



Wordsworth, De Quincey and Dove cottage

De Quincey on Dove Cottage

Commentator

De Quincey also went on to write about his own life at Dove Cottage in his famous autobiography *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*.

Julian North reading

Paint me, then, a room seventeen feet by twelve, and not more than seven and a half feet high. ... Make it populous with books: and, furthermore, paint me a good fire; and furniture, plain and modest, befitting the unpretending cottage of a scholar. ... the next article brought forward should naturally be myself – a picture of the Opium-eater, with his 'little golden receptacle of the pernicious drug,' lying beside him on the table.

Julian North

Unfortunately, the relationship with the Wordsworths did sour over time. De Quincey had great expectations of not only friendship but intellectual fellowship with Wordsworth, and he clearly felt that Wordsworth never quite accepted him as an intellectual equal in the way that he wanted. De Quincey's opium habit also irritated the Wordsworths; they felt that it was a horrible reprise of what they had already gone through with Coleridge some years before.

Commentator

De Quincey's eyewitness account of the Wordsworths' life at Dove Cottage meant that the house remained firmly associated with them, even though De Quincey himself lived there for many years. This mythology strengthened further after Wordsworth's death in 1850