

Rebellion as Genre in the Novels of Scott, Dickens and Stevenson

By Anna Faktorovich

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When three of Britain's best-loved and best-selling authors each publish at least two novels with a historical rebellion theme, there might be an interesting pattern worth examining. This is a long overdue study of the previously overlooked rebellion novel genre, with a close look at the works of Sir Walter Scott (Waverly and Rob Roy), Charles Dickens (A Tale of Two Cities and Barnaby Rudge), and Robert Louis Stevenson (Kidnapped and The Young Chevalier). The linguistic and structural formulas that these novels share are presented, along with a comparative study of how these authors individualized the genre to adjust it to their needs. Scott, Dickens and Stevenson were led to the rebellion genre by direct radical interests. They used the tools of political literary propaganda to assist the poor, disenfranchised and peripheral people, with whom they identified and hoped to see free from oppression and poverty.

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Rebellion as Genre in the Novels of Scott, Dickens and Stevenson By Anna Faktorovich Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #5962183 in Books
- Brand: Brand: McFarland
- Published on: 2013-02-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.90" h x .70" w x 5.90" l, .75 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 264 pages

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Review

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"Faktorovich... examines the rebellion novel genre in nineteenth-century British literature... She analyzes their linguistic and structural formulas, how they used subversive tools to avoid censorship, and how they individualized the genre to suit their needs, in terms of Scott's Scottish nationalism, Dickens' socialist purpose, and Stevenson's radical aims. She also discusses the rebellion novel and its context and elements, the genre in terms of genre theory, its readers..., and censorship, the publishing business, and subversion."

The Literary Studies Shelf: Midwest Book Review

midwestbookreview.com/lbw/jun_13.htm

"'Rebellion as Genre'... is a... compendium comprised examining literary aspects of their work. Beginning with an informed and informative overview and commentary on rebellions and reforms in Britain... Insightful, thoughtful and thought-provoking, [it] is a seminal body of impeccable scholarship, and a highly recommended contribution for academic library Literary Studies reference collections in general, and supplemental reading lists for students..."

Foreword Reviews: Staff Pick: Goodreads: "Books have great power, great enough even to spark a revolution, or at least to inspire it. This scholarly analysis of rebellion in literature aims to define an overlooked genre and illustrate the revolutionary aspirations of some of Britain's greatest authors." --Aimee Jodoin

"a seminal body of impeccable scholarship...highly recommended"--*Midwest Book Review*.

From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

Anna Faktorovich is the founder and director of the Anaphora Literary Press and the editor-in-chief of the Pennsylvania Literary Journal. She has been a professor of English for the Middle Georgia College and for the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

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