PREFACE

The Gothic writers of the last quarter of the eighteenth century made a notable contribution to the development of the novel in English literature. They helped to make the English novel not a dry record of everyday happenings, but an interesting account of imaginative adventures and poetic thoughts. They marked the awakening of the supernatural life and the spiritual side of life. They showed that outside the real world there was also a world of wonder and delight. Their influence on the works of the Romantic poets and other writers in nineteenth and twentieth centuries is the best evidence of their important role in the development of English literature.

The rationale to take up this research study came from my Post-graduate Project, the title of which was Coleridge and the Gothic. This earlier project highlighted the lack of research interest in this particular literary genre ‘Gothic’ (both in India and the Arab world) and motivated an academic effort in this direction.

In terms of documentation, I have used the style of MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Quotations from Gothic novels, Romantic poetry, letters, reviews and criticism are also included. The capitalization of the term ‘Gothic’ in the whole work has been applied for the sake of emphasis. The chapter division and the analysis of the novels and poems are based on a simple chronological order. Sometime repetition became inevitable due to the very nature of this study.

It is hoped that the work would be useful for those who are interested in the study of the Gothic tradition and its influence on the Romantic poets.

(Abdullah Ali Awadh Boaram)