

**FORERUNNING THE GOTHIC:
HORACE WALPOLE'S *THE CASTLE OF OTRANTO***

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***Abstract:** Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* is commonly accepted as the first Gothic novel. This paper addresses the novel's complex and sometimes ambivalent relationship with the political and historical juncture in which it emerged, as well as Walpole's eclectic aesthetic vision which would shape to a great extent the Gothic mode in British literature.*

***Key words:** gothic, Horace Walpole, Glorious Revolution, horror, terror, nationalism, Gothic Revival.*