



The Role of Women in Gothic Novels - The Castle of Otranto by Horace Walpole, The Italian by Ann Radcliffe, Melmoth the Wanderer by Charles Robert Maturin

By Antje Kahle

Grin Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 28 pages. Dimensions: 8.2in. x 5.7in. x 0.2in. Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 2.0, University of Osnabrück, 14 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: There are more than 50 years between The Castle of Otranto and Melmoth the Wanderer. The Castle of Otranto was published 1764, The Italian 1797 and Melmoth the Wanderer 1820. It might be interesting that The Castle of Otranto was published in year of birth of Ann Radcliffe and The Italian has been published in the year Horace Walpole died. An incident of course, but an interesting one. The Castle of Otranto is set in the time between 1095 and 1243, The Italian is set in the 18th century and Melmoth the Wanderer covers an period of time from the late 17th century to the early 19th century. In the following work will find out especially about the women in the three mentioned novels. In which way are they presented, is there a stereotype of a gothic heroine and are there changes throughout the time referring to the date of publishing and writing The first point will be a...



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Gothic novel *The Castle of Otranto*, by Horace Walpole. Illustration featuring typical Gothic motifs from the 1765 edition of *The Castle of Otranto*, first published 1764. View images from this item (17). Usage terms Public Domain. *The Mysteries of Udolpho*.^Â Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) gave a scientific form to the supernatural formula. Charles Maturin's *Melmoth the Wanderer* (1820) featured a Byronic anti-hero who had sold his soul for a prolonged life. And James Hogg's elaborately titled *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (1824) is the story of a man pursued by his own double. A character's sense of encountering a double of him- or herself, also essential to *Frankenstein*, was established as a powerful new Gothic motif. I first read *The Castle of Otranto*, in college. It is reputedly the original horror story that caused Bram Stoker to create *Dracula*. It scared poor British boys so bad they lost sleep. I don't know about that, but I would bet money on the fact that Horace Walpole knew how a good scary story would take the impressionable Englishmen.Â If nothing else, it demonstrates how he was attempting to make his work more accessible by opening it up to the less educated classes. *Open Book.jpg*It's important to remember that this was the first gothic novel, so whilst the events of the story may, to us, seem predictable, and whilst the dark dungeons and trap doors may, now, seem repetitive and unoriginal, readers during the Romantic period would have never imagined such scenes. *The Castle of Otranto* is a novel by Horace Walpole, published under a pseudonym in 1764. It is considered the first Gothic novel in the English language, and it is often said to have founded the horror story as a legitimate literary form. Learn more about *The Castle of Otranto* in this article.Â Walpole also likely influenced Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794) and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*; or, *The Modern Prometheus* (1818) as well as Jane Austen's satirical take on the genre, *Northanger Abbey* (written c. 1798 or 1799, published 1817). Haley Bracken. In real life, Walpole's family was beset by tragedy and his life's obsession was a Gothic castle called Strawberry Hill.Â Two-hundred and fifty years ago, Horace Walpole published "The Castle of Otranto," a strange, campy book that's widely considered to be the first Gothic novel. In real life, Walpole's family was beset by tragedy and his life's obsession was a Gothic castle called Strawberry Hill. This story was funded by Longreads Members. Join and help support great storytelling. Carrie Frye | Longreads | December 2014 | 16 minutes (4,064 words). Download .mobi (Kindle) Download .epub (iBooks). As a child, Horace Walpole frequently heard it said of himself that surely he would die soon. Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* (1764) can be considered the first true gothic novel. The tale - a real horror story - is about the tyrant Manfred who has taken possession of the principality of Otranto.Â She was clearly inspired by Walpole's *Castle of Otranto*. Her novel would on its turn influence Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Ann Radcliffe. Ann Radcliffe had already written three novels that established her reputation as a writer, but it was only with the gothic novel *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794) that she earned 500 British pounds, considered to be an enormous amount of money in her days. The publisher must have had confidence in her, for he paid her in advance, which also gives proof of the popularity of the gothic literature in the years following 1790.