

Call for Papers

Annual International Association of Byron Societies Conference in Gdańsk

Reality, Fiction and Madness

1-6 July 2015



Lord Byron's Last Journey.

Watercolour © Nick Hugh McCann. Courtesy Geoffrey Bond OBE, DL, LLD, FSA

The theme may imply some methodological or theoretical differentiation between biographical and historical studies of Lord Byron's life and works on the one hand, and literary interpretations of his style and methods of fictional world construction on the other. These different approaches might require different methods of analysis and description, and perhaps the methods need re-considering. Furthermore, the blurring of the border between fiction and reality is not only a problem of the author's life decisions but is also a recurring epistemological theme in Byron's texts. 'Madness' may also be treated as Byron's method of literary perception, one that takes a variety of literary forms. It might then be explored not only as a biographical motif, or with reference to the author's predilection for histrionic

theatricality, but also in terms of composition, motifs, plots and their functions, as well as authorial manipulation of the addressee in the context of the varied and multicultural reception of the poet's works. Accordingly, we invite proposals for twenty-minute papers within the following subject areas:

- ***History, fiction and the frenzy of Byromania:***

In this section we might explore the relevance of Byron's individual circumstances and of the contemporary political or historical situation to his writing, whether autobiographical, epistolary, political, or purely fictitious. This might include the anecdotal part of the Byron legend – the Byrons: 'mad and bad' as well as the dynamic interplay between Lord Byron's literary output and its various national or cultural appropriations.

- ***Byron's methods of literary world creation:***

Here we might analyze Byron's renderings of the mimetic, romance and the 'frenetic', which might lead us to definitions of:

- ***Byron's literary imagination:***

There are a variety of sources for Byron's fictional writing in terms of genres, epochs and authors. His literary imagination is also marked by a critical or even antithetical attitude towards his predecessors as well as to contemporary writers. Byron's literary imagination is not a consistent concept in his texts and is brought to realization in a variety of forms.

- ***Byron's artistic madness:***

Byron was accused of being insane, but 'madness' was often his literary and political choice, one typical of the Romantic attitude, but also referring to Shakespearean or Cervantesque characters and the situation of dramatized self-reflection which in his poetic works results in the split of the lyric persona, the agonistic being, implying a specific type of discourse in the situation of personal, political, and cultural exile.

Organizing Committee:

Prof. Mirosława Modrzewska (University of Gdańsk), prof. Marek Wilczyński (University of Gdańsk, University of Warsaw), prof. Grażyna Tomaszewska (University of Gdańsk), prof. Ewa Graczyk (University of Gdańsk), prof. Jean Ward (University of Gdańsk), dr. Maria Fengler (University of Gdańsk), Dr. Monika Szuba (University of Gdańsk), prof. Maria Kalinowska (University of Warsaw), dr. Marcin Leszczyński (University of Warsaw), dr. Monika Coghén (Jagiellonian University, Kraków).

Abstracts of maximum 500 words should be sent to: mirosława.modrzewska@gmail.com

Please remember to include the following information: the full title of your paper, your name (also in the file name), e-mail address, your institutional affiliation, and a short bionote.

Deadline: January 1st, 2015