in this engaging study indicates that collaboration deserves to be included in any account of authorial achievement.

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Editorial Review

Review

"It is refreshing...to see the case against 'genius' or authorial autonomy made in so straightforwardly empirical a fashion, with a good editor's characteristic fidelity to awkward particulars."--*Times Literary Supplement*

"Makes a valuable contribution to ongoing debates on interpretation....Stillinger's book should open up fruitful lines of research and investigation."--*Studies in the Novel*

"Jack Stillinger has written a remarkable book. It ought to have a wrenching effect on literary criticism and its practitioners."--*Journal of English and Germanic Philology*

"It is the major achievement of Stillinger's book to detail the facts of multiple authorship that we have been either too blind to see or too prisoned in our romantic myth of authorship to acknowledge....A clear theory of multiplicity relies upon such scholarly identification of authors and versions as Stillinger himself has so brilliantly exemplified."--*Wordsworth Circle*

"Authoritative scholarly study - balanced, readable, knowledgeable, skillfully argued, and soundly documented."--*Studies in Romanticism*

From the Back Cover

Multiple Authorship and the Myth of Solitary Genius offers some surprising historical facts concerning collaborative literary efforts, along with a compelling case for the inclusion of multiple authorship in any account of authorial achievement. This engaging study will be of interest to scholars, critics, and students in all areas of literature and literary theory.

About the Author

Jack Stillinger is at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alex Levey:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each facts they get. How individuals to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading through a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information especially this Multiple Authorship and the Myth of Solitary Genius book because this book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

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