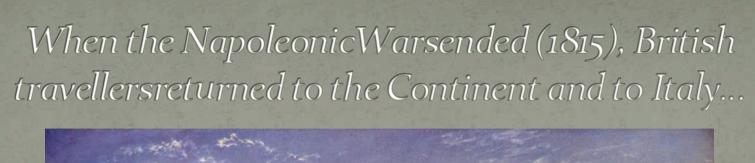
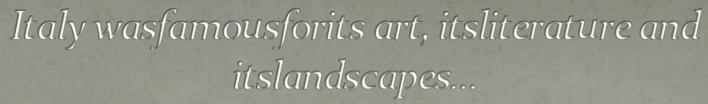
Romantic Exiles in Italy

Experiencing the Southern Landscape

Anna Anselmo



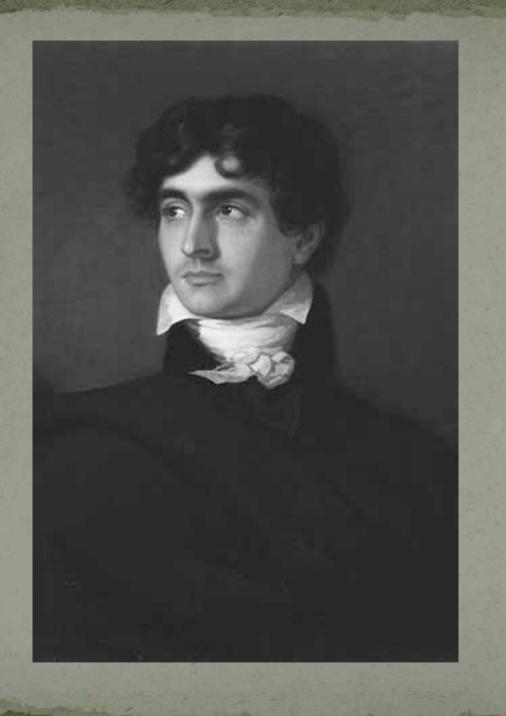






Itsscenerywasconsideredsublime...

- "whatever is fitted in any sort to excite the ideas of pain, and danger, that is to say, whatever is in any sort terrible, or is conversant about terrible objects, or operates in a manner analogous to terror, is a source of the *sublime*; that is, it is productive of the strongest emotion which the mind is capable of feeling..." Edmund Burke (1757)
- "...wheneverexperienceslips out of conventionalunderstanding, whenever the power of anobject or eventissuch that wordsfail and points of comparisondisappear, *then*weresort to the feeling of the sublime... "Philip Shaw (2006)



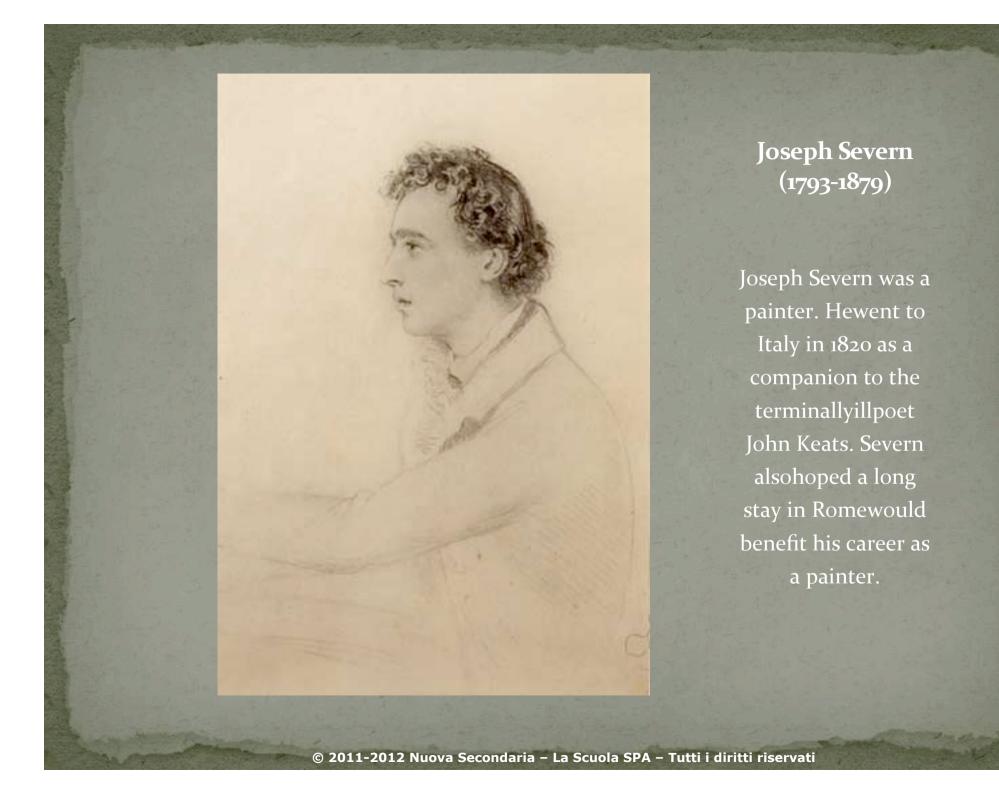
John William Polidori (1795-1821)

Polidori'sfatherwas
Italian. John
feltdeeplyconnected
to Italy,
whichheregardedas
his fatherland.
Hefinallymanaged
to visit the country
in September 1816.

The sight of the Alpsenthralledhim...



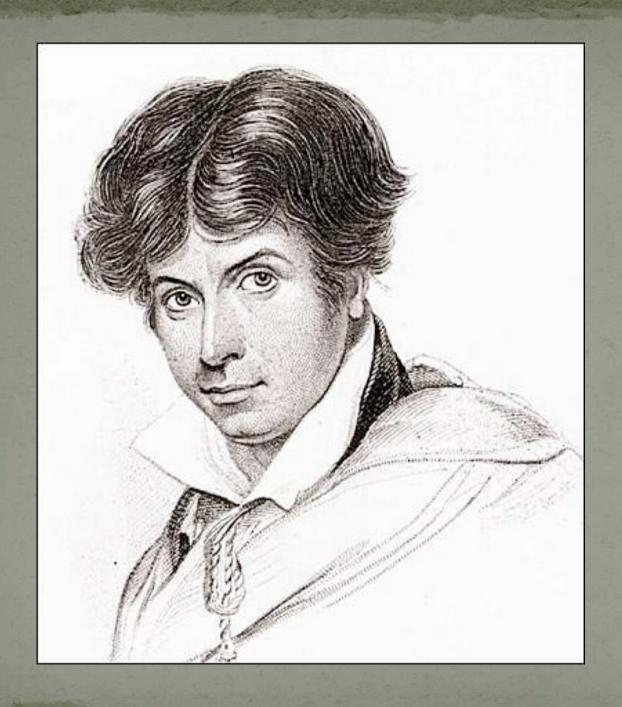
"From Guttannen the road went through the wildest and most sublime scenery I ever read of: vegetation less and less, so that, instead of grass, there was moss, then nothing. Instead of trees, shrubs; then nothing - huge granite rocks leaving hardly room for the road and river. The river's bed the most magnificent imaginable, cut deep and narrow into solid rock, sinuous and continually accompanied by cascades, and amazing bold and high single-arched bridges. Snow covering in some parts the whole bed of the river, and so thick and strong, that ever huge stones have fallen without injuring its crust." John Polidori (1816)



In 1873 Severn remembered the beauty of the Bay of Naples...



"The aspect from the Bay of Naples was sublime. On the right was the range of Apennines with Sorrento[,] to the left the splendid city of Naples, terrassed up & up with gardens and vineyards, in the centre Vesuvius with its clouds of smoke opening & extending all along the horizon, the clouds edged with golden light, then the lovely deep blue sea making the foreground. All this was an inchantment with the people surrounding our ship with their guitars & songs and no end of delicious fruits in great abundance grapes peaches watermelons &plums." Joseph Severn (1873)



Leigh Hunt (1785-1859)

Leigh Hunt faced a long voyage to Italy in 1821. A champion of Italian Art and Literature, hejourneyed to Italy to escapedebts, save his wife'shealth and join his dear friend Shelley.

Uponseeing the Mediterranean, Hunt wastransfixed...



"Countless generations of the human race, from three-quarters of the world, with all the religions, and the mythologies, and the genius, and the wonderful deeds, good and bad, that have occupied almost the whole attention of mankind, look you in the face from the galleries of the ocean-floor, rising one above the other, till the tops are lost in heaven. The water at your feet is the same water that bathes the shores of Europe, of Africa, and of Asia – of Italy and Greece, and the Holy Land, and the lands of chivalry and romance, and pastoral Sicily, and the Pyramids, and old Crete, and the Árabian city of Al Cairo glittering in the magic lustre of the Thousand and One Nights." Leigh Hunt (1828)