

**FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL AND
GOETHE, 1790-1802: A
STUDY IN EARLY GERMAN
ROMANTICISM; PP. 40-192**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649456086

Friedrich Schlegel and Goethe, 1790-1802: A Study in Early German Romanticism; pp. 40-192
by John William Scholl

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN WILLIAM SCHOLL

**FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL AND
GOETHE, 1790-1802: A
STUDY IN EARLY GERMAN
ROMANTICISM; PP. 40-192**

FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL AND GOETHE

1790-1802

A STUDY IN EARLY GERMAN ROMANTICISM

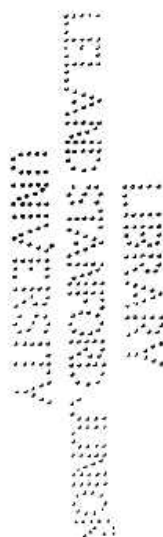
BY

JOHN WILLIAM SCHOLL

*A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY*

BALTIMORE

1906



832.62
DS368

YASULI
SOMU. OROTHAT MA. RA
VITAK 1988

85358

FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL AND GOETHE,
1790-1802 :

A STUDY IN EARLY GERMAN ROMANTICISM.

INTRODUCTION.

a. STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS.

Friedrich Schlegel, youngest son of Johann Adolf Schlegel, was born at Hannover on March 10, 1772, just three months after Goethe had finished the first version of his first great work, *Götz von Berlichingen*. His literary career begins in 1794 with the publication of *Von den Schulen der Griechischen Poesie*. At this time he is as old as Goethe was when writing the *Götz*.

In the meantime Goethe has written many great works, passed through several cultural stages, been enriched by varied experiences, and in the great general aspects of his character as also in the essentials of his *Weltanschauung* become a *developed* man. Life will deepen, knowledge widen with the coming years, but the Italian journey (September 3, 1786—June 18, 1788), with its revolutionary influences, is past, and twenty years (since November, 1775) of responsible public service in great little Weimar by the side of his devoted friend, the Duke, whom he loved and praised,¹ have had their sedative influence upon the stormy genius of the period of *Götz* and *Werther*. The unique literary friendship with Schiller, who has been at Weimar and Jena since 1787, is just beginning with the establishment of the *Horen*.

On the other hand Schlegel is but little beyond the first

¹ *GWk.* v. Venetian Epigrams, No. 35.

stadia of his intellectual progress. He has scarcely begun a development which is to be conditioned to a remarkable degree by the great minds of the period and by certain great thinkers and writers of the past, and will result in an almost complete reversal of his attitude toward all problems of literature, philosophy, and life. These great influences are Plato, the Greek dramatists, the Platonizing Hemsterhuis, Winckelmann, Herder, Kant, Fichte, Schiller, and Goethe. Personal relations will exist with the last three. The relative force of these influences will vary widely at different stages of his progress. The Hellenizing influence is based in a general way upon Winckelmann, but stands in the closest relations to the doctrines and practice of the Weimar classicists. Kant's critical philosophy, supplemented by Fichte and modified by Schiller, is a second powerful moment and becomes more and more important toward the close. Goethe's works (this can hardly be overemphasized) are influential from first to last. They are the atmosphere in which Schlegel as a literary student breathes. They are the concrete examples of all possible literary excellence since the Greeks. Their author is the acknowledged leader of Weimar culture when Weimar is the center of German letters. Schlegel as a literary aspirant knows no higher goal than the approval of this genius whom he is soon to glorify with extravagant daring as "Gott, Vater."¹

Friedrich's attitude toward Goethe had, however, materially changed before 1804, about which time many evidences of the alteration exist. The least arbitrary date near this period is naturally the date of Schlegel's departure for Paris, the date of the final dispersion of the older Romantic school. Since the earliest known sources of information concerning Friedrich² begin in 1791, we may select the year of student

¹ *BDBr.*, Bd. 1, p. 36.

² *WSBr.*

life at Göttingen in company with August Wilhelm as the beginning of his development. The most important years of his activity are thus included between 1790 and 1802. These limits are further favored by the second great source of our knowledge of Friedrich's early career, *Friedrich Schlegels prosaische Jugendschriften, 1794-1802*, edited by Minor.

No complete statement of Friedrich Schlegel's personal and literary relations to Goethe exists. Much work has been done upon certain phases of the dependence, but even here contributions may be made. Statements have been made recently that Goethe learned much from the earlier romantics, but few definite evidences are produced in their support. It has seemed advisable therefore to collect into one complete statement, so far as possible, what is certainly known of the relationship of Friedrich Schlegel to Goethe during the period above fixed.

b. RELATIONS AS SEEN IN LATER LIFE.

Goethe published his correspondence with Schiller in 1828-9, just as Friedrich's unfortunate career was drawing to its close. The severe judgments of Schiller upon the character, accomplishments, and pretensions of both Schlegels, with the contemporary assent of Goethe in all essential points, were given to the public unaccompanied by the least hint of Goethe's own disapproval of their sharpness and with no disavowal of his own present belief in Schiller's correctness. August Wilhelm, mindful of his outwardly pleasant relations with Goethe during those fruitful years in Jena, was surprised and pained at such revelations. To defend himself and his brother against these criticisms an edition of the Goethe-Schlegel correspondence was planned. But it did not appear. The surviving brother vented his

feelings, however, in print. His attack appeared in Wendt's *Musenatmanach* for 1832, issued in the fall of 1831. To the shame of August Wilhelm, his harshest thrusts were aimed at the dead friend Schiller and not at Goethe.¹ Zelter calls Goethe's attention to these "galligwässrige" attacks in a letter of October 15, 1831. To this circumstance we owe the latest, completest, and most positive expression of Goethe's views of the character of the Schlegels and especially of his relations with them.²

This letter is too well known to need quotation, though almost every line of it is important for our problem. The relations of Goethe to the Schlegels, according to this direct testimony, were (a) universal tolerance, not hearty favor, (b) the furthering of that which he himself did not approve, (c) an effort to keep up a sort of social relation with them, though (d) he stood outside of the romantic circle and would have been extinguished by them, but for his own solid worth, and (e) he did not trouble himself about others while following out his own designs. Schiller's hatred is justified as right, and their accomplishment in all fields except the oriental is discredited.

Such statements roundly deny any real sympathy with the romantic doctrines and practises of the Schlegels and imply a degree of artistic and literary isolation incompatible with *mutual* influence.

This letter cannot be credited to momentary bitterness at August Wilhelm's attack on Schiller in Wendt's *Almanach*. If bitterness dictated it, it was a settled bitterness of a quarter of a century. Many utterances of Goethe from 1804 until his death seem to show that the bitterness was a part of the settled consistent judgment of all his riper years.

¹ *BXen.*, Bd. II, p. 285 ff.

² *GZBr.*, Bd. VI, pp. 315 f. and 318 ff.; Goethe an Zelter, October 26, 1831.