

Imagining Slavery/Celebrating Abolition

17th-18th December 2007



In 1807 the first significant legislative step was taken towards the dismantling of international slavery, when in Britain the Abolition of the Slave Trade bill became law on 25th March, thus outlawing movement and sale of slaves in the British colonies. The Dept of Classics at RHUL intends to commemorate this momentous date with a conference on the ways that ancient slavery was represented in antiquity and the impact of those images on discourses about slavery since the early days of the abolition movement in the Georgian era.

Although great strides have been taken since the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s in understanding the social and economic dimensions of ancient slavery, much work remains to be done both on the configuring of slavery in the fictions produced by the ancient imagination, and on the continuing ideological potency of these images over the last two centuries in the arts and political theory.

The conference, to be held on December 17th and 18th 2007 at both RHUL and the British Library, will bring together RHUL staff & PhD students, and an international team of researchers including Patrice Rankine, Brycchan Carey, William Fitzgerald, Greg Thalmann, Emily Greenwood, Ahuvia Kahane, Richard Alston, Deborah Kamen, Steve Hodgkinson, John Hilton and Margaret Malamud. Accommodation will be provided at Royal Holloway's main site in Egham, a short train ride from central London and a taxi ride from London Heathrow airport.

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