

The Peter Cochran Award, for Distinguished Scholarship in Byron Studies

The IABS board is pleased to announce Professor John Clubbe as the inaugural recipient of the Peter Cochran Award, which honours distinguished scholarship over a lifetime on the work of Lord Byron. After receiving his Ph.D. at Columbia University (1965), John taught at the University of Münster (1965-1966), Duke University (1966-1975), and The University of Kentucky (1975-1999). He was a founding member of the Byron Society of America in 1973 and subsequently worked with Leslie Marchand, Carl Woodring, Ernest Lovell, Marsha Manns, Robert Gleckner, and James Houck, among others, to help build the American society. He served as Joint-President of the International Byron Society for twenty six years supervising the operations of what became in 2013 the International Association of Byron Societies. For most of those years he was the sole reviewer of the numerous books eligible each year for the Elma Dangerfield Prize. In 2007 John gave the Leslie Marchand Lecture on “Byron and Beethoven” which segued into his current book project *Beethoven the Relentless Revolutionary* (under contract with W.W. Norton).

In addition to being an internationally recognized scholar on Byron, John’s scholarship indicates his wide range of interests and knowledge. His first two books were on the poet Thomas Hood (*Victorian Forerunner: The Later Career of Thomas Hood* (Duke UP, 1968) and *The Selected Poems of Thomas Hood* (Harvard UP, 1970). While at Duke he was Assistant, then Associate Editor of nine volumes of *The Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1970--81). In 1979 he published *Froude’s Life of Carlyle* (Ohio State UP), in 1983 *English Romanticism: The Grounds of Belief*, co-authored with Ernest Lovell (Macmillan), and in 1985 a major bibliographical essay on Byron in *The English Romantic Poets: A Review of Research*, ed. by Frank Jordan (MLA). John’s lifelong interest in art underlies his *Byron, Sully, and the Power of Portraiture* (Ashgate, 2005). His numerous articles on Byron, Beethoven, and other nineteenth century figures have appeared in such scholarly journals as *The Byron Journal*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *TSSL*, *The Wordsworth Circle*, *The Beethoven Journal*, *Bonner- Beethoven Studien*,

and in a number of collections including proceedings of the International Byron Society and Festschriften, the most recent being in honour of Carl Woodring, edited by Hermione de Almeida, (U of Delaware P, 2015).

John has mentored countless generations of scholars in America, England and Europe. He won a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship (1975-6), a National Endowment for the Humanities award (1971-2; and 1983-4), the Distinguished Scholar Award (Keats-Shelley Association, 1999), and numerous grants from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Huntington Library; in 1989 he was a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University. John has been a nuanced interpreter of painting and poetry, music and verse, while his strengths in comparative literature ensured that the IBS/IABS has remained truly international in scope in terms of its conference venues which have thus far included Greece, Japan, Georgia, Lebanon, and next year Armenia, as well as America, England, Germany, and France. Over the years, he has taught us the relationship between Byron and his world, not only as a literary critic, but as a gifted interpreter of classical music and as an art historian. His discussions of Walter Scott, Goethe, Beethoven, Ariosto, and Napoleon have demonstrated the relationship between literary greatness and world historical change. John has honoured the poetry of Byron because he valued the power of Byron's ideas. John's own modesty, gentle demeanour, and warm disposition made him an approachable, affable presence at more than 20 conferences --in Athens, Tokyo, Messolonghi, Salzburg, Versailles, Paris, Duisberg, Venice, Beirut, and Tibilisi--but he never forgot cities closer to home such as *Cincinnati Observed: Architecture and History* (Ohio State UP, 1992), nor folk-heroes such as Daniel Boone whom he honoured in *Byron's Natural Man: Daniel Boone and Kentucky* (Lexington, KY.: King Library Press, 1980). His unfailing courtesy and solicitation of the work of younger scholars and his administrative skill aided the IABS enormously. For his superb scholarship over a lifetime, it is our pleasure to bestow upon him this award with gratitude for years of selfless service to Byron studies.