

# **LORD BYRON**

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**THE FIRST ADORED LITERARY CELEBRITY**

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GEORGE GORDON BYRON, ALSO KNOWN AS LORD BYRON, WAS A BRITISH ROMANTIC POET, WHO WAS, IN HIS TIME, THE MOST CELEBRATED POET OF THE ROMANTIC PERIOD.

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He was born on the 22nd January of 1788, on Holles Street in England. He was an only child. His parents were John Byron and Catherine Gordon.



# THE CHILDHOOD OF LORD BYRON

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- When he was just 3 years old, his father died. He got the title “Lord” at the age of 10, when his uncle, William Byron, died. After his uncle died, he became the 6<sup>th</sup> Baron. He inherited his home, Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, but he also inherited his uncle’s debt. His mother had to sell almost every furniture they had in their house to pay the funeral of his uncle, the 5<sup>th</sup> Baron. Even with barely any money left, his mother decided to enroll him into Harrow School, and he’d later go up to Trinity College. They would then live in Burgage Manor, Southwell, from 1803 to 1808. He published his first poem in 1806, and it was printed in Newark-on-Trent, a nearby town. He graduated from Cambridge in 1808 with an M.A. His mother gave up lease on Burgage Manor, and they moved into Newstead Abbey.



The Nottinghamshire Ancestral Home of Lord Byron—Newstead Abbey in 2017. Nowadays owned by Nottingham City Council and open to the public

# LORD BYRON IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

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- At the age of 21, he took place in the House of Lords. He went on a 2-year tour to Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey. While he was on that tour, he wrote hundreds of poems for the autobiographical *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. This poem would base him as the Romantic poem hero. After his tour, he came back to the House of Lords, and he made his maiden speech on the 27<sup>th</sup> February of 1812. His interest in politics would decrease after he published the poems.

# LORD BYRON BECOMING A CELEBRITY AFTER PUBLISHING *CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE*

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- The poem was a mix of travelogue, philosophy and memories of lost and unrequited love. The first edition of the poem sold out almost immediately, and the poem would go through five new editions in a single year. In the street he was staying at, it was jammed with carriages delivering him invitations. Everyone wanted to meet him.
- ***“I awoke one morning and found myself famous.”***
- -Words said by Byron to his friend, Thomas Moore.

## She Walks in Beauty (1814)

She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;  
Thus mellowed to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impaired the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lightens o'er her face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,  
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent!

(„Hebrew Melodies“, published in 1815)

## Она хода у лепоти

Она иде у светлу лепоте  
Ко ноћ блага у звезданом сјају.  
Све што има у свету красоте:  
Светлог, тамног – њене очи дају  
Све нежности и дивоте с њима,  
Што дан блистав не може да има.

Ни зрак мање, ни ти више сама  
Сен у валу црних јој витица  
Ил у складу локница, ил прама  
Што се спушта преко њеног лица,  
Преко чела, где чедне, спокојне,  
Мисли – свога места су достојне.

На том лицу које озарава  
Срећни осмех вечите ведрине;  
Где добротом сваког очарава  
Мирни одсјај вечите врлине,  
На томе се дивном лицу чита  
Љубав – мирна, невина и вечита.



# LORD BYRONS RELATIONSHIP WITH ANNABELLA MILBANKE

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- Annabella Milbanke was a woman who thought she was superior than others. She was invited to a social event, so she sent a letter to her mother asking if she could attend it, and she did. She had proclaimed her dislike of fashion and lack of interest in flirting. She was intelligent and serious (Byron named her as the "Princess of the Parallelogram"). Annabella was unlikely to be in a relationship with Byron. But, regardless of the mismatch of personalities and moral values, he would go out with her. He tried proposing to her in October 1812, with her aunt, Lady Melbourne, as an intermediary. She rejected the proposal, because of Byron's correlation with Lady Melbourne. Despite the rejection, they were still in a long relationship with her. He proposed for a second time on the 13<sup>th</sup> August of 1814, and this time she accepted his proposal.

# LORD BYRON'S DAUGHTER, AUGUSTA ADA BYRON

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She was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> December of 1815. Byron was disappointed that Annabella didn't give birth to a boy. Five weeks after she was born, Annabella would then leave him, with her Augusta and a maid, going to her parents house. Their marriage lasted 54 weeks. She was a mathematician and the programming language Ada is named after her. She has been called the first computer programmer.



# LORD BYRON'S EXILE

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After facing a lot of pressure from his failed marriage, huge debts and many affairs, Byron decided to leave England and never return. Byron spent the summer of 1816 at Lake Geneva, he'd then go on to travel to Italy, where he would live for 6 years. It was in Italy that he would write some of his most popular poems, including "Don Juan". In July of 1823, Byron would go from Italy to join the Greek rebels who were fighting against the Ottoman Empire. On the 19<sup>th</sup> April of 1824, he would die from a fever in Missolonghi, a city in modern day Greece. His death was mourned throughout Britain. His body was brought back and buried in his old home in Nottinhamshire.

# SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT LORD BYRON

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1. **Byron had a pet bear** – Byron was mad that the University of Cambridge didn't allow dogs. One day, he showed up with a tamed bear to school, to make a mockery of the rules.
2. **Byron had a disability** – he was born with a condition called the club foot. He received many medical treatments, and wore specially-made shoes. He felt extreme pain and was shamed for his foot his whole life.
3. **He suffered from piracy** – Many publishers would steal his work without his permission
4. **Byron's fandom was called the Byromania** – His wife, Annabella, started the fandom. The term Byromania was used to describe Byron's fans. He was one of the first celebrities to receive mass fan letters.

