



Byron and 1817: Between Worlds, Between Works Poetic Transitions and Continuities

Newstead Abbey
Friday & Saturday 28-29 April 2017

Plenary Speakers:

Michael O'Neill (Durham)

Alan Rawes (Manchester)

1817 saw Byron bring one stage of his poetic career to an end (with the final canto of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*) while almost simultaneously opening another (with *Beppo*). The Spenserian stanza gave way to *ottava rima*; gloomy, rootless 'Byronic' wandering gave way to comic and satiric cosmopolitanism; the 'ruin amidst ruins' became the 'broken dandy'; the English milord became the Italian exile as his rhetoric shifted from 'high' to 'low'. And yet, across this transition from one kind of Byron to another, continuities abound. The author of *Cain* is manifestly the author of *Manfred* (also finished in 1817); the Byronic hero of the early tales lives on in *Marino Faliero* and *The Island*; the champion of liberty is readily seen in the libertine; the satirist of *English Bards and Scotch Reviews* surfaces again in *The Age of Bronze* and *Don Juan*. This conference is interested in both the transitions that mark Byron's writing in 1817 and the continuities that cross those transitions, and invites papers on the rifts and bridges between works that lie within and either side of this *annus mirabilis*. Topics might include (among many others):

- ❖ *Manfred*, *Childe Harold* and *Beppo* as transitional texts;
- ❖ Byron's movement between dramatic, lyric, comic and narrative poetic forms;
- ❖ Biographical change and poetic continuity;
- ❖ Byron's evolving cosmopolitanism;
- ❖ Byron's changing British/Italian/Greek politics;
- ❖ Byron and Venice;
- ❖ Byron and Rome;
- ❖ Byron's epistolary self-transformations;
- ❖ Byron's self-Italianisation;
- ❖ Byron's British, European and Italian voices;
- ❖ Byron and exile;
- ❖ Byron's reading, 1815-1819;
- ❖ the Byronic Hero from *Manfred* to *Marino* (and beyond);
- ❖ poetic movement and poetic dwelling;
- ❖ Byron's oscillations between the sublime and the ridiculous.

Please send abstracts of approximately 300 words to newstead2017@gmail.com
by 30 January 2017.

There will be a conference dinner on Friday 28 April at *281 Restaurant & Rooms* in Mansfield.