



Leonora (Revolution & Romanticism, 1789-1834)

By Burger, Gottfried Augustus

Woodstock Books, Otley, 2000. Hardcover. Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. William Blake (illustrator). facsim 1796. In literary terms Bürger's ghostly tale broke convention and created a context for Lyrical Ballads and The Ancient Mariner. In 1796 it appeared in no fewer than five versions, each noticeably different from the others. The main distinction of this edition is the contribution of William Blake, whose haunting, hallucinatory frontispiece belongs to the period of his greatest creativity. Stanley's Leonora is marked out in other ways, by the inclusion of the German text, and by the happy ending he provides: good triumphs, Leonora awakes, William returns. It is a measure of the ballad's power and its impact upon the poetry-reading public that he felt the need to Christianize it. A facsimile of the 1796 edition with English and German text, translated by J.T. Stanley with an introduction by Jonathan Wordsworth. One of its lines Denn die Toten reiten schnell ("For the dead travel fast") was to be quoted in Bram Stoker's classic Dracula. "In 1773 the ballad Lenore was published in the Musenalmanach. This poem, which in dramatic force and in its vivid realization of the weird and supernatural remains without a rival,...



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