The Keats Shelley House, 26 Piazza di Spagna, Rome, Italy

The Keats-Shelley House is situated in the historic heart of Rome on the Spanish Steps. It is the place where John Keats died in 1821 having come to Italy with his friend the painter Joseph Severn to seek a cure for tuberculosis. Since 1905 it has been a museum dedicated to the work and lives of the English Romantic poets; particularly John Keats, Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley his wife Mary Shelley and their circles. It holds one of the world's most comprehensive libraries on Romantic literature and poetry and a unique collection of paintings, letters and manuscripts and objects with a connection to the poets and their lives in Italy.

Over 25,000 people visit the Museum annually and it has become a place of pilgrimage for lovers of the English Romantics from many parts of the world. Both Italian and International schools visit the museum on a regular basis and an annual poetry competition is in place to encourage learning and participation by English-speaking and Italian schools. Researchers and scholars are also encouraged to use the Library.

The building which houses the Keats-Shelley Museum spans four floors and a basement and incorporated within it there is an apartment currently leased to the Landmark Trust and a shop occupied by a fashion retailer. There is also a one-bedroom apartment available for the use of the Curator of the Museum. The entire building is owned by the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association which is a registered British charity administered by a board of UK Trustees, who have ultimate responsibility for its financial and legal governance.

The operating costs of the House are met from museum entries, supplemented by rental income. There is in place a modest budget for Museum acquisitions and cultural outreach projects. Recently, it has undergone a capital project financed by a fund-raising “Centenary Appeal” in the UK, to create a dedicated shop, exhibition and IT area as well as an audio tour and new toilet and storage facilities. The building programme is due to continue with further work on the existing terrace overlooking the Spanish Steps. The first eight months of operation have resulted in increased revenue and the new Curator will take these improvements forward and ensure that the positive trend is sustained.

The Keats-Shelley House holds a prominent position in the cultural life of Rome and has close links with The British Council, British and American Embassies, The British School at Rome and The American Academy and representatives from these organisations form part of the governing body in Italy. There is also a long-standing
connection with Keats House, Hampstead, and a sister Association in the United States with close links to the House. The Museum Trustees have responsibility for the upkeep of 6 graves in the Protestant Cemetery in Rome including those of Keats, Shelley and Joseph Severn and the current post-holder is an ex-officio member of the Cemetery Committee.

For over a decade the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association has run a poetry and essay competition in the UK which has become recognised as a major literary event, raising the profile of both the Museum and the Association while providing an important link to contemporary poets, writers and critics.

The Sheila Birkenhead Award is administered by the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association; it encourages students of the Romantics to apply for funding towards attending literary conferences in the UK.

The KSMA also sponsors an event at one of Britain’s foremost literary festivals each year. An academic journal, the Keats-Shelley Review, is published bi-annually and includes an annual report by the Curator, who also contributes other essays and reviews as appropriate.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE POSITION

The Curatorship of the Keats-Shelley Museum is a full-time senior position commanding an attractive salary and benefits package. It includes:

A salary of £40,000 - £45,000 plus annual pension contributions of 11%

A one-bedroom apartment within the House

Annual holiday entitlement of 25 working days, in addition to Italian public holidays when the House is closed

Expenses to attend committee meetings in the UK and occasional cultural events are also provided.

Please forward applications with a covering letter and the names, telephone numbers and email addresses of two referees to:

Deborah James at debbie.beaufort@hotmail.co.uk 7 Beaufort West, Grosvenor, Bath BA1 6QB

and

Harriet Cullen, Chairman, Keats-Shelley Memorial Association, at harrietcullenuk@yahoo.com 117 Cheyne Walk, London S10 OES

Email applications are acceptable

Closing date for applications Friday 29 July 2011

www.keats-shelley.co.uk

www.keats-shelleyhouse.org