



THE KEATS Foundation

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THE KEATSIAN

The Newsletter of the Keats Foundation January 2019

Professor Michael O'Neill 1953-2018.

With great sadness we record the death of Professor Michael O'Neill on 21 December 2018. Michael was a distinguished scholar and editor of Romantic poetry, and an acclaimed poet himself. He was also a longstanding supporter of the Keats Foundation annual conferences and other events, and gave a powerful reading of his poems at our 2018 conference when already seriously ill with cancer. An obituary appears on the Keats Foundation website at <https://keatsfoundation.com/news/michael-oneill-1953-2018/> and a full-length obituary will be published in the Newsletter of the English Society.

Keats Foundation Annual Lecture 2019

Saturday 9 February 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Keats House Hampstead

Dr. Matthew Scott (University of Reading)

How Much Did Keats Really Know?



Tickets from Eventbrite £5 (Keats Foundation Supporter free).

For further details and to book your place please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keats-foundation-annual-lecture-how-much-did-keats-really-know-tickets-53724446265?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Dr Scott writes: 'In this lecture, I would like to revisit Keats's important but vexing idea of Negative Capability and do so in light of some of the things that some recent philosophers and neuroscientists have thought about the notion of certainty. I want to ask what kind of claim to knowledge Keats is making in his famous statement, and how it relates to other similar ideas that are present in both his contemporaries and successors, in particular when they think about the truth-claims present in the experience of art. In Keats's formulation, knowledge and certainty are in a curious and confusing tension but this is precisely why it is so fascinating and suggestive as a way of understanding the strange potency of aesthetic experience. Confusion and lack of certainty are often provoked by the experience of coming to know the world around us and works of art in particular, which can be at once strange and somehow intimate. Keats's extraordinary suggestion is that this may be a hallmark of all knowledge; a scepticism which, he admits, puts him at odds with some of his contemporaries. In the lecture, I want to ask whether we should really see his idea as set apart from the thought of his time and also whether it is useful to our own time, where notions of cognitive dissonance and confusion, widely present as affects in Keats's own poetry, find renewed interest. As we approach the 2019 bicentenary of Keats's odes, much of the lecture will focus on how states of knowledge are presented in these poems, and I will also consider the criticism of his contemporaries who frequently imply that he knew either not enough, or too much of the wrong kind of thing.'

Matthew Scott teaches English and American literature at the University of Reading. Widely published on literature, art and music (most especially relating to the Romantic Period), he is editor of *Symbiosis* and *The London Magazine*.

Call for Papers: Keats Bicentenary Conference 17 – 19 May 2019

Call for Papers

Sixth Bicentennial John Keats Conference

Keats in 1819: Cloudy Trophies, Quiet Power

A Three-Day Keats Foundation Conference at Keats House, Hampstead, London
Friday 17 – Sunday 19 May 2019

Keynote Speakers: Lucasta Miller, Seamus Perry, Emily Rohrbach

The Keats Foundation is delighted to announce its sixth bicentenary conference, 'Keats in 1819: Cloudy Trophies, Quiet Power', to be held at Keats House, Hampstead 17-19 May 2019.

Robert Gittings's book *John Keats: The Living Year* described 1819 as 'the 365 days of a single year' in which nearly all of Keats's greatest poems were written: *The Eve of St. Agnes*, 'La Belle Dame sans Merci', the spring Odes, *Lamia*, and 'To Autumn'. Now more than 60 years old, Gittings's book has survived the test of time – but has our view of Keats in 1819 moved on, altered, or acquired new tones? Do we agree that 'Ode to the Nightingale' is incontestably a greater poem than 'Ode on Indolence'? Was 'Bright Star' written in 1819, or in some other year? Was Keats's deteriorating health somehow related to his astonishing creativity in 1819? How did his relationship with Fanny Brawne evolve across the momentous year of 'Peterloo'? What role did Keats's places have in the poetry of 1819? Our conference invites explorations of Keats's life and the cloudy trophies and quiet power of his creativity throughout this remarkable year – and beyond it.

Proposals for twenty-minute papers are now invited on all aspects of 'Keats in 1819' – in his poetry, letters, manuscripts, life, and posthumous reputation (myths and memoirs; biographies; critical reception; creative afterlives and legacies – poetry, painting, imagined lives). Papers will also be welcomed in relation to his circle of friends, including (but not limited to) Fanny Brawne, Charles Brown, Charles Cowden Clarke, Barry Cornwall, William Hazlitt, John and Leigh Hunt, Isabella Jones, the Ollier brothers, John Hamilton Reynolds, Joseph Severn, Percy and Mary Shelley, and John Taylor the publisher.

For obvious reasons, all papers should have a significant Keats dimension.

Lectures and papers will be presented in the spacious Nightingale Room adjacent to Keats House. We anticipate leisurely walks to explore the Keatsian locality, Hampstead Heath, and Leigh Hunt's Vale of Health. We will also celebrate the launch of *Keats's Places*, edited by Richard Marggraf Turley, a landmark collection of essays

drawn from papers at the Keats Foundation's 2016 Conference at Keats House. For further information about the Keats Foundation please go to: <https://keatsfoundation.com/>

For Keats House, please visit: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/keats-house/Pages/default.aspx>

Please submit 200-word paper proposals to keatsconferences@gmail.com. Please ensure that your proposal is headed with your paper title, your name, institutional affiliation, and an e-mail contact address that you regularly check. Deadline for paper proposals is Monday 4 March 2019, so please send proposals as soon as possible!

Registration will open on Monday 18 March 2019. Our aim has been to keep this as simple as is practically possible. The registration fees set out below are based on the 2018 conference and are unlikely to change much when registration opens; registration covers administrative overheads, teas, coffees, wine reception and so on, for the duration of the conference. To postgraduate students and unwaged we offer a concession fee.

Except for the Conference Dinner on Saturday 18 May, meals during the conference are **not covered** by the conference fee. Overnight accommodation during the conference is wholly at the discretion of participants.

Early paper proposals and booking are recommended. If you have significant funding deadlines please alert us to these.

Registration

For attendance at the full conference including the conference dinner on Saturday 18 May the following charges will apply:

Registration fees are as follows for the 2019 conference:

Existing Keats Foundation supporters in year 2018-19: £115 per person.

Attendees who are not yet Keats Foundation supporters in year 2018-19: £155, which includes a one-year introductory Supporter's subscription to the Keats Foundation for the year 2019-20.

These fees include the Conference dinner on Saturday 18 May.

For postgraduates and unwaged, we offer concessionary rates:

Existing Keats Foundation supporters in year 2018-19: £50 per person.

Postgraduate and unwaged attendees who are not yet Keats Foundation supporters in year 2018-19: £100, which includes a one-year introductory Supporter's subscription to the Keats Foundation for the year 2019-20.

These fees include the Conference dinner on Saturday 18 May.

Day rates will be available, and these will not include the Conference dinner. Details about day rates will be made available after registration opens.

Full details about how to become a Keats Foundation supporter now can be found at <https://keatsfoundation.com/support/> Supporter status will not affect consideration or acceptance of paper proposals; the decision of the conference directors will be final. Details on how to pay the conference registration fee will be available when registration opens on Monday 18 March 2019.



Keats 200 launches!



was launched with celebrations at Keats House, Saturday 1 December 2018. Guests included John Keats himself, seen here at cross purposes with his guardian Richard Abbey on the Heath:



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