The pedagogical innovation of this course is its use of material objects – ethnographic artefacts, natural history specimens, anatomical preparations, paintings, drawings, antiquities, decorative arts, and printed books. The course encourages students to read between objects in collections and Romantic literature in two directions. First, we consider how viewing and handling objects in the Hunterian Museum and Library Special Collections provokes new ways of reading the representation of objects and collecting in Romantic-period literary texts. Second, and perhaps more radically, the course asks students to read objects in the University of Glasgow’s 18th and 19th-century museum and library collections through the lens of Romantic literature. What, we ask, can Romantic literature contribute to the ongoing work to exhume and recognize the fraught conditions under which objects were collected in the Romantic period? How might literary texts forward current efforts to decolonize museum displays alongside our own discipline’s efforts to decolonize our curriculum? What bearing do these efforts have on established literary topics of poetry’s representation of nature, the politics of the Irish national tale, collecting as canon making, or Romantic Hellenism? Throughout our discussions, we explore how Romantic-era literature replicates, but also exposes and challenges, the practices and ideologies of 19th-century collecting — and how it therefore pushes us to think critically about its legacies in our own time.