

Chair Report on Panel K: Memorialising the Burneys by Trudie Messent

In her thought-provoking and fascinating paper 'Death and Madame: Ghosting the Doctor in Burneyland', Prof Francesca Saggini shared her ideas on the concept of 'Burneyland', a term she coined, as a 'composite transmedial universe' composed of Frances Burney's complete corpus of texts and all their relations, 'be they verbal, visual, and material'.

Francesca then turned to her in-depth study of Frances Burney's 1832 publication, *Memoirs of Doctor Burney*, arguing that in this work the reader is exposed to both first and third person narratives, from multiple narrators, most notably an admix of Frances and Dr Charles Burney. Francesca argues that the interweaving narratives of the Memoirs 'order and construct death through tropes and signifying allusions', with Death 'recounted indirectly – slantwise' and that 'death speech finally becomes self-speech' in a 'feat of biographical construction and self-construction'. In this context it was interesting that Francesca related the memoir of Dr Burney's death to the writing shadow of Frances Burney, 'just as in life, behind the daughter's works, there often emerged the phantom of the father's reputation and aspirations'.

There followed a detailed exploration of evidence related to the life and death of Dr Burney and a discussion of Frances Burney's strategy/strategies when authoring the *Memoirs*, in Frances Burney's funerary inscriptions to Dr Burney, with a conclusion which juxtaposed the 'memorialist of *Memoirs of Dr Burney* in 1832 and the novelist of *Evelina* in 1778'.

It was a great honour to have Paula Stepankowsky deliver her paper 'A Five -Year window'. Paula was instrumental in bringing to fruition both the Burney Society and the Frances Burney window in Westminster Abbey and had travelled from Washington State to participate in the conference. Paula recounted her 'outrage that an author of such creativity, ability and voice was virtually unknown.' Paula, like many, was made aware of Burney in the 1980's through Henry Tilney's mention of Burney's novels in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*. Paula described how she found old copies of *Evelina*, *Cecilia* and *Camilla*, but had to resort to Interlibrary loan for a copy of *The Wanderer*, and received from the University of Washington the 1814 first edition.

Paula went on to describe the setting up of the Burney Society and how they 'set two extraordinary goals', ...'to install a memorial in Westminster Abbey to Frances Burney' ... and ...'to reunite the d'Arblay family graves at St. Swithin's in Bath.

It is a fascinating read, and I am delighted to say that Paula has kindly agreed to her paper being printed in our Winter 2022 newsletter and uploaded to our website burneysociety.uk and so I urge you to read her wonderful paper for yourself.