

## *The Talisman*, an editorial project

Our project is to produce the beginnings of a scholarly edition of Scott's *The Talisman*. As you know, there are no affordable scholarly editions of the novel in print.\* We will be aiming for a Broadview-style edition (like the *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* we've been using) that includes appendices of critical reviews and relevant historical background materials. We will also be responsible for choosing sections of the novel to annotate, and for the beginnings of a critical Introduction.

Everyone will be responsible for:

1. a 4-5 page section of an Introduction to the novel. We will collectively decide what themes an Introduction should include, and you may write your essay on any **one** theme. These may include (but are not limited to): the tale as a genre; Scott and medievalism; Romantic representations of Islam; and the historical novel. You are required to cite a minimum of **two** outside sources (academic articles, books). You will be exchanging ideas and drafts of your introductory section with your second-round groupmates (see below).
2. Annotation. Pick a chapter of the novel and choose 5 words to annotate. Make sure to pick words that are historically or literarily significant, and that a contemporary reader would find useful. (1 page)
3. Annotation of critical resources. Choose **two** nineteenth-century responses to/reviews of *The Talisman*, and one nineteenth-century source related to the novel's historical themes (orientalism, the historical novel, medievalism, Saladin, etc.) that you think would be most useful to a reader/academic. Briefly summarize (2-3 paragraphs max.) the argument/purpose of the source and explain why this article or review deserves to be in a scholarly edition of *The Talisman*. Both *ECCO* and *C19* will be useful here, as will the Broadview edition of *The Travels of Mirza Abu Taleb Khan*. (1-2 pgs)
4. Book history. Provide a detailed description of one extant edition of the novel, including all the bibliographic information. There are two early 20<sup>th</sup> century editions available in Special Collections, and several more can be requested via ILL. Online editions are great for consultation and reference, but your description should be of a book that you are physical access to. Is there an Introduction? If so, how does it describe the novel and its author? Are there illustrations? How do

they affect how the novel reads? Is there any other paratext? Consider how the binding, printing, frontispieces, etc. determine how you approach the novel. (2-4 pages)

5. Groupwork narrative: Describe the research you undertook for your first group assignment, including what materials you found and what you learned. Then describe how you incorporated that material, as well as the information you gleaned from your second group assignment, into your introduction. Provide a complete bibliography of all sources you found in your initial groupwork, as well as any additional sources you used to write the introduction. (2-3 pages)

### Collaboration

For this project you'll be working in two groups, one primarily for research and one for writing.

- *Research Groups*. The research groups are divided up into topics: book history, critical history, author, and genre. You will be researching your topic with your group and pooling your collected information such that each of you will become an expert on your group's topic.
- *Writing Groups*. Once the first stage of research is complete, you will form new groups consisting of one member from each of the research groups. Each new writing group will have one expert on each of the four topics. Each writing group will be assigned a theme for their introduction sections. While your introduction sections should be written separately, you should exchange drafts and go over ideas with your group.

### Presentation

We will be presenting in topic groups, but everyone is responsible for talking individually about their contribution to the research stage as well as giving a brief description of their introduction section.

\*Edinburgh University Press released an academic version of *The Talisman* in 2009, but it is expensive and not widely available. Our library doesn't currently own it, but I will request a copy through ILL and have it available in reserves for consultation.

