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## Keats and Hellenism

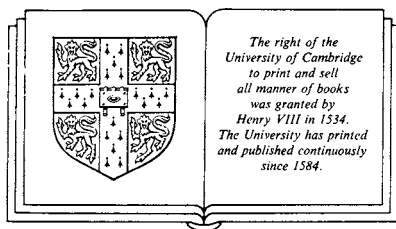
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# Keats and Hellenism

An Essay

MARTIN ASKE

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TO MY  
MOTHER AND FATHER

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Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>Note on the text</i>	xii
Introduction	i
1 Fictions old and new	8
2 Towards <i>Endymion</i>	38
3 Flowers of speech	53
4 The fall of <i>Hyperion</i>	73
5 Silent forms	101
6 <i>Lamia</i> ; or, Antiquity Decomposed	128
<i>Notes</i>	143
<i>Select bibliography</i>	175
<i>Index</i>	187

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0521604192 - Keats and Hellenism: An Essay  
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Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

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We are always talking of the Greeks and Romans; –  
*they* never said any thing of us.

William Hazlitt

But Phoebus was  
A name for something that never could be named.

Wallace Stevens

## Illustrations

- Figure 1. Henry Fuseli, 'The artist in despair  
over the magnitude of antique fragments'  
(c. 1778–80) *page* 36
- Figure 2. The Portland Vase, reproduced  
from Henry Moses, *A Collection of Vases*  
(London, 1814) 114
- Figure 3. Plate xxiii, reproduced from  
Thomas Kirk, *Outlines from the Figures and  
Compositions upon the Greek, Roman and  
Etruscan Vases of the late Sir William  
Hamilton*, second edition (London, 1814) 122
- Figure 4. Plate xvii, reproduced from the  
same 123

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[More information](#)

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## Acknowledgements

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It is with good reason that Patricia, my wife, became my most trenchant critic, since she had the misfortune to witness the writing of the essay almost from its inception. Like the poet, she believes that English must be kept up, and I hope that her distrust of 'isms' and other opacities has purified the work of too many Miltonic inversions. What follows is, more than anything else, a tribute to both her encouragement and her forbearance.



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## Note on the text

All quotations of Keats's poetry are taken from *The Poems of John Keats*, edited by Jack Stillinger (London, 1978).