



THE KEATS Foundation

*Ever truly yours
John Keats*

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THE KEATSIAN

Newsletter of the Keats Foundation - January 2017

This issue of 'The Keatsian' looks forward to forthcoming Keats Foundation events for the spring of 2017. Reported here too is a Keats Foundation lecture at the Plymouth Athenaeum, and a visit to Charles Armitage Brown's home at Laira, Plymouth, where the first full-length biography of John Keats was written. As this issue of *The Keatsian* reaches you, we are finalising the development of the new Keats Foundation website – scheduled to go 'live' later in the spring of 2017.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday, 17 May 2017 at 7 pm: Dr. Margot Waddell and Dr. Toni Griffiths will repeat their acclaimed evening discussing Keats and Negative Capability, at Keats House, Hampstead, in the 'Nightingale Room'. Tickets will be £5.00 from Eventbrite; Keats Foundation Supporters, free.

Friday 19 May-Sunday 21 May: The fourth Keats Foundation Bicentenary Conference at Keats House, Hampstead: 'John Keats, 1817: Moments, Meetings, and the Making of a Poet'. See further information in this Newsletter.

Thursday 21 September 2017: The Keats Foundation annual Keats House Lecture. Dr. Jane Darcy of UCL will speak on 'Primrose Island: Keats and the Isle of Wight'.

Stop Press! Keats Foundation Photographic Competition announced: go to
<http://keatsfoundation.com/photography-competition/>

Annual Wreath Laying at Westminster Abbey, 31 October 2016

The Keats Foundation organized the laying of our annual wreath for John Keats at Westminster Abbey on 31 October, on the 221st anniversary of the poet's birth. Members of the Keats Foundation and staff and ambassadors of Keats House were joined by Poetry Society and Young Poets Network members.



The Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon of Westminster led the service in Poets' Corner, in a programme assembled by Foundation trustee Judith Palmer. Poet Peter Daniels read from one of Keats's letters to Fanny Brawne:

Now I have had opportunities of passing nights anxious and awake I have found other thoughts intrude upon me. 'If I should die,' said I to myself, 'I have left no immortal work behind me—nothing to make my friends proud of my memory—but I have loved the principle of beauty in all things, and if I had had time I would have made myself remembered.'

Canon Ball remembered John Keats 'with joy, gratitude and affection; and giving thanks for the beauty of his poetry'; praying for all the poets and writers who through the ages had been caused 'to perceive the world afresh, to enthrall and provoke us to thought reflection and wonder; and to explore the richness and diversity of our common nature'.

Poet Michael Horovitz read 'On First Looking into Chapman's Homer', and poet Vanessa Vie read the opening to *Endymion*. Foundation member and Keats House ambassador Ann Hunter, and Foundation trustee Dr. Toni Griffiths then laid the wreath beneath the memorial to John Keats. The flowers were chosen to reflect 'the realms of gold', marking 200 years since the composition in October 1816 of 'On First Looking into Chapman's Homer'.

Celebrating *The Eve of St Agnes*, Guildhall Gallery, 19 January 2017

Keats Foundation welcomed some 50 supporters and friends to the Guildhall Gallery, for a celebration of John Keats's wonderful romance, *The Eve of St Agnes*, on Thursday 19 January. Chilled white wine accompanied a series of lively readings from the poem by Jon Sayers, Clive Jones, Barbara Goldstein, Maureen Roberts, Eva Salzman, Isabel White, Henry Wong and Mary Jean Chan, and there was a chance to view William Holman Hunt's celebrated painting 'The Flight of Porphyro and Madeline'.



Charles Armitage Brown's House at Laira, Plymouth

On Friday 28 October last year Nicholas Roe, Keats Foundation Chair, spoke at the Plymouth Athenaeum about 'John Keats, Charles Brown, and Plymouth', in celebration of the poet's long association with the city. The poet's friend Charles Brown settled in a Regency villa in Laira, two miles from Plymouth, on his return from Italy in 1836. For fifteen years Brown had thought about writing a memoir of Keats, but was unable to confront the anguish of doing so. Then, settled at Plymouth in 1836, he made a start. To offset his friend's 'disappointment, his sorrows, and his death', Brown began with Shelley's *Adonais*, the great Romantic elegy in which Keats hastens to 'the abode where the Eternal are'.

On 29 December 1836 Brown gave a lecture at the Plymouth Institution (later the Athenaeum) 'On the Life and Poems of John Keats', and published fifteen of Keats's poems, including 'Bright Star!', in local newspapers. He also exhibited his two portraits of Keats by Joseph Severn, the medallion of Keats by Giuseppe Girometti, and Seymour Kirkup's drawings of Joseph Severn and Brown's son Carlino. Brown gave the manuscript of his biography to Richard Monckton Milnes, who drew upon it in his *Life, Letters, and Literary Remains, of John Keats* (1848). In many respects, Brown's activities at Plymouth, centred on the Institution, marked the beginning of nineteenth-century reassessments of Keats's achievement – an era in the development of his reputation that still shapes modern understandings of his achievement.

Set back behind trees, Brown's villa at Laira bears some resemblance to Wentworth Place, the home he had shared for two years with Keats, 1818-20. Many of the original features still survive, including the cooking range — made in Plymouth and dated '1820'.



The owners, Carrie and Keith Ansell, welcome enquiries and also offer B&B in Brown's former home – a must-see location for all Keatsians.

Call for Papers

Fourth Bicentennial John Keats Conference John Keats, 1817: Moments, Meetings, and the Making of a Poet

A Three-Day Keats Foundation Conference at Keats House, Hampstead, London

19-21 May 2017

Keynote Speakers

**Kelvin Everest
Theresa M. Kelley**

Guest of Honour

Greg Kucich

Keats Foundation is delighted to announce its fourth bicentenary conference, **John Keats, 1817: Moments, Meetings, and the Making of a Poet**, to be held at Keats House, Hampstead, Friday 19th to Sunday 21st May 2017.

So many important things happened in 1817 for John Keats, from his decision to quit medicine and the momentous publication of *Poems* to his seeing the Elgin Marbles, meeting Isabella Jones, writing his ‘Negative Capability’ letter and finishing *Endymion* just as the first of *Blackwood’s* attacks on the ‘Cockney School’ began. As 1817 drew to a close Keats was at the ‘Immortal Dinner’ in Haydon’s painting room. Much that influenced Keats’s later writings and literary relationships was put in motion during this eventful year.

Please propose papers on any aspect of Keats’s writings, life and literary relationships in 1817 and beyond. A bicentenary focus 1817-2017 would be helpful, but all paper proposals on John Keats and his circle will be welcomed.

Call for Papers!

Twenty-minute papers are now invited on all aspects of ‘John Keats, 1817: Moments, Meetings, and the Making of a Poet’—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, Lord Byron, Charles Cowden Clarke, William Hazlitt, John and Leigh Hunt, Isabella Jones, John Hamilton Reynolds, Joseph Severn, Percy and Mary Shelley. Keats’s first collection of poems was published in March 1817 and on the bicentenary of this momentous event we would welcome papers on Keats’s books (his own, those he read, those he

published, and other variations); his publishers; the book trade, Romantic book making and books as material objects; and also on Keats the reviewer and reviews of Keats.

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. For further information about 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 - **don't miss the deadline for paper proposals on 15 March 2017.**

Registration will open on 20 March 2017. Our aim has been to keep this as simple as is practically possible, and we have kept the costs of attending this year as low as possible. The registration fees set out below cover administrative overheads, teas, coffees, wine reception and so on, for the duration of the conference, as well as the conference dinner on Saturday, 20th May.

To postgraduate students and unwaged we offer a concession fee. Lunches and dinners will be improvised at local pubs and restaurants, and 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

The 2017 registration rates are confirmed as follows:

£130 for the full conference, including a one-year Supporter's subscription for the Keats Foundation, valid from 1 June 2016.

£100 for the full conference for existing Keats Foundation supporters in year 2016-17.

For postgraduates and unwaged, we offer a full conference concessionary rate of £70, including a one-year Supporter's subscription for the Keats Foundation, valid from 1 June 2016.

£45 for the full conference for existing p-g/uw Keats Foundation supporters in year 2015-16.

Day rates to attend the conference will be released closer to the date of the conference in May.

Full details about how to become a Keats Foundation supporter (actual cost £25.00+£3.00 processing fee) now can be found at <http://keatsfoundation.com/support/>

Please note that all payments via PayPal will be subject to an additional £3.00 administration charge. Details of how to pay the registration fee by PayPal will be released closer to the date of registration in mid-March. Alternatively you can pay by sterling cheque only made out to 'Keats Foundation', and mailed to John Keats Conference, School of English, University of St Andrews, KY16 9AR Scotland UK.