

PRINT AND PERFORMANCE
IN THE 1820S

Improvisation, Speculation, Identity

ANGELA/ESTERHAMMER

University of Toronto



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	page vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	viii
1 Introduction: Being There, circa 1824	1
1.1 Performance: The Media Concept of the 1820s	7
1.2 Improvisation	13
1.3 Speculation	15
1.4 Identity	20
1.5 The Literary-Cultural Field of an Age-in-Formation	22
2 Periodical Performances: <i>Blackwood's</i> , <i>Knight's</i> , and <i>The Bachelor's Wife</i>	28
2.1 Periodical Time: "The Ingenuity of Making Pleasure Periodical"	30
2.2 Periodical Dialogues: Editors, Reviewers, and Readers	34
2.3 Periodical Identities: Pseudo-persons in <i>Blackwood's</i>	38
2.4 Improvising <i>Knight's Quarterly Magazine</i>	46
2.5 Staging <i>The Bachelor's Wife</i>	55
3 Mediating Improvisation and Improvising Mediation: Tommaso Sgricci and Periodical Culture	61
3.1 "Bianca Cappello" in the Theatre and in Reviews	64
3.2 Orality and Literacy in the 1820s: The New Homer	70
3.3 Remediating "The Death of Charles I"	73
3.4 Breaking News: "The Fall of Missolonghi"	79
4 Personal Identity, Impersonation, and Charles Mathews: Who Is He When He's at Home?	85
4.1 Philosophical Identities	86
4.2 Embodied Identities	91
4.3 The Inimitable Imitator	95
4.4 Impersonation beyond the Theatre	104
4.5 The Mediality of the "At Homes"	107

5	Theodore Hook's <i>Sayings and Doings</i> on the Page and the Stage: "A Curious Matter of Speculation"	112
5.1	Proverbs Served with Silver Forks	115
5.2	Lady Adeline's Mobility	119
5.3	"Danvers" and the Dangers of Speculation	122
5.4	"Martha, the Gypsy": Credit and Credibility, Seeing and Believing	125
5.5	Truth, Satire, and Sentiment: "Merton" and "Passion and Principle"	127
5.6	Domestic Performativity, Theatricality, and Mental Ejaculation	134
6	Speculating on Property: To and from the Village with Galt, Mitford, and Scott	143
6.1	<i>Sir Andrew Wylie</i> : A Well-Performing Investment	146
6.2	The Media of <i>Our Village</i>	154
6.3	<i>Saint Ronan's Well</i> : Speculation in Many Guises	163
7	Scottish Fictions of 1824: Permutations of Identity	172
7.1	<i>Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner</i> : Recounting the Unaccountable	176
7.2	<i>Redgauntlet</i> : Speculative History	189
7.3	<i>Rothelan</i> and <i>Scotch Novel Reading</i> : Scott-ish Border Crossings	197
7.4	<i>Walladmor</i> , Imitation, and Imposture	203
	<i>Notes</i>	211
	<i>Bibliography</i>	240
	<i>Index</i>	259