

"Pale Roamer thro' the Night!" had become a necessary change to enable the poets to publish three poems. Southey was satisfied with his Dactyls and Sapphics and retained his original image of a poor wanderer of the night while a compromise "Pale Roamer thro' the Night!" enabled Coleridge to use Southey's stanzas he found "exquisite" in his *Effusion XV*. There remained only lines 2, 3 and 8 as written in 1794 by Southey at the time the sonnet was published. Coleridge must have been well satisfied with *Effusion XV* as it appeared in all collections of his poems published in his lifetime though he acknowledged Southey's inspiration only in his first Preface of 1797.

Now, extensive collaboration in the preparation of a poem is not familiar to twentieth century authors or readers, but it is quite common in the eighteenth century. It is true that eighteenth century readers were sensitive to plagiarism (when they could detect it) and to fraud, when it could be proved (as in Chatterton's case), or was suspected (as in Macpherson's). But willing co-operation between brother authors was another matter. Not only did eminent writers contribute prologues and epilogues to one another's plays, they also contributed lines which a fellow author would unashamedly, and without acknowledgement, incorporate in a work of his own. Dr Johnson, as one might expect, often obliged—to such an extent that when Sir Joshua Reynolds's *Discourses* proved unexpectedly eloquent, Johnson was, quite unjustly, rumoured to be their real source. But in the present case this customary courtesy had the support of a closer intimacy, both personal and ideological. An emended draft of a sonnet, *Effusion 15*, and two letters provide an insight into the intricacies of joint composition by two young Romantics as they wrote to achieve an ideal society. Collaboration to mutual advantage in three lines of a poem written by Robert Southey in a much revised sonnet that Samuel Taylor Coleridge made his own, was the measure of their trust in their Utopia—a Pantisocracy—"of equal government of all."

REFERENCES

- 1 For the purposes of clarity *Effusion 15* has been used throughout when referring to the MS draft and *Effusion XV* only when referring to the printed sonnet.
- 2 The catalogue entry reads ". . . Interesting copy having inserted the manuscript of Coleridge's (*Effusiva* [sic] *XV*) 'Poor wanderer of the night' which differs considerably from the published version." *Book Prices Current*. London, Elliott Stock, 1903, XVII, p. 169.
- 3 My thanks are due to Mr V. G. Elliott for pointing out this discrepancy and for much advice, guidance and encouragement from the time the MS was discovered.
- 4 "And the first half of *Effusion XV* was written by the Author of 'Joan of Arc', an Epic Poem." Coleridge, S. T. *Poems on Various Subjects*. London, printed for G. G. and J. Robinsons, and J. Cottle, bookseller, Bristol, 1796 p. xi.