Reviewing Romanticism

4-6 April 1989

This residential three day conference will comprise a series of main lectures and a full and varied programme of seminars. The aim is to draw together those currently working in the field with a view to the founding of an Association for Romantic Studies with a regular conference and a publishing outlet. The conference will follow the theme of ‘Reviewing Romanticism’; assessing, recording and advancing the work that has taken place from a range of critical and interdisciplinary positions in recent years.

The main speakers will be Kelvin Everest, Angela Leighton, David Pirie, Nick Roe and Timothy Webb.

With the costs of some conferences currently soaring and excluding many British scholars, this conference aims to provide a forum for the wider base of Romantic studies in this country. To this end the fee is pitched at an affordable price, and the conference solicits contributions to its seminar programme from scholars at the beginning of their careers as well as established academics.

Romantic studies have undergone far-reaching changes during the last twenty-five years or so – changes that have accompanied and reflected broader transformations in the theory and practice of literary criticism. Much of the progress that has taken place – particularly in psychoanalytic and post-structuralist criticism – has been largely determined by movements originating in America. More recently however, the resurgence of historicist forms of analysis, while manifesting itself strongly in the States, has taken a higher profile in this country too; and this tendency is certain to be reinforced in 1989, when the bicentenary of the French Revolution will give added impetus to inquiries into the historical and political co-ordinates of British Romanticism and the enduring cultural legacy of the Romantic period.

Reviewing Romanticism will debate the place, function and potential of Romantic studies in the native intellectual and cultural context of the present time. It should interest readers, teachers or researchers of English Romantic writings. All are welcome.