

# Revisiting Samuel Palmer

**A Symposium at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art on  
Thursday 12 and Friday 13 January 2006**

Samuel Palmer has long been celebrated as one of the leading British landscapists of the nineteenth century. His reputation has rested largely on the 'visionary' landscapes of his youth, particularly those created when he was living in the Kent village of Shoreham, c. 1827-35. In recent years, however, it has been recognized increasingly that he also had an important later career as a watercolourist and etcher in the Victorian era. This symposium is being held to accompany the major retrospective of Palmer's work being mounted by the British Museum in collaboration with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, to celebrate the bicentenary of Palmer's birth. The first comprehensive exhibition of Palmer's work for

nearly eighty years, this exhibition and symposium will provide an unique opportunity to reconsider Palmer's career and his subsequent influence.

Tickets for the symposium will include a visit to Palmer show on Thursday 12 January, followed by a discussion at the Paul Mellon Centre on the issues raised by the exhibition led by its curators, and by a drinks party. On Friday 13 January the sessions will consist of a series of papers by Palmer experts and scholars of nineteenth and twentieth-century art which will both explore Palmer's career in its historical context and consider the nature of his subsequent reputation, notably the role his work played in promoting a particularly British strain of

modernism in the twentieth century and its continued impact in debates about landscape and national identity.

Full details of the symposium will be published in due course on the website of the Paul Mellon Centre and in the Centre's December Newsletter; but confirmed lectures are:

**Samuel Smiles**

From the Valley of Vision to the M25: Samuel Palmer and Modern Culture

**Greg Smith**

Ancients and Moderns: Samuel Palmer and the 'Progress of Water Colours'

**Timothy Wilcox**

Critical Responses to Palmer's Later Career

**Christiana Payne**

Dreaming of the Marriage of the Land and the Sea: Samuel Palmer and the Coast

**Martin Postle**

Palmer and the British Academic Tradition

**Simon Shaw-Miller**

Palmer and the Persistence of the Pastoral in Twentieth-Century English Music



Samuel Palmer, 1805-1881, *A Barn with a Mossy Roof, Shoreham*. Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.