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by José Ángel García Landa

(University of Zaragoza, Spain)

# William Godwin (1756-1836)

(English novelist and radical political writer; b. 1756 in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire; son of a Dissenting minister, st. at dissenting academy, Hoxton; polemical Dissenting minister, became writer in London; notorious anarchist theorist; Member of The Revolutionists club, with Lord Stanhope, Horne Tooke, and Holcroft, published with Joseph Johnson; friend of Hazlitt, Lamb, Coleridge and Wordsworth; m. Mary Wollstonecraft 1797; father of Mary Shelley; re-married Mary Jane Clairmont 1801, mother of his son; notoriously negligent father, cadger, lived in obscurity in the 19th c.; publisher of juvenile books; admired by Shelley, who eloped with his daughter Mary; met Sir Walter Scott in Scotland 1816, awarded sinecure of 200 pounds a year 1833 - "Office Keeper and Yeoman Usher of the Receipt of the Exchequer").

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