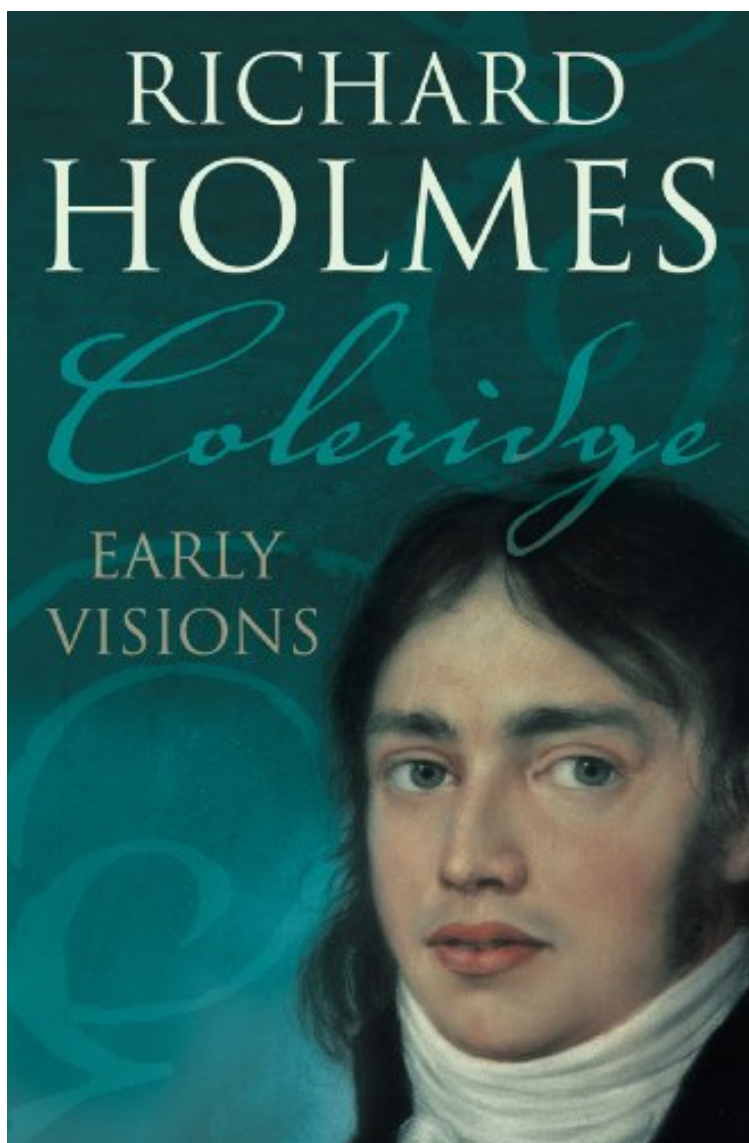


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Coleridge: Early Visions



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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurWinner of the 1989 Whitbread Prize for Book of the Year, this is the first volume of Holmes seminal two-part examination of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, one of Britains greatest poets.Coleridge: Early Visions is the first part of Holmes classic biography of Coleridge that forever transformed our view of the poet of Kubla Khan and his place in the Romantic Movement. Dismissed by much recent scholarship as an opium addict, plagiarist, political apostate and mystic charlatan, Richard Holmes Coleridge leaps out of the page as a brilliant, animated and endlessly provoking figure who invades the imagination.This is an act of biographical recreation which brings back to life Coleridges poetry and encyclopaedic thought, his creative energy and physical presence. He is vivid and unexpected. Holmes draws the reader into the labyrinthine complications of his subjects personality and literary power, and faces

us with profound questions about the nature of creativity, the relations between sexuality and friendship, and the shifting grounds of political and religious belief. Note that it has not been possible to include the same picture content that appeared in the original print version. From Publishers Weekly This 1989 winner of England's Whitbread Prize, the first of two volumes, discusses with admiration the Romantic man of letters's impulsive personality, his exotic poetry and critical essays, and his relationships with and influences on prominent writers of the period. PW called this "a work of narrative skill, outstanding scholarship and original interpretation." Illustrated. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal A winner of the Whitbread Prize for biography, this first of what will be a two-volume biography of Coleridge is superb. Holmes (Footsteps, LJ 9/15/85; Shelly, LJ 5/15/75) has indeed "taken Coleridge into the open air." By brushing aside the givens of critical opinion without dismissing them and making extensive use of the letters and notebooks, a fresher Coleridge emerges. It is still the Coleridge with drug and financial problems, a tendency toward plagiarism and murky thought, the dreaming schemer, but he somehow comes out of this account more a fascinating character than a literary relic. The British rave-ish reviews are well deserved, as this work promises to become a standard. The one thing Holmes tends to gloss over is Coleridge's philosophical background, but this background is well covered elsewhere, and Holmes hints that he may do more in Volume 2. Definitely buy this title over Stephen Weissman's *His Brother's Keeper: A Psychobiography of Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (LJ 1/90). - Robert E. Brown, Onondaga Cty. P.L., Syracuse, N.Y. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.