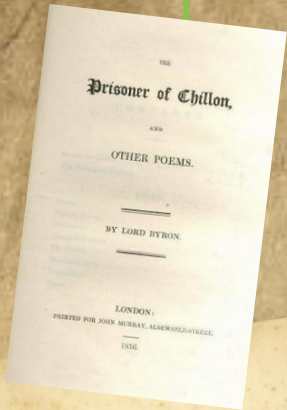


Lord Byron

(1788-1824)



DON JUAN.

"Dittico in prosa concernente Byron"
Don. Epit. di Pisa.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY THOMAS DAVISON, WHITEFRIARS.
1819.

George Kuku, Amy Spracklin, Callie McAlduff, Kenzie Smith, and Avery MacDonald

Byron's Social Class:



Name and family

- Lord Byron's full name was George Gordon Byron
 - He was the son of Catherine Gordon of Gight, and Captain John ("Mad Jack")
 - He gained his title after the death of his great-uncle "Wicked Lord Byron"
-

Byron's Religious background:

“I deny nothing, but doubt everything,” Byron wrote of his religious views in 1811

- He was bred a moderate Presbyterian and grew up around Calvinists during the first part of his life.

- Though as he got older, he became exposed to various types of religious learning.
 - “I am a great reader and admirer of those books – and had read them through & through before I was eight years old – that is to say, the *old* Testament, for the New struck me as a task – but the other as a pleasure” (
-

Byron's education:



- Byron studied at Harrow School in 1801
 - Attended Trinity College, Cambridge, from October 1805 until July 1808
 - He studied until 1808
-

Important Influences

On his life and work



- Mary Chaworth
 - Distant cousin
- Augusta Byron
 - Half sister
- Lady Frances Webster
- Percy Bysshe Shelley



Important Influences

*On his life and work
cont'd*



- John Cam Hobhouse “Hobby”
 - Liberal Whiggism
 - The *Edinburgh Review*
- Neoclassicism

Byron's Reception during his time:



Instant Success

- Childe Harold's Pilgrimage (1812) brought immediate fame
 - Byron: *"I awoke one morning and found myself famous"*
-

Byron's Reception during his time:

International Appeal

- Fame spread beyond England, influencing Europe's literary and social spheres

Byronic Hero

- Byron's complex, rebellious character type—"Byronic hero"—fascinated readers
 - Seen in works like *Manfred* and *The Corsair*
 - Influenced writers such as Victor Hugo
-

Byron's Reception during his time:

Controversial Personal Life

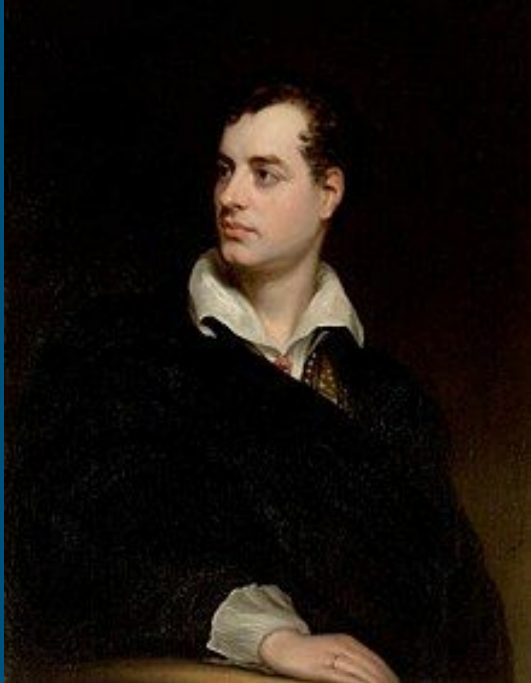
- Scandalous relationships and a libertine lifestyle caused public criticism
- Left England in 1816 due to scandal but maintained literary popularity

Exile and Heroic Status Abroad

- Lived in Italy and Greece; became a national hero in Greece for supporting independence
- His death in 1824 enhanced his mythic status in Romantic literature



BYRON'S IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS



FROM CHILD TO MAN

- Was born with a clubbed right foot. – which disadvantaged him.
- Relationship with his Presbyterian nurse – through which he loved the Bible and had a curiosity for Calvinism doctrines.
- Death of his great uncle, the “Wicked” fifth Lord Byron – which made him the Sixth.
- Love for cousin, Margaret Park – that birthed his love for Poetry.
- Love for another cousin, an engaged Mary Chaworth – that influenced his fables of women.
- Intimate relationship with half-sister, Augusta, five years his senior – that developed his affection more for women.

IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS

CONTD

- Education at Trinity College Cambridge
- Love and Affection for Trinity choir boy, John Edleston
- Distribution of *Fugitive Pieces* in 1806, his first book of Poetry, which led to...
- The subsequent releases of *Poems on Various Occasions* and *Hours of Idleness* in 1807, after consultation with his Literary advisor, Reverend John T. Becher.
- Return to Cambridge and acquaintance with John Cam Hobhouse that led to...
- His joining of the Cambridge Whig Club
- The 1808 criticism of *Hours of Idleness* that changed his writing style.
- His March 1809 joining of House of Lords
- Publication of first major poetic work, *English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers*, A Satire that targeted his critics.
- Tour of the Eastern Mediterranean
- Beginning of autobiographical poem in Greece in which he renamed the hero, Harold.
- Love with the three daughters, and in particular, his “Maid of Athens”

IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS

CONT'D

- Death of mother in August 1811, and John Edleston two months after.
- The 1812 publication of *The Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*,... Byron said “I awoke one morning and found myself famous.”
- Love triangle with lady Caroline Lamb and Anne Isabella Milbanke through Lady Melbourne
- August 1813 letters to Lady Melbourne, which suggested incestuous relationship with his half-sister, Augusta.
- Flirtation with Lady Frances Wedderburn Webster that led to the publication of *The Bride of Abydos*
- Publication of *The Corsair* in February 1814
- *Publication of Ode to Napoleon Bonaparte* anonymously
- Birth of Augusta's child in April 1814,
- Marriage to Annabella in 1815
- Lady Byron and child leaving in January 1816
- Departure from England in May 1816 after formal Separation from Annabella

IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS

CONTD

- The Geneva party of Claire Clairmont, Mary Shelley, and Mary Godwin of 1816.
- Completion of the third canto of *Childe Harold*, in which the Harold character departs.
- His visits to Rome, Venice in 1817 that inspired the Canto IV of *Childe Harold* and *Beppo*
- Encounter and subsequent relationship with Countess Teresa Guiccioli in April 1819,
- Publication of Canto I and II of *Don Juan* in July 1819 which was heavily criticized
- Byron's elopement with The Carbonari of Austria through 1820-1821
- Writing of *Cain, A Mystery* in which he challenged religious beliefs, and *A Vision of Judgment*, about King George III in 1821
- Arrival to friends in Pisa in November 1821
- Death of Allegra, daughter with Claire Clairmont in April 1822
- Election victory to the London Greek Committee, to help the Greek war of Independence after fall out with publisher John Murray, and publication of *The Age of Bronze* in 1823
- Publication of the remaining Cantos of *Don Juan* while Byron was in Greece

IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS CONT'D

- 1824 Publication of Cantos XV and XVI of *Don Juan*
- Eventual death on Easter Monday, 19th April, 1824



IMPORTANT LITERARY WORKS

1. *Fugitive Pieces* of 1806
2. *Poems on Various Occasions* of January 1807
3. *Hours of Idleness* of June 1807
4. *English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers* of March 1809
5. *Hints from Horace* of March 1811
6. *The Curse of Minerva* of 1811
7. *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* of 1812 - 1819
8. *The Giaour* of June 1813
9. *The Bride of Abydos* of December 1813
10. *The Corsair* of February 1814
11. *Lara* of August 1814
12. *Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte* of April 1814
13. *The Siege of Corinth and Parisina* of February 1816
14. *Hebrew Melodies* of April 1816
15. *The Prisoner of Chillon* of December 1816
16. *Beppo, A Venetian Story* of February 1818
17. *Don Juan* of 1819 - 1824
18. *Marino Faliero* of 1821
19. *Sardanapalus*, of 1821
20. *The Two Foscari* of 1821
21. *Cain, A Mystery*, of 1821
22. *The Vision of Judgment* of 1822
23. *The Liberal: Verse and Prose from the South* of 1822
24. *The Age of Bronze* of 1823

Byron's Bear



LORD BYRON & HIS BEAR
Writers & their Pets No.3



While at Trinity College, Lord Byron kept a pet bear, as the college did not permit dogs in the dorms, he even joked that it should have been enrolled for a fellowship.

Byron's Skull Cup



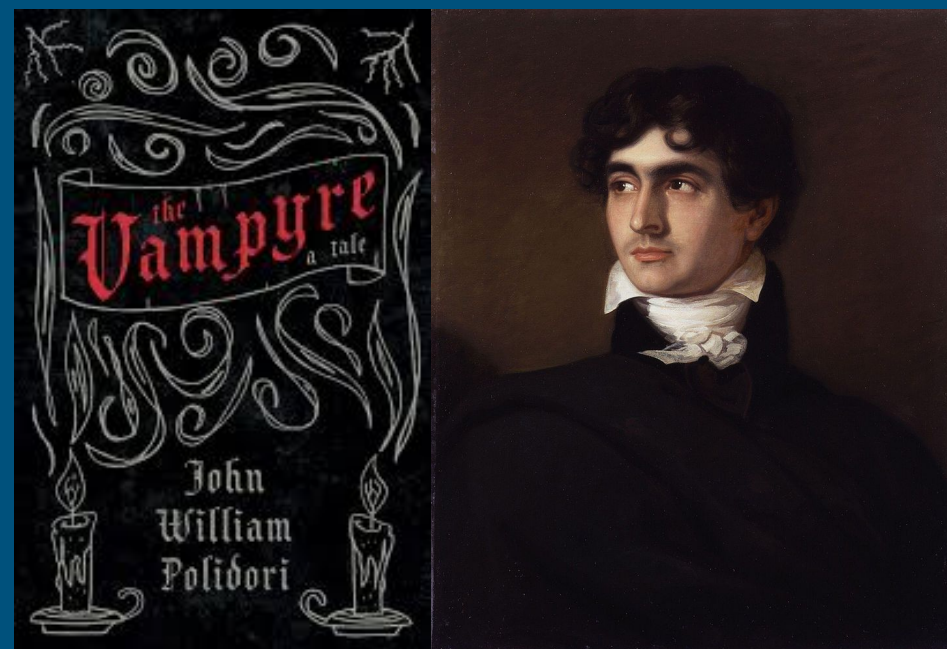
“Observing it to be of giant size, and in a perfect state of preservation, a strange fancy seized me of having it set and mounted as a drinking cup.”

- Lord Byron

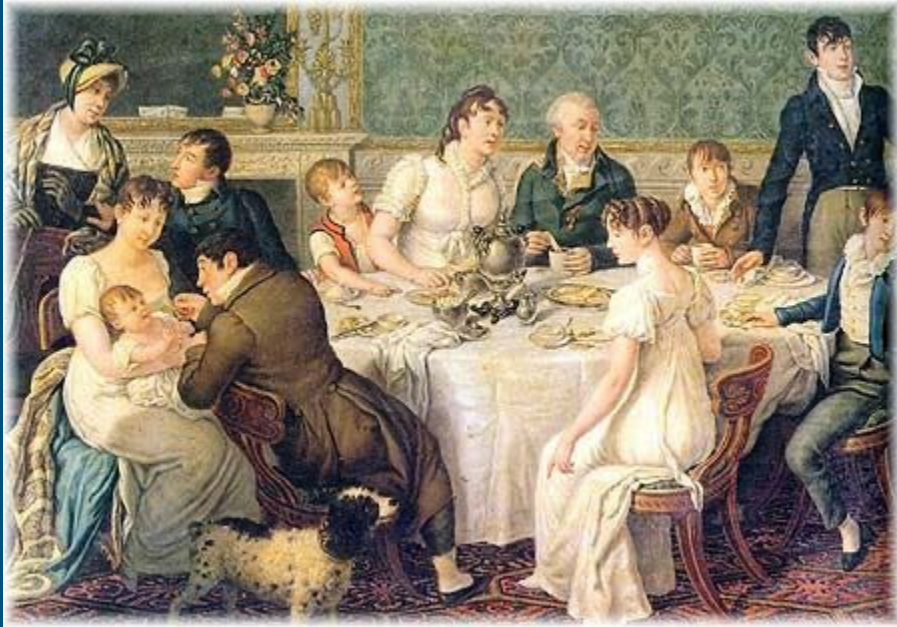


Byron was a Vampire?

On the same evening that Mary Shelley came up with the concept of *Frankenstein*, John William Polidori came up with the concept for his novel *The Vampyre*, the first written vampire novel, whose titular character was based heavily on Lord Byron.



Byron's Breakfast



Early Life:

Byron would have ate eggs, hearty, iron rich meats, possibly fish, and a side dish.

Later Life:

Rolls and bread with butter and preservatives, cakes and/or pies, and a pot of tea or hot chocolate.

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