

The rural poor, who seldom saw doctors, had been medicating themselves with preparations of native-grown poppies for centuries. In the unhealthy Lincolnshire fens, which Lord Lovelace considered fit only for the Irish, the prevalence and amount of opium ingestion, for agues and pains or just for the misery of life, was especially high. A change of attitude began to take place only after 1830, when its use, in combination with or as an alternative to alcohol, began to be considered a problem among the urban working class, along with the extensive drugging of the babies of working mothers. It was perhaps this new disquiet, as well as her general disapproval of the evasion of pain, that lay behind Lady Byron's occasional demurrers to Ada's use of opium.

Many people—Thomas De Quincey for one—began taking opium on professional advice, especially for its soothing effects on a variety of gastrointestinal symptoms and for painful, smarting eyes, from which both Ada and De Quincey suffered. Probably the eye pain was the reason for Ada's first prescriptions. Later it was prescribed for the swellings due to water retention and the “head sensations” that accompanied them. But most usually, opium was the nineteenth-century tranquilizer, used—as in Ada's case—as an alternative to bleeding for “taking down” agitated patients. In fact, according to still-current expert opinion, opium, unlike the psychedelics, does not usually produce “spectacular or uncanny states of mind. . . . There are no hallucinations, waking dreams, illusions, or other psychotic-like effects. . . . The most striking thing about morphine . . . is that it dulls general sensibility, allays or suppresses pain or discomfort, physical or mental . . . and that disagreeable sensations of any kind, including unpleasurable states of mind, are done away with.”¹³

These do seem to be the reasons for which Ada was prescribed laudanum and later morphine, and to be the effects she reported. “I am indebted tonight to Laudanum for such sense and tranquility as is really creeping over me this evening,” she wrote at one point;¹⁴ and at another, “The Opium has a remarkable effect on my eyes, seeming to *free* them, & to make them *open & cool*. Then it makes me so philosophical, & so takes off all *fretting* eagerness & anxieties. It appears to harmonize the whole constitution, to make each function act in a *just proportion*; (with *judgment, discretion, moderation*).”¹⁵ Her opium-induced sense of well-being was quite different from, and indeed employed to counteract, the excited, grandiose elation and “mad look” that her mother exclaimed and her doctor prescribed against.

Even among addicts, opium is taken not for extraordinary effects like those produced by hallucinogens, but often simply to “feel normal.”

although that “normal” state may be idealized as one more cheerful and optimistic than is really the case for run-of-the-mill normality. But was Ada actually addicted? Certainly she used opium over extended periods—amounting to years—and reported, if she did not recognize, withdrawal symptoms, some of which—runny nose, restlessness, cramps, vomiting, breathing difficulties—were similar to the reasons for which she began to take the drug. Yet it is also true that she discontinued its use for years, returning to it only in the agonies of the last stages of cancer. It seems that, not recognizing herself as addicted, she was able to lay aside the “Opium system” as she had so many other regimes, in favor of newer and seemingly more promising treatments.

But if opium was a treatment for, rather than an explanation of, Ada's “mania,” it is necessary to examine that too in the context of nineteenth-century theories of madness and its cure. The early part of the century was dominated by the notion that insanity was “morally” caused—that is to say, environmentally or experientially caused—and indeed constituted a kind of moral derangement. In health the mind was under the control of the will, but in insanity the grosser, more animal-like elements of the brain and body emerged to make the sufferer more irresponsible. This belief was complicated by debates over the relative efficacy of “management” or “moral” treatments and physical treatments such as drugs, emetics, and bleeding.¹⁶ Nevertheless, it was the assumed weakness of will and moral inferiority of the mentally ill compared to the physically ill that underlay Ada's repeated pledges to live a moderate and regular life, “avoiding *mania*,” and the satisfaction of her announcement that her doctor had decided that “all my *vagaries* are purely *physical*.”¹⁷

For a while, in the 1830s and 1840s, phrenology seemed to provide the link between physical and moral approaches to psychiatry. Its ideas eventually permeated attitudes and treatments, just as psychoanalytic theories do today, even when its influence was unacknowledged, and even after the persistent absence of physical abnormalities in the brains of the insane contributed to the discrediting of the “craniology” on which phrenological assumptions were based. At present a similar sort of reconciliation between theories of the mental (or psychogenic) and the physical bases of mental illness, the psychoses in particular, is coming about through attention to the biochemical influences on neural functioning.

The symptoms of Ada's “mania” closely resemble those of a manic-depressive condition, for which there is now an impressive body of

mechanism.¹⁸ The hallmark of this condition is the presence of manic episodes, since depression is a much vaguer, more variable element, considerably more difficult to identify. But the symptoms of mania too can differ in number, kind and magnitude; they include rapid, excitable speech, "hypersexuality," restlessness, euphoria, "flight of ideas," grandiosity and/or religiosity, sleep problems, and delusions, though hallucinations are less common. The condition seldom appears in childhood; the first attack usually occurs in the twenties but may appear considerably later. The attacks are self-limited to periods of a few weeks or months. Not only do patients recover both intellectually and socially from each episode, but there is even a tendency for complete remission in later years. Psychological and sociological approaches to treatment ("talk therapy" or environmental changes—that is, "moral management") have not been shown to be particularly effective, but treatment with lithium salts has been successful enough to be considered almost a specific, for the manic component of the illness at least.

As already stated, there is rather strong evidence of a hereditary basis for the tendency to this condition. Its occurrence in the general population is roughly 1 to 2 percent of men and 2 to 3 percent of women, but about 23 percent of the mothers and 14 percent of the fathers of those affected have also been found to be affected. The hereditary theory seems to involve two dominant genes at separate loci, at least one linked to the *x* chromosome, which mothers pass to their children of both sexes and fathers pass to their daughters but not to their sons. (It is a paternally donated *y* chromosome that determines the sex of male offspring.) However, the inheritance of a tendency to manic-depressive illness must be more complicated than the inheritance of *x*-linked color blindness or hemophilia, because while some studies have found no father-son pairs of manic-depressives, others have. Of Ada's two children who survived youth, and her forebears of whom much is recorded, only her grandfather, "Mad Jack" Byron, seems to have displayed the sort of behavior that might link him with this condition, although Byron himself might have had a "cyclothymic" personality, characterized by swings of mood between high optimism and deep disgust.

The alternative to considering Ada's mental and physical ill health as an unlucky chance conjunction of a variety of unconnected ailments is to look for some single condition or syndrome that could unite all, or at least many, of her symptoms under a single rubric. Interestingly enough, there are actually several disorders that include not only all of Ada's reported symptoms (except those related to her fatal cancer)

but a good many others as well. Here we will consider two: one of physical, or at least biochemical, origin, the other psychogenic.

The first is one of a family of hereditary (in a few cases acquired) ailments known as "porphyrias"; the name comes from the Greek word for purple and refers to the dark red urine that can suddenly appear and constitutes the most startling, though not necessarily the most characteristic, symptom. All the symptoms of the porphyrias proceed from a metabolic disorder in which excessive amounts of certain chemicals called porphyrins are produced and affect the functioning of both the voluntary and the involuntary nervous systems.¹⁹ By far the most common symptom of the disorder is acute abdominal pain, followed, in descending order of prevalence, by vomiting, muscle pain, muscle weakness, paralysis, delirium or psychotic-like behavior, tachycardia, water retention, breathing difficulties, sensory loss, double vision, and convulsions—all of which Ada suffered from at one time or another. In addition there are such symptoms as constipation, diarrhea, high blood pressure, and the dark urine, which were not reported of her, but which she might very well have had. In short, almost anything and everything, and in almost any combination, so that the absence of certain symptoms, such as the dark red urine, does not necessarily rule out the presence of the disease.

While it seems to be possible to acquire one or another form of porphyria from the damage caused by ingesting certain poisons or even by alcohol abuse, the most studied forms are those due to the inheritance, from either parent's side, of a particular defective but dominant gene. Only about half of those who inherit the defective gene, however, actually develop the disease, and there is a tendency for the condition to show up in two or three successive generations and then go underground for several more. The first attack, which almost never occurs before adolescence, can be triggered off by infections, barbiturates, alcohol, or the increased levels of estrogen that accompanies one phase of the menstrual cycle. Pregnancy exacerbates the symptoms in almost all the women victims of the most common form of hereditary porphyria, known as the acute intermittent variety. Another notable feature of this disease is that although an attack can be very severe and can even cause death, it can also clear up very suddenly—as Ada's sieges of illness often did.

Because of the number and variability of the symptoms, the porphyrias were identified with certainty as a related set of maladies only in the twentieth century, when chemical tests were developed to detect the high levels of excreted porphyrins in the urine and feces of the

populations the disorder is very rare, affecting only one person out of about a hundred thousand. This frequency, however, can be very much enhanced among groups of people where cousin marriage is common. Such a group, par excellence, is the English royalty and aristocracy. By tracing the royal family tree and subjecting a number of his living descendants to the appropriate tests, the medical historians Ida Macalpine and Richard Hunter in the 1960s produced convincing evidence that King George III was a porphyria sufferer and that his intermittent "madness" proceeded from this cause.²⁰ The form of porphyria they found carried by the king's descendants is called "variegate"; it is quite common among the inbred European settlers of South Africa and is very similar to the acute intermittent form, except that, in many of its sufferers, the abnormal biochemical processes also give rise to sensitivity and eruptions of the skin on exposure to the sun.

From reports of the illnesses of his ancestors, descendants, and collaterals, Macalpine and Hunter were also able to identify a number of other possible or probable sufferers among the king's relations. King James I of England, for example, like George III, reportedly had the occasional telltale dark urine, and so did James's cousin, Lady Arabella Stuart. James I's mother, Mary Queen of Scots, also had illnesses that fitted the pattern of clinical signs of the disease, though in her case (and in a number of others) the historians knew of no reports of discolored urine. Both the unfortunate queen of Scots and her descendant Princess Charlotte of Wales, experienced illnesses surrounding childbirth that, it has been suggested, were manifestations of this hereditary disease; the latter, indeed, did not survive the birth of her child. Ada's severe illness after the birth of her second child may have been not cholera but an episode of porphyria.)

Because King James and Lady Arabella were both descended from Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII, Macalpine and Hunter concluded that Queen Margaret was the source of the defective royal gene. A later writer even traced possible clinical signs back to Queen Margaret's Bourbon ancestors in the fourteenth century.²¹ To go backward (or forward) over so many generations, however, is to encounter a royal family tree impossibly entangled, and even Macalpine and Hunter neglected to notice that King James and Lady Arabella were not uniquely descended from Margaret Tudor, but also claimed James II of Scotland (who was neither forebear nor descendant of Margaret) as common ancestor.

To attempt to trace the ancestry of a member of the aristocracy is more difficult than in the case of royalty, both because the genealogies

are not so well publicized or well authenticated and because one runs into the inevitable problem of by-blows—particularly, and of special interest in cases like the present one, of royal by-blows. The illegitimate offspring of kings, sometimes very numerous—as, for example, those of James V of Scotland—were created or married into the highest nobility to such an extent that many "good" families continued to claim them among their forebears, with varying degrees of tradition and evidence. The reliability of standard works of genealogical reference is no better than their sources, usually the heads of families with reputations to sustain, who in several instances, such as those of Lord Lovelace's father and John Crosse, supplied dubious, incomplete, or simply false information.

Surprisingly, Byron's own descent from a daughter of one of the kings of Scotland, which has been made so much of, is on shaky ground, to say the least. Thus, Ada cannot definitely be associated with the royal porphyria gene on her father's side. Nor on her mother's side, which seems more likely from the evidence of the numerous reports of Lady Byron's illnesses. In the end, the elusive possibility places Ada's case in exactly the same position as that of her contemporary Charles Darwin, whose mysterious chronic illness has been the subject of a number of fascinating, thorough, and inconclusive historical investigations.²²

Darwin's symptoms and the course of his illness were in many ways very similar to Ada's, being particularly marked by severe abdominal pain, nausea, and other gastrointestinal disorders, but also including heart palpitations, headaches, "excitement, violent shivering and vomiting attacks," numbness of the extremities, trembling and muscle twitching, eczema attacks that mysteriously energized him, and sudden astonishing recoveries. In short, anything and everything but the characteristic (though not essential) wine-colored urine. Several of his children too displayed symptoms and syndromes compatible with a diagnosis of porphyria.

Ada's family and Darwin's were of a similar social position, and even distantly connected by marriage into the Pole family. Both families included ancestors who had been very close to sovereigns in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. His forebears, as traced by his cousin Francis Galton, included members of many of the royal houses of Europe. So, although in neither case can a direct link with an apparently afflicted member of the royal family be demonstrated, in both cases porphyria remains an intriguing hypothesis—one, of course, that neither Ada nor her contemporaries ever entertained.

Another hypothesis concerning the nature and relatedness of her various symptoms, and one that Ada herself adhered to for a time at least, was that they were not physical but psychosomatic in origin: that she was hysterical. Hysteria is an extremely ancient category of disease, the belief in which has passed in and out of fashion a number of times. It has, moreover, attracted the attention of a large number of the most celebrated doctors in history, including Hippocrates—who named it from the Greek word for “womb”—Pinel, Charcot, Janet, and, of course, Freud. Like phrenology, it was originally based on a physical hypothesis that has since been discredited. But, unlike the case of phrenology, and more like that of Pavlovian behaviorism, the falsification of the physiological cause of the phenomena involved has not led to the abandoning of belief in the phenomena.²³

The ancient Egyptians and Greeks believed that the womb was like an animal with a life of its own. Disorders, or “starvation” proceeding from denying it its childbearing function, caused it to wander about the body, producing a variety of unpleasant symptoms (much as excessive porphyrins wander about the nervous system). Attempts were made to drive it back into position by placing sweet-smelling substances at the opening of the vagina and by breathing or ingesting foul ones at the opposite end of the body. Movement of the womb to the lungs was supposed to cause breathing difficulties; other peregrinations could produce headaches, eye troubles, stomach upsets, palpitations, abnormal perspiration, swellings of the throat and neck, numbness and paralysis of the limbs, fits and convulsions.

The belief in the wandering womb, despite anatomical evidence to the contrary, persisted more or less unchallenged into the seventeenth century, and many remedies and practices originating in this belief persisted into the twentieth century, including the prescription of pungent herbs, such as valerian, as “antihysterics.” Even in the seventeenth century, Dr. Sydenham, renowned for his practical, no-nonsense approach, rejected the wandering-womb hypothesis, but he continued to recommend marriage and horseback riding to “hysterical” young women. The latter prescription, originally intended to jolt the wayward uterus back into place, was considered by him as beneficial exercise for toning and improving the blood. The benefits of horseback riding for young women subject to “the vapors” (originally, vapors thought to arise from the disordered womb) appear in the novels of Jane Austen and are echoed in Ada’s youthful letter to Mary Somerville recommending it “as a nervous medicine for weak patients.”²⁴

Sydenham also resorted to such classic techniques for purifying and

filings. Opium too was used for its calming effects, though he cautioned against giving it to those who were already “low spirited” and might be further depressed as a result.

Because of the wandering-womb theory, the issue of whether hysteria could afflict men was a vexed one. Some physicians held that it could not, and tended to designate similar afflictions of the male as “hypo-chondriasis.” Sydenham and his followers, who considered hysteria to be more a reflection of a disordered brain, thought that certain types of men, especially those who were pale and sedentary, might be subject to it too. (Hysteria was one of the mid-twentieth-century hypotheses concerning Darwin’s affliction.) There was also controversy over whether hysteria could affect the poor as well as the genteel, and only in the nineteenth century did it become well established as a truly democratic disease. Some modern studies have even found evidence that there is a tendency for hysteria to run in families, much like the manic-depressive disorder or, at one time, tuberculosis. If true, this finding could indicate a physical, possibly genetic factor—or could indicate something about the bias still built into epidemiological medical research.

Whether or not hysteria was womb-connected, that its victims were predominantly female was always a truism. Almost equally unchallenged was the idea that it was in some way connected with unsatisfied sexual longings. Indeed, one reason its discomforts have so often been denied to the poor was the common belief that only the refined could know what sexual frustration was. In the eighteenth century, Pinel, like Sydenham, after restoring the roses to his female patients’ cheeks with the equestrian cure, insisted on marriage to forestall a relapse.

Some nineteenth-century physicians, attempting to reconcile the womb theory with the notion of nervous involvement, suggested that local diseases of the uterus could induce nervous susceptibility, and recommended vaginal examination of hysterical patients. Others exclaimed in horror over this course, predicting that a few examinations could enslave and addict the excitable patient to this form of sexual stimulation, which would be followed inevitably by masturbation and eventual prostitution. In the latter half of the century, S. Weir Mitchell, who became famous for his masterful ways with women patients—though he denied any overtly sexual element in his relationships with them—returned to the belief in strengthening the blood. This he claimed to achieve by means of a rest cure, described in his book with the nourishing title *Fat and Blood*. And while Freud was formulating his sexually-based theories, his contemporary Janet used his own find-

ings to challenge the notion that the hysteric was abnormally preoccupied with sexual thoughts and feelings.

In the twentieth century the term "hysteria" is used to refer to an almost limitless variety of bodily and nervous symptoms that have no detectable bodily origin. It is thus a kind of residual diagnosis, indicating that the physician was unable to find positive evidence of any other disease entity; and some studies do show that a large proportion of those classified as suffering hysterical symptoms are later found to have physical afflictions, sometimes ignored with fatal results. A related criticism is the failure of medical theorists to specify any precise mechanism by which conscious or unconscious thoughts, fears, and longings are converted into physical, neurological, or psychological symptoms as diverse as paralysis, menstrual disorders, pains, palpitations, blindness, convulsions, and memory loss, so that the hypothesis can be confirmed or refuted. It remains somewhat puzzling, too, that if hysterical symptoms are thought to be "conversions" of anxieties, patients should *also* be anxious.

Sometimes, in answer to these accusations, it is claimed that the person likely to display hysterical symptoms may be identified by an associated hysterical personality: seductive, dependent, manipulative, egocentric, self-dramatizing, with emotions both exaggerated and labile. This hysterical personality is said to particularly characterize victims of "Briquet's syndrome," or "St. Louis hysteria," who suffer a multiplicity of somatic symptoms, the list of which certainly covers all of Ada's ailments. Curiously, Briquet's syndrome is found among women only, and it has been pointed out that the hysterical personality is something of a caricature of the feminine stereotype.²⁵

From what has been outlined here and from the discussion of mesmerism in chapter 4, it is not surprising that in the nineteenth century, hysteria and "animal magnetism" were thought to be closely connected. In particular, hysterics were thought to be especially susceptible to hypnotic trances and the suggestions of the mesmerizer. And this, of course, was the connection that drew Ada into her belief that she had been the victim of mesmeric experiments and into her interest in the effects of electricity and magnetism on the nervous system.

Oddly enough, the possibility of harm to human beings from oscillating electric, and particularly magnetic, fields has recently been raised again by investigations of reports of increased frequencies of mental and physical illness among people living under or near power lines and among those exposed to microwave irradiation of the American embassy in Moscow. The symptoms reported range from head-

The electromagnetic fields associated with power lines are at far higher voltages and far more rapid alternation than anything achievable by the crude circuitry of the nineteenth century, let alone by the mesmerizer's "animal magnetism." Ironically too, headaches, eyestrain, and even fetal damage have been reported among the women who now work all day at the video display units housing computers whose predecessors Ada abandoned in favor of her interest in electrical experiments.

Along with this renewed interest in the effects of artificially produced electric fields on biological systems, and the complementary attempts now in progress to produce computer microchips from biological materials, it is not surprising to find continued attention to the effects of the natural magnetic field of the earth. It is as if you cannot keep an old idea down. In discussing the building of her Lake Country home in her autobiography, written in 1855, Harriet Martineau commented with satisfaction, "I did not then know the importance of placing beds north and south, in case of illness, when that position may be of last consequence to the patient: but it so happens that all my beds stand or may stand so."²⁶

The 1984 meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was served with a very similar idea, but—a sign of current scientific thinking—now furnished with speculations concerning the mechanism of the effect. A reader in zoology at Manchester University claimed to have found that people who sleep with their bodies aligned on a north-south axis have a better sense of direction than those who sleep pointing east and west. He suggested that the effect may be due to deposits of magnetite, a magnetizable oxide of iron of which lodestone is one variety, in the bones between the eyes and the ears.²⁷ Often it seems no easier to sort fact from hypothesis in the present than in the past, despite the increasingly sophisticated wrappings in which the findings are presented.

AdaFAQ

Who was Ada?

Contributors:

- David_Botton David@Botton.com

Lady Lovelace died in 1852 at the age of 36. Her father was the poet Lord Byron who, while still a bachelor, underwent an experience that was to have profound effects upon his only legitimate child, born Augusta Ada Byron. At 25, he fell in love with his married half sister, Augusta Leigh; and to deny that an incestuous relationship existed between them is to ignore an overwhelming body of evidence, although his paternity of her daughter Elizabeth Medora Leigh, born in 1814, is less certain. In January 1815, Byron married Annabella Milbanke, a puritanical young woman of good family and an amateur mathematician. Unfortunately, their personalities were incompatible, and a few weeks after Augusta Ada was born (December 10, 1815), the couple separated. Shortly afterward, rumors concerning Byron's previous affair with Augusta destroyed his reputation and social acceptability, forcing him to take up permanent residence on the Continent. However, subsequent letters and much of his poetry show tender concern for the child he never saw again. He died at 36, eight years after her birth.

Lady Byron resolved to bring up her daughter (now called Ada, for obvious reasons) to be as unlike Byron as possibly. Setting herself up as a paragon while hinting of unspeakable evil in her husband's character, she encouraged Ada's mathematical talent but discouraged any traits that reminded her of Byron.

When Ada was about 14, she suffered a severe paralytic illness -- possibly of psychosomatic origin. Unable to walk for almost three years, she pursued the mathematical studies she loved and became an accomplished musician and linguist. Like most young ladies of her social class, she was taught by tutors -- some of whom were eminent scientists and mathematicians, such as Augustus De Morgan, a family friend.

At 19, Ada married William King (created Lord Lovelace three years later). Her mother became the dominant and domineering figure in the marriage, forming a kind of ruling partnership with Ada's husband -- the covert reason being that Ada -- whose mercurial Byronic temperament they wished to control -- must be kept busy and out of mischief. Together they freed Ada from many of the usual feminine social and family responsibilities so that she would have time to carve out a mathematical and scientific career; but, tragically, the countess's health never allowed her to progress as far as she would have liked.

After the birth of her third child, and about the time her notes on the Menabrea paper were published (when she was 29), she began to suffer both a physical and mental breakdown. Because she was subject to frequent digestive and breathing problems, her doctor advised her to use various dangerous combinations of brandy, wine, beer, opium, and morphine, which led to serious personality disorders, including delusions to the effect that her mind -- admittedly brilliant -- could comprehend the secrets of the universe and make her God's prophet on Earth.

After some years, she came to recognize that drugs were disastrous to her equilibrium and managed to shake off the addiction through sheer will power -- only to fall victim to a new obsession: horse race gambling. Since highborn ladies did not deal directly with bookmakers, she used a servant and Babbage as go-betweens. Unbeknownst to Babbage at first, she ran into catastrophic debt, pawned family jewels, and became the target of blackmailers who threatened public exposure. Her husband,

when he learned of her difficulties, stood by her; but consequent family squabbles among Ada, Lord Lovelace, and Ada's mother brought permanent estrangement on all sides.

To add to her torment, Ada was suffering from internal cancer, to which she succumbed in 1852 at the age of 36. She was buried, at her request, beside Lord Byron in the Byron family vault. If there is one bright spot in the darkness of her last years, it is that she had finally come to understand and accept her own identity, and that of the father she had been taught to despise.

The Real Ada; Countess of Lovelace by Carol L. James and Duncan E. Morrill (AdaIC Flyer H019-1190d)

[Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Table of Contents](#)

amazon.com

VIEW CART | WISH LIST | YOUR ACCOUNT | HELP

WELCOME | STORE DIRECTORY | BOOKS

TODAY'S FEATURED STORES: BOOKS | HEALTH & BEAUTY | DVD | WIRELESS PHONES | TOYS & GAMES

SEARCH | BROWSE SUBJECTS | BESTSELLERS | NEW & FUTURE RELEASES | BARGAIN BOOK OUTLET | E-BOOKS | RARE & USED

SEARCH

Books

GO!

Medora Leigh : A History and an Autobiography

by Charles MacKay, Chalres MacKay (Editor), Elizabeth Medora Leigh

List Price: ~~\$30.50~~
Our Price: **\$30.00**
You Save: \$9.50 (24%)

Availability: This title usually ships within 4-6 weeks. Please note that titles occasionally go out of print or publishers run out of stock. We will notify you within 2-3 weeks if we have trouble obtaining this title.

BOOK INFORMATION

Explore this book

buying info

See more by the authors

- all books by [Charles MacKay](#)
- all books by [Chalres MacKay](#)
- all books by [Elizabeth Medora Leigh](#)

Share your thoughts

- [write a review](#)
- [e-mail a friend about this item](#)

Already Own It? Rate It!

To improve your recommendations, rate this product:

- Not Rated
- ★★★★★
- ★★★★★
- ★★★★★
- ★★★★★
- ★★★★★

Rate it

Want it? Win it! Enter our [Wish List Birthday Giveaway](#). (Must be 18 and over.)

ALREADY OWN THIS ITEM?

I have one to sell!
[Sell yours here](#)

Hardcover reprint edition (June 1969)
AMS Press; ISBN: 0404567592

Amazon.com Sales Rank: 1,180,373

[Write the first review of this book.](#) Earn a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate.

Be the first person to review this book!

Customers who bought titles by Charles MacKay also bought titles by these authors:

- [Peter L. Bernstein](#)
- [John Brooks](#)
- [Gustave Le Bon](#)
- [Garet Garrett](#)
- [Edwin Lefevre](#)

Auctions and zShops sellers and our other stores recommend:

BUY FROM AMAZON.COM

[Add to Shopping Cart](#)
(you can always remove it later)

(Use if you're redeeming a promotional certificate or coupon.)

OR [USE 1-CLICK](#)

Returning customer?
[Sign in](#) to turn on 1-Click ordering.

Shopping with us is safe. [Guaranteed.](#)

[Add to Wish List](#)

(We'll set one up for you)
[View my Wish List](#)

- [THIEVES ONE SHEET MOVIE POSTER 1977 MARLO THOMAS CHARLES GRODIN IRWIN COREY \(Current bid: \\$9.99\)](#)

Look for similar books by subject:

Search for books by subject:

- [Byron, George Gordon Byron,](#)
- [Baron,](#)
- [1788-1824](#)
- [Family](#)
- [Stowe, Harriet Beecher,](#)

Find books matching ALL checked subjects

i.e., each book must be in subject 1 AND subject 2 AND ...

- **I have read this book, and I want to review it.**
- [Correct errors and omissions in this listing.](#)

Where's My Stuff?

- Track your [recent orders](#).
- View or change your orders in [Your Account](#).

Shipping & Returns

- See our [shipping rates & policies](#).
- [Return](#) an item (here's our [Returns Policy](#)).

Need Help?

- Forgot your password? [Click here](#).
- [Redeem](#) or [buy](#) a gift certificate.
- Visit our [Help department](#).

Search for 

[Text Only](#)

[Top of Page](#)

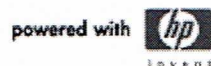
[Search](#) | [Browse Subjects](#) | [Bestsellers](#) | [New & Future Releases](#)
[Bargain Books Outlet](#) | [e-Books](#) | [University Store](#)

[Amazon.com Home](#) | [Directory of All Stores](#)

Our International Sites: [United Kingdom](#) | [Germany](#) | [Japan](#) | [France](#)

[Help](#) | [Shopping Cart](#) | [Your Account](#) | [Sell Items](#) | [1-Click Settings](#)

[About Amazon.com](#) | [Join Our Staff](#)



[Conditions of Use](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) © 1996-2001, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

*Archives avec notes
- color*

Histoire de Lord BYRON

Sa naissance

George Gordon est né, le **22 janvier 1788**, dans un modeste logement du 16 Holles Street, à Londres. Il était le fruit du mariage malheureux entre Catherine Gordon de Gight, Ecosaise de haute lignée, et le capitaine John Byron, dit « Jeannot le fou ». L'enfant était affligé d'une infirmité aux talons qui lui donna un complexe qu'il garda toute sa vie.



Catherine Gordon



Byron enfant

Une première fille, Augusta, dont on aura l'occasion de parler par la suite, était née d'un premier mariage du capitaine avec l'ex-Marquise de Carmarthen.

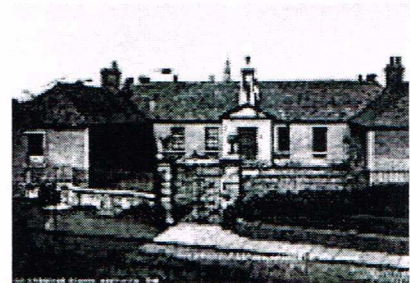
Le capitaine mourut, à Valenciennes, dans **l'été 1791**, criblé de dettes. On pense qu'il s'est suicidé.

L'enfance

L'enfance de Byron se déroula à Aberdeen, en Ecosse. Sa mère l'éleva avec l'idée que les Gordon avaient hérité du sang royal des Stuart ⁽¹⁾.

Le **31 juillet 1794**, l'héritier présomptif du titre de Lord Byron fut tué à la bataille de Calvi. George Gordon Byron devint héritier présomptif.

Son éveil affectif fut précoce; à l'en croire, il n'avait pas dix ans (**1796**), lorsqu'il tomba amoureux de sa cousine Mary Duff.



Ecole d'Aberdeen



Newstead Abbey

Le **19 mai 1798**, à la mort de Lord William Byron, « le Mauvais Lord » George hérita du titre de sixième Baron Byron de Rochdale, et de Newstead Abbey, dans le comté de Nottingham, ancien prieuré normand, presque en ruines.

En **1801**, madame Byron s'établit à Londres et le jeune Lord entra au collège aristocratique de Harrow ⁽²⁾. Ses années d'études furent plutôt heureuses. Il prit sa revanche sur son infirmité en étant brillant en sport, tout particulièrement en natation. Ses amis furent Lord Clare, Lord Delaware, John Wingfield, Edward Noël Long.

Il était un admirateur de Bonaparte, dont il gardait un buste dans son pupitre, ce qui ne manquait pas de scandaliser.

En vacances à Southwell, du **2 août 1803** au **9 octobre 1803**, il ressentit une grande passion pour Mary Chaworth qui le dédaigna.

En **1804**, il découvrit sa demi-soeur Augusta qui n'avait pas tout à fait 15 ans. La vie les sépara vite quand elle épousa son cousin germain le colonel de dragons George Leigh qui ne la rendit pas heureuse.

En **juin 1807**, il publia *Heures d'Oisiveté*.



John Cam Hobhouse

En **octobre 1807**, Byron se lia à Cambridge avec J.C. Hobhouse, Scrope Davies et C.S. Matthews. Il se mit à la diète pour maigrir. Il observa toute sa vie un régime sévère.

Il sortit de Cambridge le **4 juin 1808** avec un titre équivalent à docteur ès lettres. En **septembre 1808**, il s'installa à Newstead.

Jeunesse



Robe de Cambridge

Le **22 janvier 1809**, Byron fêta sa majorité.



Robert Southey

Le **13 mars 1809**, il entra à la Chambre des Lords où il choqua en allant siéger avec l'opposition, à gauche du trône.

Le **16 mars 1809**, il publia *Bardes Anglais et Critiques Ecosais* où il critiquait les poètes romantiques, notamment Southey, Coleridge et Wordsworth.

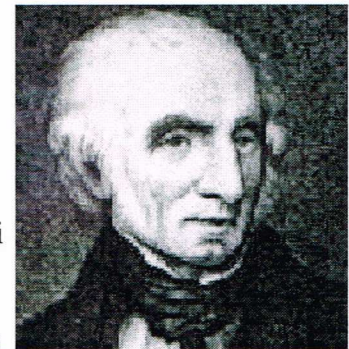


Samuel T. Coleridge

Il partit le **2 juillet 1809**, pour trois ans, accompagné de son ami John Hobhouse. Ils visitèrent le Portugal et l'Espagne. Du **1er au 21 septembre 1809**, ils séjournèrent à Malte.

Puis ils allèrent en Albanie, où ils furent reçus par Ali, Pacha de Janina. Ils arrivèrent ensuite en Grèce le **25 décembre 1809** où ils séjournèrent jusqu'à la **fin de février 1810**. Il fit connaissance avec Teresa Macri, à qui il dédicaça *Enfants d'Athènes*.

Il visitèrent ensuite la Turquie. Le **3 mai 1810**, il traversa l'Hellespont à la nage.



William Wordsworth

Ils revinrent à Athènes où ils demeurèrent au couvent des capucins jusqu'au mois de **janvier 1811**.

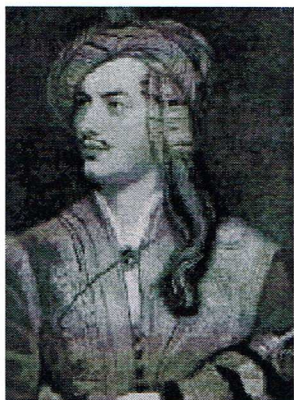
Son retour en Angleterre eut lieu le **17 juillet 1811**. Peu de temps après, le **1er août 1811**, sa mère mourut.

Le **29 février 1812**, il publia les deux premiers chants de *Childe Harold*, chez l'éditeur John Murray.

Le **25 mars 1812**, au bal à Melbourne House, il fit connaissance avec Annabella Milbanke et Caroline Lamb. Le **27 mars 1812**, il reçut la première lettre d'amour de Caroline Lamb. Ce fut le début d'une liaison impétueuse qui lui laissa une réputation de démoniaque briseur de ménage.

En **octobre 1812**, Annabella Milbanke rejeta sa demande en mariage.

Il fut alors l'ami de Sheridan, Thomas Moore, Samuel Rogers et Thomas Campbell. Au mois de **novembre 1812**, il séjourna chez Lady Oxford qu'il courtisa bien qu'elle ait été de vingt ans son aînée.



Byron
en costume albanais

Le **9 novembre 1812**, il envoya une lettre de rupture à Caroline Lamb. Elle reproduira textuellement cette lettre dans *Glenarvon*.

En **janvier 1813**, nouveau séjour chez Lady Oxford. Le **5 juin 1813** fut publié *Le Giaour*. Le **15 juin 1813**, le départ de Lady Oxford pour le Continent mit fin à sa liaison avec Byron.

Le **20 juin 1813**, il fit connaissance avec Mme de Staël, alors exilée par Napoléon.

Augusta, épouse malheureuse du colonel Leigh, arriva à Londres le **27 juin 1813** et lui demanda l'hospitalité. Elle avait maintenant 29 ans et ces retrouvailles réjouirent Byron. Le caractère enjoué

d'Augusta lui plaisait et ils éprouvèrent l'un pour l'autre un attrait plus fort qu'il n'était convenable. Ils passèrent ensemble les mois de **juillet et août 1813**.



Augusta Leigh

Le **21 septembre 1813**, Byron courtisa Lady Frances Wedderburn Webster, jusqu'en **octobre 1813**.

Le **2 décembre 1813** il publia *La Fiancée d'Abydos* et le **2 janvier 1814**, *Le Corsaire*.

À partir du **17 janvier 1814**, Byron passa trois semaines à Newstead avec Augusta.

Entre temps, **début 1814**, il publia *Le Corsaire*, *Lara*. Il reçut l'ovation des étudiants de Cambridge. Byron fit la connaissance de Walter Scott.

Le **10 avril 1814**, il écrivit *Ode à Napoléon Bonaparte*.

Le **15 avril 1814**, Augusta mit au monde Medora Leigh, probable fille de Byron.

Byron marié!

Il se fiança le **19 septembre 1814**, avec une jeune héritière: Anne-Isabelle Milbanke, surnommée Annabella. Elle était sérieuse, cultivée, aimant les mathématiques.

En **avril 1815**, il publia *Mélodies Hébraïques*.

George et Annabella se marièrent le **2 janvier 1815**.

Le **28 mars 1815**, les Byron s'installent 13 Picadilly Terrace à Londres.

En **avril 1815**, jusqu'à **fin juin 1815**, Augusta vint habiter avec les Byron.

Du **15 novembre 1815** au **16 mars 1816**, Augusta revint habiter chez les Byron.



Annabella

Le **10 décembre 1815**, naquit Ada, fille de George et Annabella.



Lord Byron

Le mariage fut malheureux. Pour tout arranger, Annabella soupçonna l'inceste entre Byron et Augusta. Le **6 janvier 1816**,



Ada

Byron écrivit à sa femme pour la prier de s'en aller. Le **15 janvier 1816**, elle quitta l'appartement, emmenant leur fille Ada âgée d'un mois.

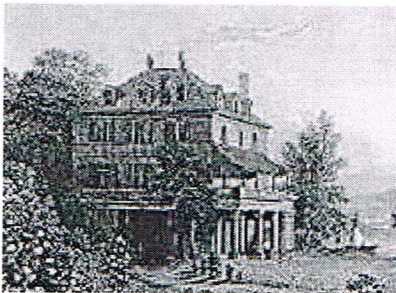
Le scandale, de sa rupture avec Annabella et de sa probable liaison avec sa demi-soeur, fut tel qu'il décida de quitter l'Angleterre.

Suisse et Italie

Il partit le **25 avril 1816** pour Ostende. Le **4 mai 1816**, il visita en passant le champ de bataille de Waterloo, descendit la vallée du Rhin et de là passa en Suisse.

À partir du **25 mai 1816**, il s'établit quelques temps à Genève à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre à Sécheron. Le **27 mai 1816**, il y rencontra les Shelley avec Claire Clairmont, une de ses anciennes maîtresses, demi-soeur de Mary Shelley. Il devint l'ami des Shelley qui louèrent la maison Chapuis à Montalegre. C'est pendant ce séjour que Mary Shelley conçut l'idée de Frankenstein. Il retrouva également Madame de Staël qui le reçut souvent à Coppet.

Puis à partir du **6 juin 1816**, il logea à la villa Diodati à Cologny.

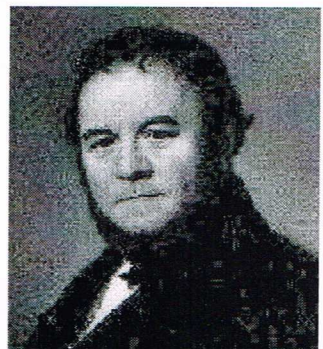


Villa Diodati à Genève

Le **10 octobre 1816**, accompagné par Hobhouse, il partit pour l'Italie.

Le **23 octobre 1816**, à Milan, il rencontra Stendhal.

Le **11 novembre 1816**, Byron s'installa à Venise. Il tomba amoureux de Marianne Segati, femme de son logeur. Il publia *Le Siège de Corinthe*, *Parisina* et *Le Prisonnier de Chillon*. Il fréquenta aussi les moines arméniens du monastère de San



Stendhal

Lazzaro.

De son aventure avec Claire Clairmont, naquit Allegra le **12 janvier 1817**. Il en assumait la pleine responsabilité.

Du **26 avril 1817** au **26 mai 1817**, il visita Rome.

Le **14 juin 1817**, il habita à Mira sur la rive du canal de la Brenta.

Le **16 juin 1817**, Murray publia *Manfred*.

Le **5 août 1817**, Byron commença une liaison avec Margarita Cogni en remplacement de Marianne Segati. Margarita était la femme de son boulanger et Byron la surnomma la Fornarina.



Pétrarque

Le **11 septembre 1817**, Byron et Hobhouse visitèrent la maison de Pétrarque à Arquà.

En **novembre 1817**, il fut obligé de vendre Newstead Abbey à cause de ses difficultés financières.

Le **25 janvier 1818**, il fit connaissance avec une jeune mariée: Teresa Guiccoli qui devait plus tard jouer un grand rôle dans sa vie.

Le **28 février 1818**, Murray publia *Beppo*.

Le **9 mars 1818**, eut lieu le Baptême de Clara Allegra Byron.

Le **11 mars 1818**, les Shelley vinrent vivre en Italie avec Claire et Allegra.

Le **2 avril 1819**, il revit Teresa Cuiccoli chez la Comtesse Benzoni. Ce fut le début d'une nouvelle aventure avec Teresa née Gamba, dont il fut le Sigisbée. Toute la famille Gamba se prit d'affection pour le poète.

Fin mai 1819, il partit rejoindre Teresa à Ravenne.

Le **28 juin 1819**, fut publié *Mazeppa*.

Le **10 août 1819**, il partit pour Bologne.

Le **18 septembre 1819**, Byron et Teresa partirent ensemble pour Mira sur le Canal de la Brenta.

En **avril 1820**, les Gamba enrôlèrent Byron dans les Carbonari ⁽³⁾, au sein de la Cayenne La Tourbe.



Couvent de Bagnacavallo

Le **1er mars 1821**, la petite Allegra fut mise en pension au couvent de Bagnacavallo.

En **1821**, il publia *Marino Faliero*, *Sardanapale*, *Les deux Foscari*, *Caïn*.

Le **18 août 1821**, les Shelley quittèrent Ravenne pour Pise, casa Lanfranchi.

Le **1er novembre 1821**, fuyant la répression, tout le monde se retrouva à Pise, Byron habitant casa Lanfranchi et les Gamba casa Parra.

Fin 1821, Byron reçut la nouvelle du suicide de Polidori.

En **janvier 1822**, Trelawny arriva et transforma la casa Lanfranchi en «Pistol Club».

Le **31 juin 1822**, Leigh Hunt était venu le retrouver avec toute sa famille.

Le séjour devait être endeuillé par deux drames. Le **20 avril 1822** Allegra fut emportée par une fièvre. Le **7 juillet 1822**, au cours d'une promenade en mer, l'embarcation dans laquelle avait pris place Shelley fut prise dans une tempête et celui-ci fut noyé. Les autorités

locales ayant interdit l'inhumation, ils décidèrent de l'incinérer sur un bûcher, ce qui fut fait le **16 août 1822**.

En **septembre 1822**, Byron et ses amis s'installent à Gênes. Du **31 mars 1823** au **3 juin 1823**, il fréquenta Lord et Lady Blessington accompagnés du Comte d'Orsay.

La Grèce

Un comité anglais de libération de la Grèce s'était formé, dont Byron fut élu président le **29 avril 1823**. Ils partirent pour la Grèce, le **16 juillet 1823**.



Le bûcher de Shelley

Le petit groupe, Byron, Trelawny et Pietro Gamba, se retrouva à Céphalonie, le **3 août 1823**, puis le **4 janvier 1824** à Missolonghi, à l'appel du prince Mavrocordato, président de la première Assemblée nationale grecque, pour conseiller les patriotes Grecs et les soutenir financièrement.

Le **28 février 1824**, Lady Noël étant décédée, Byron prit les armes des Noël et les Byron prirent le nom de Noël. Byron se mit à signer N.B. comme Napoléon Bonaparte.



Funérailles de Byron

Hélas, le **19 avril 1824**, Byron mourut d'une fièvre. Il avait un peu plus de 36 ans. La Grèce insurgée lui fit des funérailles nationales et décréta un deuil de vingt et un jours.

Le **17 mai 1824**, les *Mémoires* de Byron furent détruites.

Le doyen de Westminster ayant refusé l'inhumation dans l'abbaye à cause de sa vie scandaleuse,

les amis de Byron décidèrent que celui-ci reposerait dans la petite église de Hucknall Torkard, village voisin de Newstead.



Eglise de Hucknall Torkard

L'enterrement eut lieu le **16 juillet 1824**.

[Page d'accueil](#)

Rassemblé par Gilbert Gillet

Date de mise à jour: 10/12/2000

Lexique

1 - Les Stuart étaient les anciens rois d'Ecosse.

2 - Antichambre de Cambridge

3 - A l'origine, les Charbonniers étaient des bûcherons fabriquant de charbon de bois, d'où leur nom. C'était une confrérie bâtie un peu sur le même modèle que les Francs Maçons tailleurs de pierres. L'origine semble se trouver dans le Jura et de là essaima dans toute l'Europe. En passant en Italie, elle devint une société secrète consacrée à l'indépendance de l'Italie. Les principaux protagonistes de l'unité italienne furent carbonari, l'un des plus illustres fut Napoléon III.

Ada Augusta Byron - Countess of Lovelace

(1815 - 1852)

entnommen aus:

Ute Hoffmann, Computerfrauen - Welchen Anteil haben Frauen an der Computergeschichte und -arbeit?, 1987, Rainer Hampp Verlag, München

Heinzgünther Klaus, Jenseits von Bits und Bytes, 1980, Verlag der Honeywell Bull AG, Köln

Am 10. Dezember 1815 bringt Anne Isabella Lady Byron in London eine Tochter zur Welt - Ada Augusta. Zwei Monate darauf trennt sie sich von ihrem Mann George Gordon Byron. Um die Gründe und genauen Umstände dieser Trennung rankt sich damals und später viel Spekulation. Für Lord Byron, als exzentrische Figur "Romantiker sowohl im Leben wie im Werk" (Meyers Handbuch über die Literatur) und erfolgreicher Dichter die Attraktion auf den Parties der Londoner Gesellschaft - ist die Trennung Anlaß für ein "freiwilliges Exil". Byron verläßt England und kehrt bis zu seinem Tod 1824 nicht mehr zurück. Ada lernt ihren Vater nie kennen.

Von allem gesellschaftlichen Klatsch ferngehalten, verbringt Ada ihre Kindheit bei der zurückgezogen lebenden Mutter. Umgeben von Dienstboten und Kindermädchen wird Ada zu Hause unterrichtet - den Konventionen adeliger Familien entsprechend und unter steter Kontrolle ihrer Mutter. Ungewöhnlich ist ihre frühe Unterweisung in Mathematik und Astronomie. Nach ihrer ersten Hauslehrerin wird William Fend, ein ehemaliger Cambridge-Professor, ihr Hauslehrer, dann intellektueller Gesprächspartner und Vertrauter auch in späteren Jahren.

Zwischen ihrem 13. und 17. Lebensjahr phasenweise durch eine Lähmung der Beine ans Haus gefesselt, verbringt Ada ihre Zeit mit Lernen. Nach Byrons Tod bereist sie mit ihrer Mutter den Kontinent (1826 - 1828). Zu Beginn der 30er Jahre ziehen Ada und ihre Mutter nach Middlesex, in die Umgebung von London. Ada lernt dort Mary Somerville kennen. Diese hilft ihr bei ihren Studien, und ihrem Vorbild als Mathematikerin eifert Ada nach. Als Ada - achtzehnjährig - 1833 in die Londoner Gesellschaft eingeführt wird, bleibt Mary Somerville für die folgenden Jahre ihre bevorzugte Anstandsdame, denn sie verschafft Ada den begehrten Zugang zu den wissenschaftlichen Zirkeln und den "scientific people" von London.

Der Mathematiker und Projektmacher Charles Babbage ist eine der Hauptfiguren dieser "Szene". Ada lernt ihn 1833 auf einer Party kennen. Sie besucht technische Ausstellungen und Vorträge zu wissenschaftlichen Themen und sucht vor allem den Kontakt zu Charles Babbage zu vertiefen. Auf einer seiner Abendgesellschaften nimmt sie Teil an der Vorführung eines Demonstrationsmodells der "Difference Engine".

Ada besucht 1833 und 1834 eine Vorlesungsreihe zur "Difference Engine" und bereist 1837 mit ihrer Mutter die Industriebetriebe in den Midlands. Lady Byron, zeitlebens religiös engagiert und sozial-karitativ tätig, hatte eine Berufsschule gegründet, an der auch Ada in den 30er Jahren kurzfristig Arithmetik unterrichtet.

1835 heiratet Ada den vierzehn Jahre älteren Lord Kind. Aus dieser Zeit stammt ein Porträt von der Malerin Margret Carpenter. Ada kritisiert, das Bild betone ihre Weiblichkeit und verhülle ihren Intellekt.

Durch ihre Heirat sieht sich Ada vor die Aufgabe gestellt, mehrere Haushalte zu führen: ein Stadthaus in London und mehrere Landsitze. In vier Jahren bringt sie drei Kinder zur Welt. Die Beziehung zu Charles Babbage bricht in dieser Zeit nicht ab, denn dieser besucht Ada und ihren Mann auf ihrem Landsitz in Ockham Park. Der Kontakt zu den wissenschaftlichen Zirkeln

Londons jedoch wird durch ihre Schwangerschaften unterbrochen.

Nach einer schweren und langwierigen Erkrankung, die auf die Geburt ihrer Tochter 1837 folgte, ist Ada umso mehr vom wissenschafts-geselligen Leben abgeschieden. 1838 wird Lord King zum Earl of Lovelace. Sie ist fest entschlossen, auch nach der Geburt ihrer Kinder ihr "mathematical scrapbook" weiterzuschreiben und ihre mathematischen Studien fortzusetzen. Trotz wiederholter Versuche gelingt es Ada nicht, einen anderen "instructor" zu finden, nachdem ihr alter Hauslehrer William Fend, mittlerweile weit in den 80ern, dazu nicht mehr in der Lage ist. Sie verfehlt zunehmend sowohl ihre eigenen Ansprüche an den Fortgang ihrer mathematischen Studien als auch die Anforderungen, die an sie von außen als Ehefrau und Mutter gestellt werden. Sozialen Verpflichtungen und Ereignissen entzieht sie sich.

1840 nimmt Ada mit Augustus de Morgan, dem Schwiegersohn William Fends und ehemaligen Professor für Mathematik an der neugegründeten Universität London, eine ausgedehnte Korrespondenz auf - einen "Fernkurs" in Mathematik. Nachdem sie Babbage wiederholt ihre Unterstützung angeboten hatte, legt sie ihm 1842 die englische Übersetzung eines "Memoir" vor, in dem der italienische Militäringenieur Menabrea nach einem Vortrag von Babbage die "Analytische Maschine" beschrieben hatte. Unzufrieden mit dem Verlauf der Arbeiten an der "Difference Engine" hatte Babbage Pläne für die Konstruktion einer weiteren, leistungsfähigeren und breiter einsetzbaren Rechenmaschine entworfen, die er "Analytical Engine" nannte. Babbage, dem manche eine chronische Unfähigkeit zur Dokumentation seiner Arbeiten nachsagen, ermuntert Ada, die sich intensiv mit dieser Maschine befaßt hatte, selbst etwas zu schreiben.

Das tat Ada. Ihr mathematischer Durchblick ging dabei so weit, daß sie Ungereimtheiten in Babbages Ablaufschema zur Errechnung Bernoullischer Zahlen entdeckte - es war dies die erste verbürgte Fehlerfindung in einem "Computerprogramm". Charles Babbage lobte die kluge junge Dame, die offenbar besser als die Kollegen die Bedeutung der "analytical" engine begriff. Das für damalige Vorstellungen recht ungleiche Wissenschaftler-Paar arbeitete von nun an eng zusammen, wenn es darum ging, die Grundlagen der Systemprogrammierung transparent zu machen. Auf einigen Gebieten der Umsetzung von Formeln in Funktionsschritte - heute würde man "Codierung" sagen -, stellte Ada Gräfin Lovelace ihren Lehrmeister in den Schatten seiner eigenen Maschine. Die Lady war zweifellos eine Sensation in der britischen Society und geriet zum Thema unzähliger vornehmer Tee-Stunden. Auch jetzt noch geht von den Notizen der ersten Daten-Dame eine seltsame Faszination aus, denn die Eleganz ihrer Programmierung würde mancher EDV-Anlage des 20. Jahrhunderts zur Glorie gereichen.

Ihr Know-how artikulierte Lady Lovelace geschickt und anschaulich - bisweilen untermischt mit prophetischen Zwischentönen: "Die Analysemaschine", vermerkt sie einmal, "erhebt keinen Anspruch darauf, etwas Originäres zu schaffen; sie führt das aus, was wir, aus unserem Wissen heraus, ihr vorschreiben." Sie reflektierte auch über das Problem der bedingten Verzweigung und erläuterte die Prozedur. Sie erfand das Zählregister für iterative Abläufe, konzipierte ein binär-arithmetisches Rechenverfahren und erträumte sich programmiertechnische Kniffe, die vor dem Siegeszug der modernen EDV eigentlich kaum denkbar gewesen sein konnten.

Um das Genie der Engländerin gebührend zu beurteilen, muß man sich vergegenwärtigen, daß das Ursprungsmodell des 1944 konstruierten Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator in seinem Befehlssatz noch keinen Sprungbefehl enthielt; der wurde erst später hinzugefügt, obwohl die Methode bereits sein hundert Jahren in Lady Lovelace' nachgelassenen Schriften stand.

Die Übersetzung und Anmerkungen Adas erscheinen 1843 - signiert nur mit den Anfangsbuchstaben ihres Namens. Sie setzt sich zum Ziel, gemeinsam mit Babbage die

"Analytische Maschine" bis zur Funktionsreife zu entwickeln - ein Ziel, das weder sie noch Babbage erreichen werden. Die "Analytical Engine" wird zu ihren Lebzeiten nie gebaut werden; später heißt es, die Feinmechanik sei dazu noch nicht weit genug entwickelt gewesen. Ada klagt in dieser Zeit wiederholt, wegen der Kinder nicht wissenschaftlich arbeiten zu können. Eine erneute Krankheit kommt dazu. Der Zugang zu Büchern und Manuskripten, ihren wichtigsten Arbeitsmitteln, gestaltet sich schwierig. Sie ist dabei auf ihren Mann angewiesen, der ihr Material aus den Bibliotheken, zu denen sie selbst als Frau keinen Zugang hat, beschafft.

Adas mathematisches Talent und die Ergebnisse ihrer Arbeit werden anerkannt. Ada selbst bleibt diese Anerkennung jedoch weitgehend verborgen. Menabrea lobt Adas Übersetzung seines "Memoir" und ihre Anmerkungen - erstaunt, daß sich hinter den Initialen A.A.L., die Ada auf Rat ihres Mannes hin verwendet hatte, eine Frau verbarg. Augustus de Morgan, ihr augenblicklicher "Lehrer" schildert unabhängig davon Adas mathematisches Talent in einem vertraulichen Brief an Lady Byron.

Babbage schlägt nach der Veröffentlichung von Adas Übersetzung und Anerkennung eine weitere Zusammenarbeit aus. Ada spielt kurz mit dem Gedanken, Prinz Alberts wissenschaftliche Beraterin zu werden. Sie versucht sich als Übersetzerin wissenschaftlicher Artikel. Ihre Interessen verlagern sich auf die Erforschung der Elektrizität und sie wendet sich Michael Faraday zu. Auch dieser lehnt Ada als Studentin und Mitarbeiterin ab. Ada entwirft für sich eine neue Karriere als Musikerin - auf der Harfe war sie schon als Kind unterrichtet worden und ihre musischen Interessen hatte sie neben ihren wissenschaftlichen Studien stets weiterverfolgt.

In Geldnöten beginnt sie 1850, sich an Pferdewetten zu beteiligen. Anders als bei Lady Byron, die autonom über ihr Vermögen verfügte, wurden Adas Finanzen von ihrem Mann und ihrer Mutter verwaltet. Zunehmend verschuldet, versetzt sie zweimal Familienschmuck. Ihr gesundheitlicher Zustand verschlechtert sich zunehmend. Am 27. November 1852 stirbt Ada, 36 Jahre als, in London an Gebärmutterkrebs.

Ada Augusta Countess of Lovelace kam posthum zu Ehren, als ihr die computerbefaßte Fachwelt 1979 ein symbolisches Denkmal setzte: Die "Green Language", so der bis dahin gängige Arbeitstitel, wurde in "ADA" umbenannt. Es handelt sich um eine "high order language" für Real-Time-Programmierung, die das amerikanische Verteidigungsministerium in Auftrag gab und die eine von Jean Ichbiah geleitete Forschungsgruppe der Cii Honeywell Bull anwendungsreif entwickelte. Der Präsident der Französischen Republik ehrte den Team-Leiter, indem er ihm das Kreuz der Ehrenlegion verlieh.

Wenn also das US-Militär mit seiner umfänglichen EDV echtzeitlich ADA redet - eine französische Sprache mit englischem Wortschatz -, dann schwingt bei jedem Befehl ein kleiner Anerkennungsimpuls mit, ein Erinnerungsbit an die wenig bekannte Tatsache, daß der erste Programmierer der Welt eine Frau war!

Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace



December 10, 1815 - November 27, 1852

Contributed by Dr. Betty Toole

Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace, was one of the most picturesque characters in computer history. Augusta Ada Byron was born December 10, 1815 the daughter of the illustrious poet, Lord Byron. Five weeks after Ada was born Lady Byron asked for a separation from Lord Byron, and was awarded sole custody of Ada who she brought up to be a mathematician and scientist. Lady Byron was terrified that Ada might end up being a poet like her father. Despite Lady Byron's programming Ada did not sublimate her poetical inclinations. She hoped to be "an analyst and a metaphysician". In her 30's she wrote her mother, if you can't give me poetry, can't you give me "poetical science?" Her understanding of mathematics was laced with imagination, and described in metaphors.

At the age of 17 Ada was introduced to Mary Somerville, a remarkable woman who translated LaPlace's works into English, and whose texts were used at Cambridge. Though Mrs. Somerville encouraged Ada in her mathematical studies, she also attempted to put mathematics and technology into an appropriate human context. It was at a dinner party at Mrs. Somerville's that Ada heard in November, 1834, Babbage's ideas for a new calculating engine, the Analytical Engine. He conjectured what if a calculating engine could not only foresee but could act on that foresight. Ada was touched by the "universality of his ideas". Hardly anyone else was.

Babbage worked on plans for this new engine and reported on the developments at a seminar in Turin, Italy in the autumn of 1841. An Italian, Menabrea, wrote a summary of what Babbage described and published an article in French about the development. Ada, in 1843, married to the Earl of Lovelace and the mother of three children under the age of eight, translated Menabrea's article. When she showed Babbage her translation he suggested that she add her own notes, which turned out to be three times the length of the original article. Letters between Babbage and Ada flew back and forth filled with fact and fantasy. In her article, published in 1843, Lady Lovelace's prescient comments included her predictions that such a machine might be used to compose complex music, to produce graphics, and would be used for both practical and scientific use. She was correct.

When inspired Ada could be very focused and a mathematical taskmaster. Ada suggested to Babbage writing a plan for how the engine might calculate Bernoulli numbers. This plan, is now regarded as the first "computer program." A software language developed by the U.S. Department of Defense was named "Ada" in her honor in 1979.

After she wrote the description of Babbage's Analytical Engine her life was plagued with illnesses, and her social life, in addition to Charles Babbage, included Sir David Brewster (the originator of the kaleidoscope), Charles Wheatstone, Charles Dickens and Michael Faraday. Her interests ranged from music to horses to calculating machines. She has been used as a character in Gibson and Sterling's the

Difference Engine, shown writing letters to Babbage in the series "The Machine that Changed the World" and I have gathered her letters and writings in "Ada, The Enchantress of Numbers: A Selection from the Letters of Lord Byron's Daughter and Her Description of the First Computer Though her life was short (like her father, she died at 36), Ada anticipated by more than a century most of what we think is brand-new computing.

For more information on Ada Byron, refer to [Ada, The Enchantress of Numbers](#), written by [Betty Alexandra Toole](#) Ed.D. and published by Strawberry Press. Now available in a revised paperback edition.

Other resources about Ada Byron

[A Selection and Adaptation From Ada's Notes](#)

[Ada Byron King, Countess of Lovelace](#), from [TAP: The Ada Project](#), Tapping Internet Resources for Women in Computer Science. We would like to thank the folks at TAP for providing the file of Dr. Toole's article for use at this site.

by Elisabeth Freeman, *Educom Review*, Volume 31, Number 2, March/April 1996.

[The Ada Picture Gallery](#)

Baum, Joan. *The Calculating Passion of Ada Byron*, Archon Books, 1986.



[Biographies of Women Mathematicians Web Site](#)

[Agnes Scott College](#), Atlanta, GA

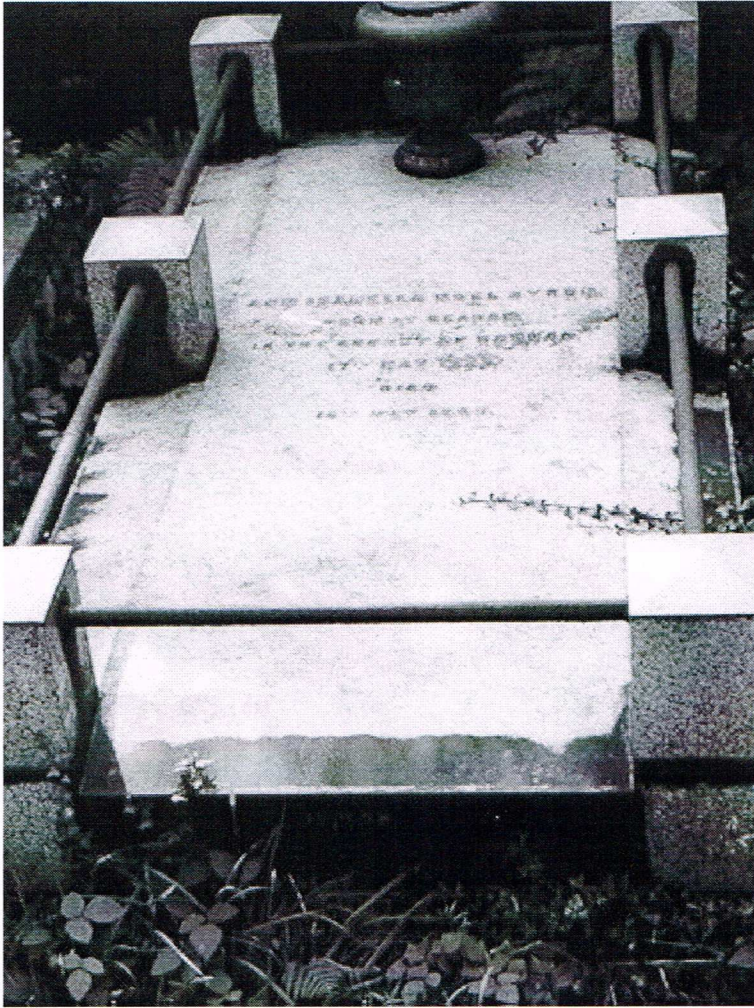
Larry Riddle, Department of Mathematics

Copyright © 1995-1998



(Picture by Androom, 13 Aug 1997)





(Picture by Androom, 10 Aug 1997)

Augusta Ada Lovelace (née Byron), 1815-1852

Augusta Ada Byron was born on 10 December 1815. She was named after Augusta, Byron's half sister, who had been his mistress. After Byron had left for the Continent with a parting shot - 'When shall we three meet again?' - Ada was brought up by her mother.

The lines from Childe Harold were very well known:-

'Is thy face like thy mother's, my fair child!
Ada! sole daughter of my house and of my heart?
When last I saw thy young blue eyes they smiled'
And then we parted,-not as now we part,
but with a hope.'

and as Byron's daughter Ada acquired the romance that attached to everyone associated with that magnificent *poete maudit*.

In 1833 Ada met Babbage and was fascinated with both him and his Engines. Later Ada became a competent student of mathematics, which was most unusual for a woman at the time. She translated a paper on Babbage's Engines by General Menabrea, later to be prime minister of the newly united Italy. Under Babbage's careful supervision Ada added extensive notes (c.f. *Science and Reform, Selected Works of Charles Babbage*, by Anthony Hyman) which constitute the best contemporary description of the Engines, and the best account we have of Babbage's views on the general powers of the Engines. Beautiful, charming, temperamental, an aristocratic hostess, mathematicians of the time thought her a magnificent addition to their number.

It is often suggested that Ada was the world's first programmer. This is nonsense: Babbage was, if programmer is the right term. After Babbage came a mathematical assistant of his, Babbage's eldest son, Herschel, and possibly Babbage's two younger sons. Ada was probably the fourth, fifth or six person to write the programmes. Moreover all she did was rework some calculations Babbage had carried out years earlier. Ada's calculations were student exercises. Ada Lovelace figures in the history of the Calculating Engines as Babbage's interpretress, his 'fairy lady'. As such her achievement was remarkable.

References

Doris Langley Moore, *Ada, Countess of Lovelace, Byron's legitimate daughter*, John Murray, London, 1977.

By the chronicler of the Byron family. Concentrates on Ada's mother, Lady Noel Byron.

Dorothy Stein, *Ada, A Life and a Legacy*, MIT, Mass. 1984.

A feminist view.

Betty Alexandra Toole, *Ada, the Enchantress of Numbers*, Strawberry Press, 227, Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley, Marin County, CA 94941, 1992.

A felicitous selection of Ada's letters.

| **The Babbage Pages home** |

Maintainer & date: R.A.Hyman@ex.ac.uk October 01, 1996

URL: <http://www.ex.ac.uk/BABBAGE/ada.html>

The Byron Chronology

Engagement and Marriage: 1814-1816



A Romantic
Circles
Web Site

| | | | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|-----------------|------------------|------|----------------|
| 1814 | <u>September</u> | 1815 | <u>January</u> | <u>July</u> | 1816 | <u>January</u> |
| | <u>October</u> | | <u>February</u> | <u>August</u> | | |
| | <u>November</u> | | <u>March</u> | <u>September</u> | | |
| | <u>December</u> | | <u>April</u> | <u>October</u> | | |
| | | | <u>May</u> | <u>November</u> | | |
| | | | <u>June</u> | <u>December</u> | | |

| Year | Date | Chronology entry |
|------|--------------|--|
| 1814 | September 9 | To Byron's surprise, Annabella accepts his second offer of marriage. Lady Melbourne is pleased. The fiancées write daily. |
| | September 21 | Byron returns to London to prepare for his wedding, specifically to arrange his financial affairs in such a way as to allow a proper marriage settlement. Augusta returns to Six Mile Bottom. |
| | Oct 5 | On an anonymous report, the <i>Morning Chronicle</i> contradicts the engagement announcement that appeared in the Durham paper. Byron suspects Caroline Lamb. |
| | Oct 7 | Hanson returns to London after the |



| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| | | <p>Hanson returns to London after the marriage of his son, Lord Portsmouth, but travels unexpectedly to Devon.</p> <p>Byron complains that Hanson has put off their meeting for 5 weeks.</p> |
| | Oct. 17 | Byron asks Hobhouse to be his groomsmen. |
| | Oct. 27 | Byron writes Annabella that he will be travelling to Durham to visit her. |
| | Oct. 29 | Byron leaves for Durham to visit Annabella, but stops at Six Mile Bottom on the way for a day-long visit, then goes on to Newstead. |
| | Nov. 2-16 | <p>Byron visits Annabella at Seaham.</p> <p>Though Annabella wishes for a large wedding, Byron insists on a private ceremony.</p> |
| | Nov. 18 | On his way to Six Mile Bottom, Byron arrives in Cambridge where he dines with Hodgson. |
| | Nov. 23 | <p>Byron, at Cambridge, casts his vote for Dr. Clarke to the professorship of anatomy.</p> <p>Byron and Hobhouse dine with Clarke, then attend a party with Davies and Henry Matthews.</p> |
| | Nov. 24 | Byron and Hobhouse are in London. |
| | Nov. 26 | At Drury Lane, Byron sees Kean in <i>Macbeth</i> . |
| | Dec. 2 | At Kinnaird's, Byron and Hobhouse dine privately with Kean. |

TOP

RC

T

TOP

RC

T

| | | |
|--|---------|---|
| | ? | <p>Since Hanson has not yet dealt with the financial affairs, Byron remains unable to set a date for the wedding.</p> <p>Hanson promises to be available in ten days.</p> |
| | Dec. ? | <p>When Byron learns that Claughton will not purchase Newstead, he proposes to Annabella that they postpone the wedding. Byron's insistence that they will be poor until Newstead is sold leaves her unconcerned.</p> |
| | Dec. 18 | <p>Byron writes that he will leave London for Durham on the 24th--if he does not have to be a witness in the lunacy trial of Lord Portsmouth.</p> |
| | Dec. 24 | <p>Byron and Hobhouse set out for London in the afternoon.</p> <p>Byron visits Colonel Leigh and Augusta at Six Mile Bottom; Hobhouse stays at Cambridge.</p> <p>Byron considers calling off the marriage.</p> |
| | Dec. 25 | <p>Byron picks Hobhouse up in Cambridge around 3 p. m.; they travel only so far as Wansford that night.</p> <p>Hobhouse writes in his journal: "Never was a bridegroom less in haste" (503).</p> |
| | Dec. 26 | <p>Byron and Hobhouse set out for Durham.</p> |

TOP

RC

Ⓡ

TOP

RC

Ⓡ

| | | |
|------|----------------------|---|
| | Dec. 27 | <p>Byron and Hobhouse arrive at Newark.</p> <p>Byron confesses to Hobhouse both his distaste for marrying before his financial affairs are arranged and his belief--though uncertain of his love for Annabella--that marriage is the surest road to happiness.</p> <p>The pair read Murray's new edition of Gibbon.</p> |
| | Dec. 28 | Byron and Hobhouse travel around 27 miles, reaching Ferrybridge. |
| | Dec. 29 | Byron and Hobhouse travel only a few miles past York, to Thirsk. |
| | Dec. 30, 8 p.m. | Byron and Hobhouse arrive unannounced at Seaham, their trip from London having taken a week. |
| 1815 | Jan. 2 | <p>Byron weds Annabella Milbanke at 11 a. m. in the presence of Hobhouse, her parents, her governess Mrs. Clermont, and two clergymen.</p> <p>Lord and Lady Byron spend their honeymoon at the Noel's estate, Halnaby.</p> <p>Byron begins the <i>Hebrew Melodies</i>.</p> |
| | Jan. 21- Feb. 9th | Byron and Annabella return to Seaham. |

TOP

RC

T

TOP

| | | |
|--|----------------------|--|
| | | Hobhouse tries to arrange Byron's financial affairs in London, including arranging the lease for a house in London. |
| | Jan. 22 | Byron, Annabella and the Noels celebrate Byron's 28th birthday. |
| | Feb. 2 | Leigh Hunt is released from prison. |
| | Feb. 10 | Byron's financial affairs require him to return to London, but Annabella refuses to be left behind. |
| | Feb. 12- March 28 | The pair visit Six Mile Bottom, where Annabella and Augusta meet for the first time. |
| | ? | Napolean, having escaped from Elba, lands in France. Hobhouse plans to travel to France. |
| | March 28 | The Byrons leave Six Mile Bottom for London. Once there, they take up the lodging Hobhouse had leased for them from the Duchess of Devonshire at 13 Piccadilly Terrace. |
| | | Byron renews his acquaintance with literary men in town, regularly visiting the literary group that met at Murray's. Murray encourages Byron to publish more of his poetry. |



| | | |
|--|----------------|---|
| | April, early | Augusta arrives at Piccadilly Terrace. |
| | April 7 | Murray introduces Byron to Sir Walter Scott. Byron also meets William Gifford, James Boswell, and William Sotheby. |
| | April 10 or 11 | Lord Wentworth, Lady Byron's uncle, falls ill; and Annabella travels to Seaham to care for him. |
| | April 12 | At the House of Lords, Byron hears debates on Bonaparte's escape from Elba. |
| | April 14 or 15 | Lady Milbanke finally arrives at Seaham; and, at Byron's urging, Annabella returns to London. |
| | April 15 | Byron's creditors--encouraged by his recent wedding and his comfortable lodgings in Piccadilly--begin to bring legal action to gain payment of his debts. But appearances are deceiving: Lady Byron's marriage settlement from her parents barely pays the rent at Piccadilly Terrace, and the couple's other expenses strain their financial accounts. Claughton's payment continue to be delayed. |
| | April 17 | Lord Wentworth dies. In adherence to his will, the Milbankes change |

TOP

RC

TOP

TOP




RC

TOP

| | | | |
|--|---------|--|-------------------------------|
| | | <p>their name to Noel.</p> <p>The Kirkby Mallory estate does not produce the expected £7,000 a year, and the Noels are placed in significant financial difficulty.</p> <p>Byron too adds the Noel to his name, becoming George Gordon Noel Byron.</p> | |
| | April ? | <p>Braham and Nathan publish Byron's <i>Hebrew Melodies</i> with Nathan's musical settings.</p> <p>Though expensive at a cost of one guinea, over 10,000 copies sell.</p> <p>By summer, Murray brings out an edition of Byron's poems, without the musical settings.</p> | <p>TOP</p> <p>RC</p> <p>T</p> |
| | May | <p>At Douglass Kinnaird's request, Byron is appointed a member of the Management Sub-Committee of the Drury Lane Theatre.</p> <p>Other members included Lord Essex, George Lamb, Kinnaird, Peter Moore, and Samuel Whitbread, the theatre manager.</p> | |
| | May 23 | <p>At the encouragement of Hobhouse, Byron participates in voting at the House of Lords.</p> <p>He supports the Whig attempt to censure the Tory government's part</p> | |

| | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| | | in the Congress of Vienna. |
| | June 20 | George Ticknor, an American, presents letters of introduction to Byron who treats him graciously. Byron receives news of the Battle of Waterloo, expressing regret that Napoleon was in retreat. |
| | June 21 | Byron visits Murray's literary salon, participating in the conversation on the victory at Waterloo. |
| | June 25 | Augusta leaves London. |
| | June 26 | Byron introduces Ticknor to Mrs. Siddons. |
| | June 27 | Ticknor visits the theatre in Byron's private box with the Byrons and the Noels. |
| | July | Caroline Lamb leaves England. Her brother Frederick Ponsonby had been wounded at Waterloo, and Caroline travels to Brussels to help her mother nurse him |
| | July, early | The Noels allow the Byrons the use of Seaham; the Noels move to the Kirkby Mallory estate. |
| | July 6 | Samuel Whitbread, manager of Drury Lane, dies unexpectedly. |
| | July, late | Byron learns from Hobhouse the state of Parisian politics. |
| | July 28 | Byron tries unsuccessfully to sell |



| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|---|
| | | <p>the Newstead and Rochdale estates at auction, but is forced to bring them in when the bidding fails to meet the reserve.</p> <p>Byron's financial situation grows desperate, and as the months go on with no relief, Byron becomes moody, angry, and openly hostile to family. He also turns to drink.</p> | |
| | July 29 | <p>As a result of the Wentworth inheritance, Byron signs a new will stipulating that after the payment of Annabella's marriage settlement, the remainder of his estate would go to Augusta and her children.</p> <p>The new will supercedes that of Sept. 29, 1813. Hobhouse and Hanson are named as Byron's executors.</p> |    |
| | August 30- Sept. 4 | Byron visits Augusta at Six Mile Bottom. | |
| | Sept. 9 | <p>The autumn season of the Drury Lane Theatre opens. Byron works to recruit good actors and good scripts.</p> <p>Despite failures with Sotheby, Thomas Moore, S. T. Coleridge, and Walter Scott, Byron is able to secure Charles Maturin's Bertram (which becomes a great success when it is staged in 1816).</p> | |
| | | <p>Among the actors who perform on the stage during Byron's tenure on the committee are Kean, Miss Kelley, and Mrs. Mardyn.</p> <p>He also tries to engage Mrs.</p> | |

| | | |
|--|----------|---|
| | | Siddons, but she refuses to leave Edinburgh. |
| | Sept. 14 | Byron writes Augusta that he believes Annabella has been searching through his papers and has broken open his writing desk. |
| | Sept. 26 | Mrs. Mardyn debuts at Drury Lane in <i>Lovers' Vows</i> ; she becomes a principal of the company. |
| | Sept. | Byron writes Coleridge to secure a new drama. |
| | ? | Byron writes Coleridge of his admiration of <i>Christabel</i> which he has heard recited by Scott. |
| | ? | Coleridge sends Byron a copy of <i>Christabel</i> ; after reading it, Byron realizes that he has unconsciously borrowed from it in <i>Siege of Corinth</i> and offers to omit the lines. When the poem is published, Byron retains the lines but offers an explanatory note. |
| | Sept. 28 | Leigh Hunt send Byron a copy of <i>Feast of the Poets</i> , a gift which elicits comments from Byron on Wordsworth's poetic skill. |
| | Oct. 15 | Byron sends Hunt a copy of <i>English Bards and Scotch Reviewers</i> . This copy contains the corrections Byron had intended for the suppressed fifth edition. |
| | Oct. 31 | Byron attends a large dinner with theatrical people, among them Sheridan, Colman, and Harry Harris of Covent Garden. |

| | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| | Nov. 2 | Annabella completes her fair copy of <i>Siege of Corinth</i> . |
| | Nov., early | <p>Though Byron's properties are worth over £100,000, he remains unable to sell.</p> <p>A bailiff enters Byron's house and refuses to leave until Byron settles his debts.</p> <p>Having already sold the Newstead furniture to meet debts, Byron arranges to sell his library as well.</p> <p>Murray offers £1,500 for the library and an additional sum for Byron's remaining copyrights; Byron refuses the money out of pride.</p> <p>Since maintaining the house at Piccadilly Terrace is expensive, Byron plans to break up the household there and move to cheaper accommodations.</p> |
| | Nov., early | <p>In reaction to tremendous financial problems at home, Byron begins a short-lived liaison with a minor actress, Susan Boyce.</p> <p>Boyce continues to trouble Byron until he leaves for the Continent in March, 1816.</p> |
| | Nov. 15 | Augusta, in response to Annabella's alarming letters, arrives at Piccadilly Terrace to help manage Byron's moods. Byron turns his anger on Augusta. |
| | | Byron completes <i>Parisina</i> . |

| | | |
|--|------------------|--|
| | Nov. 18 | <p>At the Kinnaird's, Byron's heavy drinking leads to a drunken argument with Alexander Rae, an actor, that stops just short of a fight.</p> <p>At home, his rages continue.</p> <p>Annabella believes him temporarily insane.</p> |
| | Dec., early | <p>At the request of Augusta, Mrs. Clermont and George Byron move into the house on Piccadilly Terrace to offer support to Annabella during her confinement.</p> |
| | Dec. 10, 1 p. m. | <p>Annabella delivers a baby girl, Augusta Ada.</p> |
| | | <p>Murray offers 1000 guineas for the copyrights of <i>Parisina</i> and <i>Siege of Corinth</i>, but Byron refuses money for his writing.</p> |
| | Dec. 28 | <p>Lady Noel offers an invitation for the Byrons to come to Kirkby Mallory.</p> |
| | Jan. 3 | <p>Byron proposes to Annabella that they break up the expensive house in London, and that she and Ada move temporarily to her parent's house in Kirkby Mallory.</p> |
| | Jan. 7 | <p>Annabella, believing Byron mad, seeks medical advice from Dr. Baillie who agrees that her absence from London might assuage the irritable Byron.</p> <p>She had already asked her doctor Mr. Le Mann his assessment of Byron's condition.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---------|---|
| | | According to Hobhouse, Annabella also drafted "a statement of Lord Byron's conduct, including his sayings and singularities of manner and look." |
| | Jan. 8 | Dr. Baillie visits the house to assess Lord Byron's behavior--Byron is unaware of the reason for Baillie's visit. |
| | Jan. 9 | Annabella meets with Hanson. Explaining her belief that Lord Byron should be physically restrained, Hanson warns Annabella against such a desperate measure. When Hanson asks if she feels herself in physical danger, Annabella says no--she fears Byron will take his own life. Annabella begs Hanson to persuade Byron to follow her to Kirkby Mallory as soon as possible. |
| | Jan. 12 | Annabella sends Hanson a pamphlet on hydroencephalus with comments on Byron's behavior. |
| | Jan. 15 | Having postponed her departure as long as possible in hopes of determining Byron's mental state, Annabella leaves Piccadily Terrace. |

[Back to the Byron Chronology Page](#)

The Lord Byron Chronology

Appendix 1: The Lords Byron

1. **John Byron** (c. 1600-1652) - He was created the 1st Baron Byron of Rochdale by King Charles I on 24 October 1643.
2. **Sir Richard Byron** (1605-1679) - The first Lord Byron's brother.
3. **William Byron** (1635-1695) - Son of the second Lord Byron.
4. **William Byron** (1668-1736) - Son of the third Lord Byron.
5. **William Byron** (1722-1798) - Son of the fourth Lord Byron
6. **George Gordon Noel Byron** (1788-1824) - The Poet. Grand-Nephew of the fifth Lord Byron.
7. **Cpt. George Anson Byron** (1789-1868) - Cousin of the Poet.
8. **George Anson Byron** (1818-1870) - Son of the seventh Lord Byron.
9. **George Frederick Byron** (1855-1917) - Nephew of the eighth Lord Byron.
10. **Rev. Frederick Ernest Charles Byron** (1861-1949) - Brother of the ninth Lord Byron.
11. **Rupert Frederick George Byron** (1903-1983) - Cousin of the tenth Lord Byron.
12. **Lt. Col. Richard Geoffry Gordon Byron** (1899-19??) - Distant relative of the eleventh Lord Byron.
13. **Robert James Byron** (b.1950) - Son of the twelfth Lord Byron.

[\[Back to The Byron Chronology\]](#)[\[Back to The Lords Byron Gallery\]](#)

[\[Unacknowledged Legislators\]](#) [\[The Lord Byron HomePage\]](#) [\[The Percy Bysshe Shelley HomePage\]](#)
[\[Poetry Chat\]](#) [\[Web Board\]](#) [\[Links\]](#) [\[About Me\]](#) [\[Sign My Guestbook\]](#) [\[View My Guestbook\]](#) [\[What's New?\]](#)

All Original Material © 1998 [John W. Leys](#)

This page hosted by [GeoCities](#)

This page was last updated on 21 June 1998

A Byron Chronology 1824-1988: Aftermath

[\[Back to Main Chronology\]](#)

[\[Sources\]](#)[\[Notes\]](#)

[\[1824\]](#)[\[1830\]](#)[\[1840\]](#)[\[1850\]](#)[\[1860\]](#)[\[1870\]](#)[\[1880\]](#)[\[1890\]](#)
[\[1900\]](#)[\[1910\]](#)[\[1920\]](#)[\[1930\]](#)[\[1940\]](#)[\[1950\]](#)[\[1960\]](#)[\[1970\]](#)[\[1980\]](#)

1824

- 19 April - George Gordon Noel, Lord Byron dies in Missolonghi, Greece. His cousin, Cpt. George Anson Byron, becomes the 7th Baron Byron of Rochdale
- 14 May - The news of Lord Byron's death reaches London
- 17 May - The destruction of Byron's memoirs
- 25 May - Byron's coffin embarks on the *Florida* at Zante
- 29 June - Byron's body arrives in London
- 12 July - Byron's funeral.
- 16 July - Byron is buried at Hucknall Torkard. The New Lord Byron does not attend the ceremony claiming an illness when he is in fact sulking about the size of his inheritance.
- 20 November - Lady Oxford dies

1825

- 19 March - Sir Ralph Noel dies

1826

- 4 February - Georgiana Leigh, Augusta's eldest daughter, marries her cousin, Henry Trevanion

1828

- 23 January - Caroline Lamb dies

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1831

- 15 August - Hobhouse becomes Sir John Cam Hobhouse, Bart.

1832

- February - Mary Chaworth-Musters dies

1834

- 19 May - Marie, daughter of Medora Leigh and her brother-in-law, Henry Trevanion, is born

1835

- July - [Ada Byron](#) marries William, 8th Lord King.

1836

- Byron Noel King (later the 12th Baron Wentworth and the first Viscount Ockham), son of Ada and Lord King, is born.

1837

- Anne Isabella Noel King (later the 15th Baroness Wentworth), daughter of Ada and Lord King, is born.
- Lady Frances Webster dies

1838

- 30 June - Lord King is created the Earl of Lovelace.

1839

- Ralph Gordon Noel King (later the 9th Baron King of Ockham, 2nd Earl of Lovelace, and the 13th Baron Wentworth), son of Ada and Lord Lovelace, is born.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1843

- A statue of Byron is placed in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge

1846

- 27 January - Elie, daughter of Medora Leigh and Jean Louis Taillefer, is born
- 23 August - Medora Leigh marries Jean-Louis Taillefer

1849

- 4 June - Lady Blessington dies
- 28 August - Elizabeth Medora Leigh, Madame Taillefer dies

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1850

- 3 March - Col. George Leigh dies

1851

- 1 February - Mary Shelley dies
- 26 February - Sir John Cam Hobhouse is created Baron Broughton de Gyfford
- 8 April - Lady Byron's last interview with Augusta
- 12 October - Augusta Leigh dies

1852

- 27 November - Ada, Countess of Lovelace dies

1854

- Henry Trevanion dies

1855

- 27 December - George Frederick Byron (later the 9th Baron Byron), son of Frederick and Mary Jane Byron and grandson of the 7th Lord Byron, is born.

1856

- Marie Tallefer takes her religious vows

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1860

- Col. Wildman sells Newstead Abbey to William Frederick Webb.
- 16 May - Ann Isabella Noel, Lady Byron dies.

1861

- 26 March - Frederick Earnest Charles Byron (later the 10th Baron Byron), son of Frederick and Mary Jane Byron and grandson of the 7th Lord Byron, is born.

1862

- Byron Noel King, Lord Ockham dies.

1863

- 19 May - Destruction of Medora's papers

1868

- 1 March - Cpt. George Anson, Lord Byron dies. His son, George Anson Byron III, becomes the 8th Baron Byron of Rochdale.

1869

- John Cam Hobhouse, Lord Broughton dies.
- Ralph Gordon Noel King, Lord Wentworth marries Fanny Heriot.
- Anne Isabella Noel King marries Wilfred Scawen Blunt.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1870

- 28 November - George Anson, Lord Byron dies. His nephew, George Frederick Byron, becomes the 9th Baron Byron of Rochdale.

1871

- Ada Mary King (later the 14th Baroness Wentworth), daughter of Lord Wentworth and Fanny Heriot, is born

1873

- Judith Anne Dorethea Blunt (later the 16th Baroness Wentworth), daughter of Anne Isabella Noel King and Wilfred Scawen Blunt, is born.
- Sister Saint-Hilaire (Marie Tallefer) dies
- Teresa Guiccioli dies

1878

- Fanny, Lady Wentworth dies.

1879

- Clare Clairmont dies

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1880

- Ralph Gordon Noel King, Lord Wentworth marries Mary Caroline Stuart-Wortley.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1893

- William, 1st Earl of Lovelace dies

1899

Judith Anne Dorothea Blunt marries Neville Lytton.

- 3 November - Richard Geoffrey Gordon Byron (later the 12th Baron Byron), descendant of the 5th Lord Byron's brother, Rev. Richard Byron, is born.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1900

- 22 January - Elie Tailefer dies.
- Noel Anthony Scawen Lytton (later the 4th Earl of Lytton and the 17th Baron Wentworth), son of Judith Anne Dorothea Blunt and Neville Lytton, is born.

1903

- 13 August - Rupert Frederick George Byron (later the 11th Baron Byron), great-grandson of the 7th Lord Byron, is born.

1906

- Ralph Gordon Noel, 9th Lord King, 13th Baron Wentworth, and the 2nd Earl of Lovelace, dies.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1917

- Ada Mary King, Lady Wentworth dies. Her aunt, Anne Isabella Noel Blunt, becomes the 15th Baroness Wentworth.
- Anne Isabella Noel Blunt, Lady Wentworth dies. Her daughter, Judith Anne Dorethea Lytton, becomes the 16th Baroness Wentworth.
- 30 March - George Frederick, Lord Byron dies. His brother, Rev. Frederick Ernest Charles Byron, becomes the 10th Baron Byron of Rochdale.
- End of November - Two weeks after the end of WW I, Richard Geoffrey Gordon Byron is commissioned in the Army and joins the Fourth Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, who are serving as part of the Army of occupation in Cologne.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1922

- Richard Geoffrey Gordon Byron is appointed ADC to the Governor of Bombay, Sir George Lloyd.

1925

- Richard Geoffrey Gordon Byron's appointment as ADC to the Governor of Bombay ends.

1930

- Sir Julian Cahn buys Newstead Abbey and gives it to the Corporation of Nottingham for use as a city park and museum.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1947

- Neville Lytton succeeds as the 3rd Earl of Lytton.

1949

- 6 June - Rev. Frederick Ernest Charles, Lord Byron dies. His cousin Rupert Frederick George Byron becomes the 11th Baron Byron of Rochdale.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1950

- 5 April - Robert "Robin" James Byron (later the 13th Baron Byron), son of Lt. Col. Richard Geoffrey Gordon Byron and Dorigen Margaret Esdaile, is born.

1951

- Neville, Lord Lytton dies. His son, Noel Anthony Scawen Lytton, becomes the 4th Earl of Lytton.

1957

- Judith Anne Dorethea, Lady Lytton dies. Her son, Noel Anthony Scawen, Lord Lytton, becomes the 17th Baron Wentworth.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1968

- The Dean, the Very Reverend Eric Abbott, approves a petition by the Poetry Society for a Byron memorial in Westminster Abbey

1969

- 8 May - A "Ceremony of Dedication of a Memorial to Lord Byron" is held at Westminster Abbey

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

1983

- 1 November - Rupert Frederick George, Lord Byron dies. Lt Col Richard Geoffrey Gordon Byron, a decendent of the 5th Baron's brother, becomes the 12th Baron Byron of Rochdale.

1986

- Lord Byron takes his seat at the House of Lords

1988

- *The House of Byron: A History of the Family from the Norman Conquest 1066-1988* by Violet Violet W. Walker, revised and completed by Margaret J. Howell, is published. It includes a Forword by [Lord Byron](#).

1989

- 15 June - Lt Col [Richard Geoffrey Gordon, Lord Byron](#) dies. His son, [Robert James Byron](#), becomes the 13th Baron Byron of Rochdale.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

[Go to Previous Part of the Chronology](#)

Notes:

[\[Unacknowledged Legislators\]](#) [\[The Lord Byron HomePage\]](#) [\[The Shelley HomePage\]](#)
[\[Poetry Chat\]](#) [\[Web Board\]](#) [\[Links\]](#) [\[About Me\]](#) [\[Sign My Guestbook\]](#) [\[View My Guestbook\]](#) [\[What's New?\]](#)

All Original Material © 1997-1998 [John W. Leys](#)

This page hosted by [GeoCities](#)

This Page was last updated on 4 July 1998