

Q. omitted. - The proprietor of "Hyperion"
upon my mind - was - that it was
the best of his works. - Who is
to be his editor? - It is strange that
Santhey who attacks the reviewers so
sharply in his "Globe & White" - calling
them "the ungentle craft" - should be
perhaps the bitter of "Ghosts". -

"Globe & White" was nearly extinguished in
the same way - by a
paragraph or two in
"the Monthly" - such
inadvisate course of censure is surely in-
compatible with great exertion - have
not all known writers been the subject
thereof? -

Yours ever & truly

J. P. M.

I am sorry at present should be in-
convenient to you - let me settle that
draw upon me for what you think necessary -
I should do so ^{on your} ~~on your~~ without ceremony - if
I found it expedient. - Write directly. -

To
J. S. Mellers Esq.

J. S. Mellers

Signature
Ink case.

Red Ink case.

J. S. Mellers

Red Ink case

AC 1110



455-
2ALS.

Byron (1821)

COLLECTION OF
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103

AUTOGRAPH

of

Lord Byron.

Born

Died

NOTES

*This letter was written
to Shelley—*

ROBERT H. DODD
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS
FOURTH AVE. AND 30TH ST.
NEW YORK

GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON, A. L. S., [30–31 July
1821,] to PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

[page one missing, location unknown]

2. omitted.—The impression of “Hyperion” upon my mind—was—
that it was the best of his works.—Who is to be his editor?—It is

Transcription from:

Kendall, Lyle H., Jr. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the W.L. Lewis Collection--Part One.*

Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1970.

strange that Southey who attacks the reviewers so sharply in his Kirke White—calling theirs “the ungentle craft”—should be perhaps the killer of Keats.—Kirke White was nearly extinguished in the same way—by a paragraph or two in “The Monthly.”—Such inordinate sense of censure is surely incompatible with great exertion—have not all known writers been the subject thereof?—

Y^r.s ever & truly

B.—

P. S. If moving at present should be inconvenient to you—let me settle that—draw upon me for what you think necessary—I should do so myself on you without ceremony—if I found it expedient.—Write directly.—

ALS, 1 page. Single sheet, 24.7 x 18.6 cm.

Wove paper. Watermark: 8.9 cm. circle, centered—bust of Pope and PONTIFF X MAXIMUS PIUS SEPTIMUS on perimeter.

Seal: red wafer, Byron's signet, almost completely preserved.

Postmarks: 1. RAVENNA; 2. 1 AGOSTO [receiving stamp, Pisa].

Address, verso: P. B. Shelley Esqre. | Signore Inglese | Poste Restante | Pisa, in Byron's hand.

Provenance: Clements sale, Jan 1945.

Published by Lyle H. Kendall, Jr., “Byron: An Unpublished Letter to Shelley,” *Modern Language Notes*, LXXVI (1961), 708–709; reprinted, with further commentary, by Frederick L. Jones in *The Letters of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (2 vols.; Oxford, 1964), II, 313–314.

Notes: 1. This appears to be the final item in an exchange of letters between Byron from Ravenna and Shelley from Pisa, after Keats's death, 23 February 1821. Shelley conveyed the sad news, along with praise of “Hyperion,” on 16 April. Byron replied ten days later—sympathy but little praise for the poetry. There was more praise of “Hyperion” from Shelley on 4 May, and again on 16 July, when he wrote as if Byron had not yet seen the poem. He may have done so by 30 July, when he wrote John Murray: “You know very well that I did not approve of Keats's poetry, or principles of poetry, or of his abuse of Pope; but, as he is dead, omit *all* that is said *about him* in any MSS. of mine, or publication. His *Hyperion* is a fine monument, and will keep his name. I do not envy the man who wrote the article: your review people have no more right to kill than any other foot pads. However, he who would die of an article in a review would probably have died of something else equally trivial. The same thing nearly happened to Kirke White, who afterwards died of a consumption.” (Prothero, V, 331 [no. 914])

2. “Perhaps the killer of Keats,” of Southey, appears to be an erroneous

reference to the author (J. W. Croker) of *The Quarterly Review* September 1818 criticism of *Endymion*. Byron (and others) wrongly believed that the January 1818 *Quarterly* piece on Leigh Hunt's *Foliage* had been done by Southey—an advocate of "soft" criticism. A regular contributor to the *Quarterly* since 1809, Southey edited the *Remains* of Henry Kirke White (whose *Clifton Grove* had been assailed in *The Monthly Review* for February 1804) in three volumes, 1807–1822.

3. The present letter is the one referred to in Mary Shelley's journal for 2 August 1821: "*Thursday*, AUG. 2.—Williams. Shelley returns. A letter with news." (*Mary Shelley's Journal*, ed. Frederick L. Jones [Norman, 1947], p. 159) Byron may have written it within the same hour that he wrote Murray on the same subject. Shelley found it awaiting him when he returned to the Bagni di Pisa from Florence; he left for Ravenna on the next day, arriving on the sixth at 10 p. m.

4. Here published by permission of John Murray, 50 Albemarle Street, London, W1, and the Johns Hopkins University Press (for material from the *Modern Language Notes* paper).

BYRON, (George Gordon, Lord) THE CONCLUDED PORTION OF AN
A.L.S OF REMARKABLE INTEREST, TO P.B.SHELLEY, ESQ.
Poste Restante, Pisa, n.d., REFERRING TO THE DEATH OF JOHN
KEATS:

The impression of "Hyperion" upon my mind was that
it was the best of his works. Who is to be his editor?--
It is strange that Southey who attacks the reviewers so
sharply in his Kirke White - calling theirs "the ungentle
craft," should be perhaps the killer of Keats-Kirke White
was nearly extinguished in the same way-by a paragraph
or two in "The Monthly"-Such inordinate sense of censure
is surely incompatible with great exertion, have not all
known writers been the subject thereof?

Yrs. ever & truly
B.

P.S. If moving at present should be inconvenient to you-let
me settle that draw upon me for what you think necessary,
I should do so myself on you without ceremony if I found
it expedient. Write directly:

Hyperion
1839
1821

sent July 8, 1822

OF REMARKABLE INTEREST, REFERRING TO THE DEATH OF JOHN KEATS

103. BYRON, GEORGE GORDON, LORD. The second, and concluding, page of an A.L.s. "By." 1 p., 4to, about 175 words. Ravenna, undated. With an address on verso of sheet "To P. B. Shelley, Esqr., . . . Pisa" and with the postmark stamp "Ravenna".

"The impression of 'Hyperion' upon my mind was that it was the best of his works. Who is to be his editor? It is strange that Southey who attacks the reviewers so sharply in his Kirke White—calling theirs 'the ungentle craft', should be perhaps the killer of Keats. . ."

Clements,
Jan 1/45