

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO

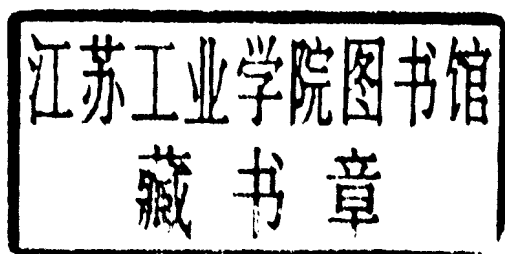


BYRON

Edited by Drummond Bone

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
BYRON

EDITED BY
DRUMMOND BONE



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Cambridge University Press 2004

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2004

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface Sabon 10/13 pt. *System* L^AT_EX 2_ε [TB]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

The Cambridge Companion to Byron / edited by Drummond Bone.

p. cm. – (Cambridge companions to literature)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 78146 9 – ISBN 0 521 78676 2 (pb.)

I. Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788–1824 – Criticism and
interpretation – Handbooks, manuals, etc. 2. Poets, English – Biography – History and
criticism – Handbooks, manuals, etc. 1. Title: Companion to Byron. II. Bone, Drummond.
III. Series.

PR438I.C3423 2004

821'.7 – dc22 2004045102

[B]

ISBN 0 521 78146 9 hardback

ISBN 0 521 78676 2 paperback

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My main debts are to Josie Dixon, who set this project sailing, and to David Leyland, here at the University of Liverpool, without whose help it would not have reached port. Many thanks too are due for the patience of contributors and of Linda Bree at Cambridge University Press. All those in this volume would also like to thank Bernard Beatty, who retires as it is published, for his career-long contribution to Byron studies. And thanks is not quite the right word for all that I owe V. for understanding beyond understanding, and C. for her ever cheerful support.

CONTRIBUTORS

PAUL DOUGLASS is Professor of English at San Jose State University. He has published on American Literature, Modernism and Byron. His books include *Bergson, Eliot, and American Literature* (1986) and *A Selection of Hebrew Melodies, Ancient and Modern* (1988).

PETER W. GRAHAM is Clifford Cutchins Professor of English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His special interest is nineteenth-century British literature and culture and he is the author of studies of Byron including *Byron's Bulldog: Letters to Lord Byron* (1986), *Don Juan and Regency England* (1992), *Articulating the Elephant Man* (with Fritz Oehlschlaeger) (1992), *The Portable Darwin* (with Duncan M. Porter) (1993), and *Lord Byron* (1998).

MALCOLM KELSALL is Professor at the University of Cardiff. His publications include *Byron's Politics* (1987), *The Great Good Place: The Country House and English Literature* (1993), and *Jefferson and the Iconography of Romanticism* (1999).

ANDREW ELFENBEIN is Professor at the Department of English, University of Minnesota. His publications include *Byron and the Victorians* (1995) and *Romantic Genius: The Prehistory of a Homosexual Role* (1999).

PHILIP W. MARTIN was formerly Director of the English Subject Centre at Royal Holloway University of London and is currently Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at De Montfort University. His major publications include *Byron: A Poet Before his Public* (1982), *Mad Women in Romantic Writing* (1987), and *Reviewing Romanticism* (with Robin Jarvis, 1992). He is currently working on the history of handwriting during the Romantic period, and on an edition of the writings of Henry Kirke White.

NIGEL LEASK is Regius Professor of English Literature at the University of Glasgow. In addition to editing Coleridge's *Biographia Literaria* for

Everyman, he has published *The Politics of Imagination in Coleridge's Critical Thought* (1988), *British Romantic Writers and the East* (1992), and *Curiosity and the Aesthetics of Travel-Writing 1770–1840* (2002).

ALAN RAWES lectures at Canterbury Christ Church University College where his research interests are mainly in the poetry of the Romantic period. His publications include *Byron's Poetic Experimentation* (2000), *English Romanticism and The Celtic World* (2003) and *Romantic Biography* (2003). He is the current editor of the *British Association for Romantic Studies Bulletin and Review*.

ALAN RICHARDSON is Professor of English at Boston College. He is author of: *A Mental Theater: Poetic Drama and Consciousness in the Romantic Age* (1988) and *Literature, Education, and Romanticism: Reading as Social Practice, 1780–1832* (1994). He is co-editor (with Sonia Hofkosh) of *Romanticism, Race, and Imperial Culture 1780–1834* (1996). His most recent publication is *British Romanticism and the Science of the Mind* (2001). He has also published numerous essays on Romantic-era literature and culture, particularly in relation to gender, colonialism, and the social construction of childhood.

DRUMMOND BONE is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool. Formerly Principal of Royal Holloway University of London and Professor of English at the Universities of Glasgow and London, he has been academic editor of *The Byron Journal* and is currently a co-editor of *Romanticism*. He has written the Byron volume in the British Council's 'Writers and their Work' series.

SUSAN J. WOLFSON is Professor of English at Princeton University. Her books include *Formal Charges: The Shaping of Poetry in British Romanticism* (1996), *The Questioning Presence: Wordsworth, Keats, and the Interrogative Mode in Romantic Poetry* (1986), and *Lord Byron: Selected Poems*, co-edited with Peter Manning (1996). She has published numerous essays and articles on such subjects as 'Romanticism and Gender Criticism' and on specific issues of gender in the Romantic era.

ANDREW NICHOLSON is the editor of *Lord Byron: The Complete Miscellaneous Prose* (1991) and of various facsimile editions of *Don Juan*, *Beppo* and other poems in *The Manuscripts of the Younger Romantics* series published by Garland. He co-edited with Donald Mitchell *The Mahler Companion* (1999; rev. edn 2002) and is at present editing the letters of John Murray to Byron.

JEROME MCGANN is the editor of the standard edition of *Byron's Poetical Works*, and his many books include *Fiery Dust* (1968), *The Beauty of Inflections* (1985), and *Radiant Textuality* (2004). He has lectured widely in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, and is presently John Stewart Bryan Professor of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century History and Theory of Texts at the University of Virginia.

ANNE BARTON is a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. She is the author of numerous studies of both Byron and Shakespeare including *Byron's Don Juan* (1992) and *Essays, Mainly Shakespearean* (1994).

BERNARD BEATTY teaches at the University of Liverpool and has edited *The Byron Journal* since 1988. Amongst his published works he has written two books on Byron and has edited collections of Byron essays including, with Charles Robinson, *Liberty and Poetic Licence: New Essays on Byron* (2004).

PETER COCHRAN has written many articles on Byron, edited Byron for Garland and others, edits the *Newstead Abbey Byron Society Review* and is Research Fellow of the School of English of Liverpool University. He is currently working on an edition of Michael Rees's translation of Teresa Guiccioli's *Lord Byron's Life in Italy*.

JANE STABLER is Reader in English at the University of St Andrews. She writes on Romantic period poetry and prose, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Jane Austen, Barbauld, and Romantic-period women travellers in Italy. Her publications include *Burke to Byron, Barbauld to Baillie, 1790–1830* (2002) and *Byron, Poetics and History* (2002).

CHRONOLOGY

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| | 1778 | |
| John Byron elopes with Amelia D'Arcy, Marchioness Carmarthen. | | William Hazlitt b.; Voltaire d.; Rousseau d. |
| | 1779 | |
| John Byron marries Marchioness Carmarthen. | | Thomas Moore b.; John Galt b.; David Garrick d. |
| | 1780 | |
| | | Gordon Riots. |
| | 1781 | |
| | | British surrender at Yorktown; Schiller's <i>Die Räuber</i> ; Kant's <i>Kritik der reinen Vernunft</i> (Critique of Pure Reason). |
| | 1782 | |
| | | Laclos, <i>Liaisons Dangereuses</i> ; James Watt patents his double-acting steam engine. |
| | 1783 | |
| Birth of Augusta Byron, daughter of John Byron and Amelia D'Arcy. | | Peace of Versailles; The Paris Peace Treaty; Britain recognises United States of America; Stendhal b.; Crabbe's <i>The Village</i> ; Montgolfier brothers' hot-air balloon flights in Paris. |
| | 1784 | |
| Lady Carmarthen dies. | | Leigh Hunt b.; Samuel Johnson d.; Diderot d.; Wesley establishes Methodism. |

- John Byron marries Catherine Gordon (13 May).
- 1785
Thomas de Quincey b.; Thomas Love Peacock b.; Lady Caroline Lamb b.
- 1786
John Cam Hobhouse b.; Robert Burns, *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*; Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.
- 1787
Signing of the American Constitution; Schiller's *Don Carlos*; Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.
- 1788
George Gordon Byron, son of John Byron and Catherine Gordon, born on 22 January, at 16 Holles Street, Cavendish Square, London. Christened, 29 February, in Marylebone parish church.
- 1789
Kant's *Kritik der praktischen Vernunft* (Critique of Practical Reason); *The Times* first published.
- 1789
First colony established in Australia; Fall of the Bastille, 14 July; the beginning of the French Revolution; George Washington becomes first President of United States; Edmund Kean b.; Jeremy Bentham's *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*.
- 1790
Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*; Adam Smith, author of *Wealth of Nations* (1776), d.
- 1791
Mozart d.
- Death of Byron's father, John Byron.

1792

Percy Shelley b.; Samuel Rogers' *Pleasures of Memory, with Other Poems*; Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*; Tom Paine escapes to France whilst British government prepares for his treason trial.

1793

Louis XVI executed; John Clare b.; Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*.

1794

Death of William Byron makes George Gordon heir to title and estates. Enters Aberdeen Grammar School.

Edward Gibbon d.; Gifford's *Baviad*; Godwin's *Caleb Williams*; Southey's *Fall of Robespierre*; Radcliffe's *Mysteries of Udolpho*.

1795

John Keats b.; Thomas Carlyle b.; James Boswell d.; William Blake's *Book of Los*; *Book of Ahania* and *Song of Los*; Southey's *Joan of Arc*; John Murray, Byron's future publisher, succeeds to his father's business.

1796

Robert Burns d.; Coleridge's *Poems on Various Subjects*.

1797

Franz Schubert b.; Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (Shelley) b.; Mary Wollstonecraft d.; Horace Walpole d.

1798

Inherits title, Lord Byron of Newstead and Rochdale and moves to Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire.

Lyrical Ballads published anonymously; Malthus's *Essay on the Principle of Population*; the Irish rebellion.

1799

Byron travels to London. His club foot is examined by Dr Baillie and Dr Laurie. Byron enters Dr Glennie's school in Dulwich.

Thomas Jefferson becomes second President of the United States; *coup d'état* in France sees Napoleon seize power.

1800

Second edition of *Lyrical Ballads* published with Wordsworth's preface; Haydn's *The Seasons*; Alessandro Volta describes the voltaic 'pile' to Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society.

1801

Byron enters Harrow.

Peace of Amiens; William Pitt resigns as Prime Minister; the Act of Union with Ireland receives royal assent; invention of the steam-powered locomotive.

1802

War between Britain and France ends.

1803

Byron's mother moves into Burgage Manor, Southwell. In October, Byron begins his unrequited idealised love for his cousin, Mary Chaworth.

After Napoleon breaks peace treaty, Britain declares war on France; US pays \$15 million to France for the Louisiana Territory.

1804

In Southwell, meets Elizabeth Pigot; returns to Harrow and takes part in the Speech Day.

Sir Walter Scott, *Lay of the Last Minstrel*; Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell*.

1805

Byron takes part in Harrow's Speech Day. In Harrow cricket team for their match in London, 2 August. Byron arrives at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Napoleon proclaimed king of Italy. Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson dies at Trafalgar; Beethoven's *Eroica* symphony first performed; Joseph Turner's *The Shipwreck*.

1806

Fugitive Pieces published.

John Stuart Mill b.; publication of Bowles's edition of Pope.

1807

Poems on Various Occasions published, January. Keeps tame bear at Cambridge; joins Cambridge Whig club; returns to London, July; Byron's review of Wordsworth's *Poems in Monthly Literary Recreations*; *Hours of Idleness* published.

William Pitt d.; The Abolition Bill is passed, outlawing the slave trade; Crabb's *The Parish Register*; Thomas Moore's *Irish Melodies*; Mme De Staël's *Corinne*; first gas-lights in streets of London.

1808

Received his MA from Cambridge; receives scathing criticism from the *Edinburgh Review*.

Start of the Peninsular War; the United States bans the import of slaves; Convention of Cintra signed; Leigh Hunt founds *The Examiner*; Goethe's *Faust* (Pt. 1); Goya's *Execution of the Citizens of Madrid*.

1809

Takes seat in House of Lords; anonymous publication of *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*; Byron leaves Falmouth on the *Princess Elizabeth* to begin his first tour of Portugal, Spain, Malta, Albania and Greece. Reception by Ali Pasha. Byron finishes the first canto of *Childe Harold*

Charles Darwin b.; Alfred Tennyson b.; Thomas Paine d.

1810

Completes *Childe Harold* Canto II. On 16 April, Byron attempts to swim across the Hellespont but fails because of cold weather and strong currents. Successfully swims the Hellespont, 3 May.

Baillie's *Family Legend*; Hogg's *Forest Minstrel*, Goethe's *Pandora*; H. von Kleist's *Käthchen von Heilbronn*.

1811

Moved by hearing of the death of John Edleston, Byron writes poems addressed to 'Thyzra'. Hears Coleridge lecture. Death, on 1 August, of Byron's mother, Catherine Gordon. He writes 'Hints from Horace' and *The Curse of Minerva*.

Shelley expelled from Oxford, marries Harriet Westbrook; the Prince of Wales becomes Regent; Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*; Luddite riots.

1812

Maiden speech in the House of Lords. *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, Cantos 1 and 11 published. In March, he meets Lady Caroline Lamb with whom he begins a three-month affair. On 12 March, writes letter to Walter Scott apologising for *English Bards*. Writes *The Waltz*. 'Parenthetical Address, by Dr. Plagiary' printed in the *Morning Chronicle*.

Robert Browning b.; Charles Dickens b.; Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval, assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons. US declares war on Great Britain; Beethoven meets Goethe; Napoleon invades Russia

1813

Lionised by London society; politically active in Whig cause; Byron attends dinner at Lady Jersey's and meets Madame de Staël; speaks in the House of Lords; possible affair with half-sister, Augusta; publications of *The Giaour*, and *The Bride of Abydos*.

Hobhouse's *A Journey Through Albania and Other Provinces of Turkey in Europe and Asia to Constantinople*; Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*; Robert Southey becomes poet laureate; Leigh Hunt imprisoned.

1814

Publication of *The Corsair* and *Lara*. 10,000 copies of *The Corsair* sold in a day. Byron admires Edmund Kean's performance in *Richard III*.

Napoleon abdicates; Scott's *Waverley*.

1815

Byron marries Annabella Milbanke on 2 January. Birth, 10 December, of daughter, Ada. Publication of *Hebrew Melodies*, containing many of Byron's best-known lyrics.

Riots in London against the Corn Law; restored Bourbon monarchy in France under Louis XVIII; Napoleon escapes Elba; British victory at Waterloo.

1816

Separation of Byron and Annabella. Publication of *The Prisoner of Chillon*, *The Siege of Corinth* and *Parisina*. Byron's books are sold in a public auction for a total of £723 12s 6d. Byron leaves England for last time. Visits the fields of Waterloo. Byron and Shelley sail around the northern shore of Lake Geneva. Spends the summer with the Shelleys in Switzerland. Views Voltaire's château with 'Monk' Lewis. Moves in October to Milan and meets Italian revolutionary circle. Moves in November to Venice. Completes Canto III of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. *Childe Harold* Canto III published.

Richard Sheridan d.; marriage of Shelley and Mary Godwin; Shelley's *Alastor*; anonymous publication of Lady Caroline Lamb's *Glenarvon*; Southey's *Poet's Pilgrimage to Waterloo*; Leigh Hunt's *The Story of Rimini*; Jane Austen's *Emma*; Walter Scott's *Old Mortality*; Goethe's *Italienische Reise*; Schubert's Symphonies nos. 4-5.

1817

Claire Claremont (Mary Shelley's half-sister) gives birth to Byron's illegitimate daughter, Allegra; publication of *Manfred*; Newstead Abbey sold to Thomas Wildman for £94,500; visits Rome and *Childe Harold* Canto IV written.

Jane Austen d.; Keats' *Poems*; the 21-year-old Princess Charlotte dies in childbirth; Coleridge's *Biographia Literaria*; Heman's *Modern Greece*; Scott's *Rob Roy*; Monroe becomes President of USA; *Blackwood's Magazine* founded.

1818

Mainly in or near Venice. Sends Murray manuscript of *Beppo*. *Beppo* is published. First meets Teresa Guiccioli. Lady Melbourne dies. *Childe Harold* Canto IV published. Byron wins swimming contest against Mengaldo. Begins *Don Juan*.

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*; Percy Shelley's *Ozymandias* and *Revolt of Islam*; Thomas Love Peacock's *Nightmare Abbey*; Hazlitt's *Lectures on the English Poets*; Keats's *Endymion*; Caspar David Friedrich's *Wanderer above the Sea of Fog*; attack on Keats in *Quarterly Review*.

1819

Begins affair with Countess Teresa Guiccioli. Writes the *Prophecy of Dante*; leaves Venice for Ravenna; arrives in Ravenna; *Mazeppa* is published with the *Ode on Venice*. *Don Juan* Cantos I and II published anonymously by John Murray. Accompanies Thomas Moore to Venice. Gives Moore his memoirs.

Wordsworth's *Peter Bell* and *The Waggoner*; Shelley's *Masque of Anarchy*; the Peterloo massacre in which 11 are killed and over 500 injured; US purchases Florida from Spain.

1820

Moves to Ravenna; Teresa Guiccioli separates from her husband; Byron sends Murray Cantos III and IV of *Don Juan*; Pope grants Teresa Guiccioli separation; Byron begins Canto V of *Don Juan*.

George III dies; George IV proclaimed king; Shelley's *The Cenci*; Keats's *Lamia*, *Isabella*, and *Hyperion*; Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound* published; Scott's *Ivanhoe*; Venus de Milo discovered on Greek island of Melos.

1821

Byron follows Teresa Guiccioli's exiled family to Pisa; Byron begins his 'Ravenna Journal'; *Marino Faliero* published 21 April; writes *Sardanapalus*, *The Two Foscari*, and *Cain*, all of which are published in a single volume on 19 December; writes *The Blues*; writes *The Vision of Judgment*; begins *Heaven and Earth*.

Napoleon d.; Keats d. (aged 25); Queen Caroline d.; Baillie's *Metrical Legends*; Hazlitt's *Table Talk*; Southey's *A Vision of Judgement*; Michael Faraday demonstrates electro-magnetic rotation; Greek War of Independence begins.

1822

September, Byron moves with the Gambas to Genoa; daughter, Allegra, dies in convent at Bagnacavallo; Byron begins Canto XI of *Don Juan*; *Vision of Judgment* and *Werner* published; begins to write *Age of Bronze*.

Shelley publishes *Hellas*; Shelley drowns off the coast of Viareggio, Italy; Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh, commits suicide; Heine's *Gedichte*.

1823

Byron sails for Greece, July; arrives in Cephalonia on 3 August; *Heaven and Earth*, *Age of Bronze*, and *The Island* published.

Ann Radcliffe d.; Carlyle's *Life of Schiller*; Lamartine, *Nouvelles Méditations*; Hazlitt's *Liber Amoris* and *Characteristics*; Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

1824

Byron arrives in Missolonghi, Greece on 5 January; develops fever; dies, aged 36, on 19 April; public attend Byron's lying in state, 10 and 11 July; buried at Hucknall Church, England, 16 July.

James Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*; Thomas Medwin's *Journal of Conversations with Lord Byron*; Scott's *Redgauntlet*; Southey's *Book of the Church*.

1825

Dallas's *Correspondence of Lord Byron*; Moore's *Life of Sheridan* and *Evenings in Greece*; Hazlitt's *Spirit of the Age*; John Quincy Adams becomes President of the USA; opening of the Stockton and Darlington railway in England.

ABBREVIATIONS

The following short titles have been used throughout this volume:

- BLJ:* *Byron's Letters and Journals*, ed. by Leslie A. Marchand, 13 vols. (London: John Murray, 1973–94);
- CMP:* *Lord Byron: The Complete Miscellaneous Prose*, ed. Andrew Nicholson (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991);
- CPW:* *Lord Byron: The Complete Poetical Works*, ed. Jerome J. McGann, 7 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980–93);
- HVSV:* *His Very Self and Voice: Collected Conversations of Lord Byron*, ed. Ernest J. Lovell Jnr (New York: Macmillan, 1954).