

Life, loves, and other climatic disorders



42nd INTERNATIONAL BYRON CONFERENCE
PARIS, 4-7 JULY 2016

Call for papers

In 1816, the weather in Europe was dramatically affected by ash flying high around the globe from the remote Tambora volcano in Indonesia, which had erupted the year before. That same year, Byron's life was as troubled as the climate in Europe. After one year of restless marriage, Byron weathered a domestic storm which disrupted his life, triggered his eventual departure from England, and offered his readers, contemporary and future, a wealth of new poetic works.

Taking the opportunity presented by the bicentennial of the climatic disorders of 1816, 'the Year without a Summer', the 42nd international conference will explore Byron's life and loves, from a triple viewpoint: personal, poetical, and climatic.

Throughout his life and career, Byron, the man, the lover, the poet, deeply felt the adverse and beneficial influences of the skies. From his youth in tempestuous Scotland to his death in rainy Aetolia-Acarmania, Byron's life was soaked by climatic accidents. His writing encompasses 'beautiful embodied storms', enjoyment of 'a little tumult, now and then', complaints about 'stupid mists – fogs – rains – and perpetual density', and the awareness that he is 'always most religious upon a sunshiny day'. Responding to this variety, we welcome discussion of all aspects of Byron's experience of the weather from the wild to the mild.

Although we will specifically celebrate the 200th anniversary of 1816, speakers are encouraged to consider the entire life and work of Byron so that the conference covers all of the poet's climatic vicissitudes.

Academic sessions might include:

- Fresh insights on Byron's stormy life and loves (of course).
- Weather representations in Byron's poetry, dramas, journals and letters.
- The influence of climatic accidents on Byron's life and works.
- "Storming cities" and other meteorological metaphors in Byron's poems.
- Weather disruptions and their poetical consequences: "Darkness", its ancestors, its progeny.
- Fevers, agues, chills and other weather-related ailments and sensations.
- Natural catastrophes and narrative accidents.
- New readings of the Byron-Shelley circle collaborations in the summer of 1816: Frankenstein, the vampire, and other creatures of stormy nights.
- Clouds, cascades, deluges and tears in the works of Byron and his contemporaries.
- Byron's dialogue with his contemporaries about the sublime and the poetry of nature.
- Byron's representation in the arts: tempests in paintings, music, movies.

Proposals for papers on these and other aspects of Byron and climatic poetry are welcome. Please send 250-word proposals to ibc2016paris@yahoo.com by Sunday **14 February 2016** midnight.

Individual presentations must not exceed 20 minutes in length: **if you are not sure it fits in the timeslot, please, rehearse!**

As has been proposed since the 2012 conference in Beirut and in order to accommodate the maximum number of presentations in the tight schedule, the organisers will consider 'round-table' discussions around specific themes. Individual contributions to these discussions would be of 10 minutes' length maximum and must be prepared accordingly. If you would be willing to be included in a 'round-table' session, please indicate this when you submit an abstract. Ready-formed proposals for such sessions, based on a particular theme, timed to last 90 minutes, and including 5 or 6 speakers, will be welcome.

The International Byron Conference is an English speaking event. However, as its 2016 edition is hosted at the Fondation Del Duca, under the umbrella of the Institut de France, a small number of papers will be accepted in French, with supporting translation notes provided.

Please note that in order to present a paper at the conference, speakers should be current members of a national Byron Society. For a list of Byron societies worldwide see the website of the International Association of Byron Societies: www.internationalassociationofbyronsocieties.org

Bursaries for student and early career (unwaged) presenters

Funds are available to help four (4) selected students or "post-doc pre-job" meet the cost of presenting a paper at the conference. If you wish to be considered for one of these, please indicate this clearly in your proposal and submit with your abstract an academic reference from your supervisor supporting your ability to present a paper at an international conference. Applicants will be contacted in late March and can expect to know the decision of the Academic Committee by mid-April 2016.

Academic committee

- Bernard Beatty (University of Liverpool)
- Shobhana Bhattacharji (University of Delhi, India)
- John Clubbe (former Joint President of the International Byron Society)
- Christine Kenyon Jones (King's College London)
- Jane Stabler (University of St Andrews)
- Timothy Webb (University of Bristol)

assisted by Danièle Sarrat, translator and Vice President of the French Byron Society, and Olivier Feignier, President of the French Byron Society.