



Keats and Mythology (1819-2019)

Rome, 22-23 February 2019

*'I wonder if school children are still taught, as I was, the ridiculous myth that
Keats was killed by a bad review.'*

(W.H. Auden, 'Keats in his Letters', *Partisan review*, 1951)

This conference celebrating the bicentenary of Keats's *annus mirabilis*, 1819, is organised by the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association in collaboration with the *Société d'Études du Romantisme Anglais* and hosted at the British School at Rome with tours of the Keats-Shelley House and Non-Catholic Cemetery. The conference is supported by the Keats-Shelley Association of America's Romantic Bicentennials fund and organised by **Giuseppe Albano**, Curator/Director of the Keats-Shelley House, **Caroline Bertonèche**, from the University of Grenoble Alpes and President of the SERA (*Société d'Études du Romantisme Anglais*), and **Maria Valentini** from the University of Cassino and Chair of the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association in Rome.

All papers will be given on Friday 22nd February, and participants remaining in Rome on Saturday 23rd February will be invited to take part in special tours of the Non-Catholic Cemetery, where Keats and Shelley are buried, and of the Keats-Shelley House, Keats's final dwelling place, in order to mark the anniversary of Keats's death.

The conference includes the premiere performance of *Bright Stars*, a musical and literary exploration of some parallels in the lives of Franz Schubert and John Keats written and directed by Rory Stuart.

**All speakers and attendees must register in advance by contacting info@ksh.roma.it / +39 06 678 42 35.
Registration fee €50.**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1 – Friday 22nd February – at the British School at Rome, Via Antonio Gramsci, 61

09:30 **Welcome from the Organisers of the Conference**

SESSION 1 **THE HYPERION MYTHS**

09:45 **Presentation 1:** "Thundering Voice of the Gods: Sound and Silence in Keats's Hyperion" by Anna ANSELMO (Università della Valle d'Aosta)

10:05 **Presentation 2:** "Hieroglyphics of Time: Keats's Hyperion Pieces" by Soelvé CURDTS (Heinrich-Heine Universität, Düsseldorf)

Illustration: Averil Burleigh, *Hyperion Arose*, 1911

- 10:25 **Presentation 3:** “Deconstructing and Reconstructing Keats’s Poetics of Mourning and Mythology in The Fall of Hyperion” by Francesco MARCHIONNI (Durham University)
- 10:45 **Session 1 Q&As**
- 11:00 **BREAK FOR COFFEE AND BISCUITS**
- SESSION 2 **KEATS AND MYTHOLOGICAL FIGURES**
- 11:30 **Presentation 4:** “Becoming Apollo” by Nandita BATRA (University of Puerto Rico)
- 11:50 **Presentation 5:** “‘To soothe the cares, and lift the thoughts of man’: the Keatsian poet as a Romantic avatar of Orpheus” by Laure-Hélène ANTHONY (Université de Bourgogne)
- 12:10 **Presentation 6:** “Star Wars: Asteria and Hecate in Keats’s Poetics” by Chris WASHINGTON (Francis Marion University)
- 12:30 **Session 2 Q&As**
- 12:45 **Lunch at the BSR**
- SESSION 3 **KEATSIAN LEGENDS: LETTER AND PLEASURE WRITING**
- 14:15 **Presentation 7:** “‘I read thee rash, and heedless of thy self’: Re-reading the Legendary Keats-Shelley Exchange” by Jeremy ELPRIN (Université Caen-Normandie)
- 14:35 **Presentation 8:** “The Tragic Mythology of Love in Keats’s Letters” by Flora LISICA (University of Cambridge)
- 14:55 **Presentation 9:** “The Myths of Pleasure in Keats’s Fancy” by David SIGLER (University of Calgary)
- 15:15 **Session 3 Q&As**
- 15:30 **BREAK FOR TEA AND BISCUITS**
- SESSION 4 **THE AFTER-MYTH: IMMORTALITY AND ‘POSTHUMOUS LIFE’**
- 16:00 **Presentation 10:** “An Immortal Sickness: Keats and the Symbolic Imagination” by Leon BURNETT (University of Essex)
- 16:20 **Presentation 11:** “Mythologising Keats in 1821” by Nicholas ROE (University of St Andrews)
- 16:40 **Presentation 12:** “‘Thou Vesper of our throng!’: Percy Bysshe Shelley’s apocalypticism and the mythologisation of John Keats in Adonais” by Lucia SCIGLIANO (Durham University)
- 17:00 **Session 4 Q&As**
- 17:15 **Closing Thoughts by the Organisers of the Conference**
- 17:30 **Aperitivo**
- 18:20 **BRIGHT STARS**, A musical and literary performance by Rory Stuart

DAY 2 – Saturday 23rd February - at the Keats-Shelley House and Non-Catholic Cemetery, Rome

11 – 5 pm **Special tours will be given of these two sites of literary pilgrimage to mark the anniversary of Keats’s death in Rome.**

The registration fee of €50 includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day on 22nd February, as well as the guided tour of the Keats-Shelley House on 23rd February. Tours of the Non-Catholic Cemetery are not included, for which participants are each expected to leave a donation of €6 at the start of the visit.

