

“Lord Byron in the Hand of Mary Shelley”

An academic conference to mark the temporary exhibition of the same title
5 November 2015 at the KEATS-SHELLEY HOUSE, Rome

The conference coincides with, and is inspired by, the temporary exhibition at the Keats-Shelley House, *Lord Byron in the Hand of Mary Shelley* (29 June – 6 November 2015), curated by Giuseppe Albano (Curator, Keats-Shelley House, Rome) and David McClay (Curator, John Murray Archive, National Library of Scotland).

The exhibition features original and facsimile manuscripts loaned to the Keats-Shelley House by the National Library of Scotland, which are displayed amongst a host of treasures from the permanent collection of the Keats-Shelley House, with many of the items from both collections being publicly displayed for the first time.

The programme for the afternoon’s activities is as follows:

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| 14.00 | Registration (€25 for non-speaking attendees) and Welcome (Tea and coffee served) |
| 14.30 | <i>An Introduction to the Byron Collection at the Keats-Shelley House</i>
Dr Giuseppe Albano , Keats-Shelley House |
| 14.45 | Keynote lecture: <i>Lord Byron in the Hand of Mary Shelley</i>
Professor Jane Stabler , University of St Andrews |
| 15.30 | <i>An Introduction to the John Murray Archive</i>
David McClay , John Murray Archive, National Library of Scotland |
| 15.45 | <i>I frutti acerbi di Lord Byron</i>
Vincenzo Patanè , Independent Byron scholar |
| 16.15 | Tea, coffee and biscuits served on the terrace (weather permitting) or in the gift shop and film room area |
| 16.45 | <i>‘He describes what he sees’: Byron’s Letters from Italy</i>
Dr Anthony Howe , Birmingham City University |
| 17.15 | <i>Lord Byron and Count Maddalo: Byron in Venice through the eyes of Shelley</i>
Professor Gregory Dowling , Ca’ Foscari University, Venice |
| 17.45 | <i>Romanticising Rome: de Stael, Goethe and Byron</i>
Dr Alan Rawes , University of Manchester |
| 18.15 | <i>‘A Satanic spirit of pride and audacious impiety’: Byron, Frere and the Grafting of the ‘Pulcian strain’</i>
Professor Peter Vassallo , University of Malta |

Closing words and prosecco reception at the Keats-Shelley House



Biographical Notes on Guest Speakers

Jane Stabler is Professor of Romantic Literature at the School of English, University of St Andrews, Scotland. She is the author of *Byron, Poetics and History* (Cambridge University Press 2002) and *The Artistry of Exile: Romantic and Victorian Writers in Italy* (Oxford University Press 2013). At present she is the holder of a Major Leverhulme Research Fellowship to complete an edition of *Don Juan* for the Longman Annotated English Poets Edition of Lord Byron's Poems (co-edited with Dr Gavin Hopps, University of St Andrews). The edition will establish a completely new text for Byron's poetry by returning to the manuscripts. Our new editorial approach removes the nineteenth-century accretions (and deletions) of Byron's publishers and printers, and punctuates the poems afresh to enable readers to recapture more of Byron's original authorial voice than has been possible for the last two hundred years.

Vincenzo Patanè was born in Acireale (Sicily), but is essentially and culturally Neapolitan. He teaches History of Art in Venice and is also a journalist – currently overseeing gay magazine *Pride's* movie page, after having collaborated with *Babilonia* for years – and a writer. To this date he has published ten books and numerous essays. His main interests are cinema, art, literature and Islam. His latest book – *L'estate di un ghio. Il mito di Lord Byron attraverso la vita, i viaggi, gli amori, le opere* [The Summer of a Dormouse. Lord Byron's Myth through his Life, Journeys, Loves, and Works] – is the first full-length biography written by an Italian on the English poet, who is the author's greatest interest in life.

Anthony Howe is Reader in English Literature at Birmingham City University. He studied at Liverpool before taking a PhD at Cambridge, as has taught at both Cambridge and Oxford. As well as publishing several articles on the second-generation Romantics, he is co-editor of *Liberty and Poetic Licence: New Essays on Byron* (Liverpool, 2008) and *The Oxford Handbook of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (2013). His *Byron and the Forms of Thought* was published in 2013. He is currently writing a book about Romantic period letter writing and editing a collection of essays on the same subject.

Gregory Dowling is Associate Professor of American Literature at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. His academic publications include a study of American narrative poetry, a guide to Byron's Venice and a co-edited anthology of American poetry about Venice. His most recent academic book is a study of the poetry of David Mason (Story Line Press, 2013). His non-academic publications include five thrillers, set in England and Italy, the sightseeing sections of the *Time Out Guide to Venice* and numerous translations from Italian into English. He is a member of the committee for the new Lord Byron Museum to be opened in Palazzo Guiccioli, Ravenna, in 2017. His most recent novel, *Ascension*, a spy-story set in 18th-century Venice, was published by Polygon Books in September 2015.

Alan Rawes teaches at the University of Manchester. His publications include *Byron's Poetic Experimentation* (2000), *Romantic Biography* (co-ed, 2003), *English Romanticism and the Celtic World* (co-ed, 2003), *Romanticism and Form* (ed, 2007), *Reading, Writing and the Influence of Harold Bloom* (co-ed, 2010) and a special issue of *Litteraria Pragensia* on 'Tears, tortures and the touch of joy': *Byron in Italy* (co-ed, 2013). He is currently co-editing a collection of essays on 'Byron and Italy' with Diego Saglia (University of Parma) for Manchester University Press. He edited *The Byron Journal* between 2005 and 2012, sits on the Executive Committee of The Byron Society, and is Joint President of the International Association of Byron Societies.

Peter Vassallo is Professor of English Literature at the University of Malta and has been visiting Professor at several major European universities. He is also Chair of the Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies and General Editor of the *Journal of Anglo-Italian Studies* which he founded, and sits on the Board of Directors of the International Byron Society. Peter specializes in Romantic Literature and has published widely on Byron, the English Romantics Poets, and on British Writers and Italy. His book on *Byron: The Italian Literary Influence* (Macmillan, 1984) is considered 'the authoritative study on the subject' and his recent publications include a book on *British Writers and the Experience of Italy*, a Chapter on "Romantic Narrative Poetry" in *Romanticism: An Oxford Guide* ed. Nicholas Roe and a Chapter on "The Poetry of William Butler Yeats" in the *Cambridge History of English Literature* ed. Michael O'Neill (2010).

