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What are the social consequences of new listening technologies? In sum, the essays gathered together by this collection explore the extent to which the audiobook enables us not just to hear literature but to hear it in new ways. Bringing together a set of reflections on the enrichments and impoverishments of the reading experience brought about by developments in sound technology, this collection spans the earliest adaptations of printed texts into sound by Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, and other novelists from the late nineteenth century to recordings by contemporary figures such as Toni Morrison and Barack Obama at the turn of the twenty-first century. As the voices gathered here suggest, it is time to give a hearing to one of the most talked about new media of the past century.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Matthew Rubery is Lecturer in Nineteenth-Century Literature at Queen Mary, University of London. He is the author of *The Novelty of Newspapers: Victorian Fiction after the Invention of the News* (Oxford, 2009), which won the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE) First Book Award 2010. His article "Play It Again, Sam Weller: New Digital Audiobooks and Old Ways of Reading" appeared in the *Journal of Victorian Culture* in 2008.

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