**Descriptive Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creator:</th>
<th>Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>George Gordon Byron Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates:</td>
<td>1642-1968 (bulk 1798-1830)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>8 document boxes, 1 bound volume, 7 oversize boxes, 3 oversize folders (6.3 linear feet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract:</td>
<td>The George Gordon Byron papers consist of manuscripts, letters, an account book, engravings, handwritten musical scores, wills and other documents, and clippings, all ranging in date from 1642 to 1968, with the majority dating from 1798 to 1830.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLIN Record ID:</td>
<td>TXRC07-A0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access:</td>
<td>Open for research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Information**

| Processed by: | Katherine Mosley, 2007 |
| Repository: | The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center |
Biographical Sketch

George Gordon Byron was born in London on January 22, 1788, the son of John "Mad Jack" Byron and Catherine Gordon. His father, having spent his wife’s inheritance, eventually left for France, where he died when Byron was three. Byron and his mother lived in Aberdeen until he became the sixth Baron Byron of Rochdale upon the death of his great uncle, William John Byron, in 1798. At that point, mother and son returned to England and lived briefly at the ancestral estate, Newstead Abbey. John Hanson, the family’s solicitor, brought Byron to London for professional treatment of his clubbed foot and enrolled him in school in Dulwich. Byron attended Harrow from 1801 to 1805, then Trinity College, Cambridge, where he received his degree in 1808.

Byron had his first book of poetry, *Fugitive Pieces*, privately printed by John Ridge in 1806. Because friends, particularly Reverend Thomas Becher, criticized the work’s eroticism, he suppressed its publication and revised it as *Poems on Various Occasions* (1807). The work continued to be revised and was published publicly first as *Hours of Idleness, A Series of Poems, Original and Translated* (1808), with a second edition, revised, appearing in 1808. An unfavorable review of Hours of Idleness spurred Byron to write his first major poetic work, *English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers* (1809), a satirical jab at critics and poets of the day that also expressed his admiration of neoclassical poets such as John Dryden and Alexander Pope.

Byron toured the eastern Mediterranean from 1809 to 1811, writing *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage* (1812) along the way. The 500 copies of the first edition of Childe Harold, published by John Murray, sold out in three days, and Byron found himself famous overnight. The most popular poet of his day, Byron is still considered the embodiment of English Romanticism. Over the next few years he published six Romantic verse narratives: *The Giaour* (1813), *The Bride of Abydos* (1813), *The Corsair* (1814), *Lara* (1814), and *The Siege of Corinth and Parasina* (1816). All of these were well received. Murray continued as Byron’s publisher until 1823.

Byron’s intriguing private life contributed to his popularity. He had affairs with numerous women and a few men; the most scandalous was with Lady Caroline Lamb. He also may have had a physical relationship with his half sister, Augusta Leigh, to whom he was especially close. In 1815, Byron married Anne Isabella (Annabella) Milbanke. When Annabella’s uncle, Lord Wentworth, died later that year, the Milbanke family changed their name to Noel as his will directed. Byron also added the name Noel, becoming George Gordon Noel Byron. Byron’s severe financial difficulties caused him to drink heavily and become hostile to family members, particularly his wife. In 1816, Annabella left him, taking their infant daughter, Augusta Ada Byron, to her parents’ home. Charges of cruelty and adultery were augmented by rumors of an incestuous relationship with Augusta Leigh, and Byron agreed to a legal separation. He left England for Switzerland, where he was met by fellow poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, his wife Mary Godwin, and Godwin’s stepsister Claire (Jane) Clairmont, who was pregnant with Byron’s child (Clara Allegra, who died at age five). Byron and Shelley developed a close friendship, and Byron wrote several poems during this time, including "The Prisoner of Chillon" and "Prometheus." These were followed by *Manfred* (1817), a
Faustian tragedy.

After spending four months in Switzerland, Byron traveled to Italy, where he spent the next seven years. Experimenting with a new style (verse in ottava rima), he wrote *Beppo* (1818), which was a more lighthearted work than his previous writings. This style was repeated in his acclaimed *Don Juan*, an epic satire left unfinished at the time of his death. He also wrote several dramas, including *Sardanapalus*, *The Two Foscari*, and *Cain, A Mystery* (1821), which reflected his growing interest in political issues.

In Italy, Byron initially led a life of debauchery, but in 1819 he formed a lasting attachment with the Countess Teresa Guiccioli. In July 1823, Byron sailed for Greece to assist with the war of independence from the Turks. He caught a fever, was bled with leeches, and died on April 19, 1824.

Sources:


Scope and Contents

The George Gordon Byron papers consist of manuscripts, letters, an account book, engravings, handwritten musical scores, wills and other documents, and clippings, all ranging in date from 1642 to 1968, with the majority dating from 1798-1830. The material is organized in three series: I. Works and Personal Papers, 1805-1829, 1968, undated; II. Correspondence, 1798-1832, 1859, undated; and III. Third Party Correspondence and Manuscripts, 1642, 1761, 1782-1872, 1896-1949, undated. This collection was previously accessible through a card catalog but has been re-cataloged as part of a retrospective conversion project.

The Works series is arranged alphabetically by title. While most of the manuscripts are in Byron’s hand, some are copies in the hand of his wife, Anne Isabella Milbanke Byron, and other persons. Typescript copies are also present. Among Byron’s manuscripts are *Cain, A Mystery*; Canto VIII and Canto IX of *Don Juan*; *The Island: Or, Christian and His Comrades*; *Ode to Napoléon Buonaparte*; *Sardanapolis*; and *The Siege of Corinth*. *English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers* is represented by a handwritten fragment by Byron, as well as a bound copy in an unidentified hand; an 1817 bound copy in an unidentified hand of the fourth edition; and a printed book interleaved with pasted-in autographs, manuscript notes, portraits of well-known authors, and copies of poems about Byron dating from 1812-1819. Many of Byron’s short poems are present,
including "Childish Recollections," "I Saw Thee Weep," "To a Knot of Ungenerous Critics," and "To E. N. Long." Also included are an account book dating from 1819 to 1820, with additional entries by Teresa Guiccioli, and a draft and final copy of Byron’s 1811 will.

The Correspondence series is divided into two subseries: A. Letters, 1806-1831, undated; and B. Bound Letters, 1798-1832, 1859, undated. Subseries A consists of Byron’s outgoing letters, with the exception of letters from Thomas Denman to his sister, Joseph Jekyll to Thomas Ryder, and Georg Freiherr von Ompteda to _____ Delafield, all located with Byron’s letter to John Jackson. Subseries B., Bound Letters, consists of letters by Byron and others, bound together or formerly bound together, and contains some items other than letters. Most of the bound letters are outgoing letters from Byron, but Letters I includes letters from Teresa Guiccioli to Marguerite Blessington, Caroline Lamb to Sydney Morgan, Judith Wentworth Noel to James Burges, a pencil drawing by Caroline Lamb, manuscripts by Byron, and two locks of Byron’s hair, as well as engravings and an illuminated history of Newstead Abbey. Included with Byron’s letters in Letters III are letters from Lady Byron to Anna Jameson, Emily Milner, and Lady Portsmouth; from Catherine Gordon Byron to Augusta Leigh and James Farquhar; from Charlotte Williams to her uncle; from Lega Zambelli to Geo. Battia Missiaglia; and manuscript poems by Lady Byron. Incoming letters to Byron from Edward Dawkins, _____ Storiferri, and John Taaffe, as well as letters between those men, Lorenzo Collini, W. Dunn, Captain John Hay, Marquis Mansi, and Lega Zambelli, all regarding the Pisan Affray, are bound together in Letters IV. Letters V includes, besides letters by Byron, letters by R. Goddard and Caroline Lamb to Sydney Morgan, a note by Lady Morgan, a handwritten charter of the brig "Hercules" by Byron and John Scott, artwork of Greek revolutionaries by Henry Martin, and a manuscript of Byron’s translation of Riga’s "War Song of the Greeks." Letters VI includes letters from Byron to Daniel Roberts and James Holmes regarding the death of Percy Bysshe Shelley, as well as engravings of the poets and clippings about Shelley. In Letters VII, a letter from Catherine Gordon Byron to John Hanson is located with letters from Byron to John Ridge, William John Bankes, and an unidentified recipient regarding his Poems on Various Occasions and Hours of Idleness, as well as an illustration of Byron at Cambridge. Letters II and Letters X through XIV all contain only letters from Byron, including one from Byron to Daniel Roberts regarding Shelley’s death.

Series III., Third Party Correspondence and Manuscripts, includes letters and manuscript poems by Anne Isabella Milbanke Byron; correspondence by Catherine Gordon Byron; musical manuscripts by Thomas Hastings, including the opera he composed based on Byron’s Manfred; and a manuscript by Elizabeth Bridget Pigot of The Wonderful History of Lord Byron & His Dog, as well as correspondence by other individuals. Within numbered miscellaneous groups, there are letters from Augusta Leigh to Anne Isabella Milbanke Bryon, Francis Hodgson, and others; letters regarding Byron’s birth; letters from Teresa Guiccioli regarding Byron; a bound collection of poems, articles, and other materials relating to Byron; and letters from Anne Isabella Milbanke Bryon, primarily to her friend Harriet Siddons.

A complete Index of Correspondents in the Byron archive is located at the end of this inventory. All works by Byron and others are listed in the Index of Works.
Related Material

Other materials relating to Byron at the Ransom Center may be found in the Prints Collection as well as the Augusta Leigh, Walter Scott, and Percy Bysshe Shelley manuscript collections and the Stark Collection of books.

Separated Material

An 1823 pencil sketch of Byron by Alfred Guillaume Gabriel D’Orsay and an 1824 oil on ivory painting by G. H. Harding of Byron dressed in Greek costume have been removed to the Center’s Art Collection.

Index Terms

People

Becher, J. T. (John Thomas), 1770-1840.
Blessington, Charles John Gardiner, Lord.
Broughton, John Cam Hobhouse, Baron, 1786-1869.
Burges, James Bland, Sir, 1752-1824.
Byron, Anne Isabella Milbanke Byron, Baroness, 1792-1860.
Byron, Catherine Gordon.
Byron, John, 1756-1791.
Clarke, Edward Daniel, 1769-1822.
Crombie, Alexander, 1762?-1840?
Crosby, Ben.
Dallas, Robert Charles.
Dawkins, Edward James, 1792-1865.
Farquhar, James.
Guiccioli, Alessandre, 1817-1840.
Guiccioli, Teresa, contessa di, 1800-1873.
Hanson, John.

Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824
Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824

Hardy, Anne Louisa Emily Berkeley, Lady.
Harrington, Leicester Stanhope, Earl of, 1784-1862.
Hodgson, Francis, 1781-1852.
Lamb, Caroline, Lady, 1785-1828.
Lamb, Caroline Rosalie St. Jules, Lady.
Leigh, Augusta, 1784-1851.
Lovelace, Ada King, Countess of, 1815-1852.
Maurokordatos, Alexandros, 1791-1865.
Morgan, Lady (Sydney), 1783-1859.
Murray, John, 1778-1843.
Pigot, Elizabeth Bridget, 1783-1866.
Ridge, John.
Roberts, Daniel.
Scott, Walter, Sir, 1771-1832.
Siddons, Harriet, 1783-1844.
Staël, Madame de (Anne-Louise-Germaine), 1766-1817.
Taaffe, John, 1787-1862.
Trelawny, Edward John, 1792-1881.
Webster-Wedderburn, James, Sir, 1789-1840.

Subjects
Authors, English.
English literature.
Poets, English.
Romanticism.

Document Types
Account books.
Scores.
Wills.
Series I. Works and Personal Papers, 1805-1829, 1968, undated

A-Z

"Adieu to the Muse"

Manuscript, 1807

Manuscript copy in unidentified hand, 1828

"Bright Be the Place of Thy Soul!," manuscript copy in the hand of Lady Bryon with revisions in Lord Byron’s hand, [1815] (previously in Misc. I)

Cain, A Mystery

Bound manuscript, 1821 (Works II)

Lord Byron’s Cain: Twelve Essays and a Text with Variants and Annotations by Truman Guy Steffan, printed fascicles, 1968

"Childish Recollections" [poem], manuscript, undated (Works IV)

"Demise by Way of Mortgage," manuscript, undated (Works V, *removed to oversize folder 1)

Don Juan

Canto VIII, manuscript, July 1822 (*removed to oversize box 8)

Canto IX, Stanzas 1-8 [and Canto III, Stanzas 1-2], manuscript, 10 July 1819

English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers

Manuscript fragment. Bound with letter from Catherine Gordon Byron to John Hanson, 1809; letter from Byron to Hodgson, 1809; printed portrait of Byron, 1829; and color print of Newstead Abbey (Works VIII)
Bound manuscript copy in unknown hand, [1809?] (Works IX)

Bound manuscript copy in unknown hand of the fourth edition, 1817

Printed book (2nd edition, London, 1809). Interleaved with portraits and signatures of Wordsworth, Southey, et. al.; undated letter from Sir Walter Scott to Dr. Clarke; and manuscript notes, including copy of excerpt of letter from Byron to John Murray, 7 February 1821. Bound with copies of poems re. Byron by various authors, 1812-1819, and with receipt from Byron to John Hanson, 23 April 1806, pasted in (Works XXI)

[ "From the French" ] "Must thou go, my glorious chief...," manuscript copy in the hand of Lady Byron, undated (previously in Misc. I)

"I Saw Thee Weep" [poem, from Hebrew Melodies ], manuscript, undated (Works X)

The Island: or, Christian and His Comrades , manuscript, 10-14 January 1823 (*Works XI, removed to oversize box 8)

Ode to Napoléon Buonaparte

Bound manuscript titled "Ode," undated. With color portrait of Napoleon (*Works XII, removed to oversize box 9)

Illuminated miniature manuscript copy by B. N. Budd, undated (Works XIII)

Personal Papers

Account book, 1819-1820, with additional entries by Countess Guiccioli, and handwritten fragment, undated (previously in Miscellaneous)

Last will and testament, bound manuscript draft, 1811 (*Misc. VI, removed to oversize box 10)
Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824

Last will and testament, manuscript, 23 August 1811 (*Misc. VII, removed to oversize box 11)

[Poems] "[Lines] to a lady weeping" ; "From the Turkish" ; "Two sonnets to Genevra" ; "Farewell" ; manuscript in unidentified hand, March 1812 (previously in Miscellaneous)

"Prim Mary Ann" [poem], manuscript, ca. 1805, bound with typescript copy (Works XIV)

Sardanapolus, manuscript, with notes for the play, undated (Works XVI, *removed to oversize box 12)

The Siege of Corinth, manuscript, undated, and printed pages, bound, 30 _____ 1815, with engraving of Byron by T. Lupton, 1824 (Works XVII, *removed to oversize box 9)

"Soliloquy of a Bard in the Country" [poem], manuscript, [1806], with manuscript copy [by Elizabeth Pigot], undated (Works XVIII)

"Some Recollections of My Acquaintance with Madame Staël," manuscript, 4 August 1821 (Works XV, *removed to oversize folder 2)

"To a Knot of Ungenerous Critics," manuscript, 1 December 1806, bound with typescript copy (Works XX)

"To E. N. [Edward Noel] Long" [poem], manuscript, undated, bound with typescript copy (Works XIX)

"To Mr. Phillips the bookseller" [poem], photocopy and typescript copy of manuscript / forgery by Major George Byron written on six blank pages of vol. 4 of an edition of The Works of Peter Pindar. Written on blank page preceding the poem is a note in the same hand about Peter Pindar's (Dr. Walcot's) supposed prophecy concerning Alderman Skinner of London. (*Original manuscript is located with the Stark Library, HRC STARK 6821-6821C HRC STK)
Series II. Correspondence, 1798-1832, 1859, undated

Subseries A. Letters, 1806-1831, undated

Unidentified, December 1814 and 15 July 1821

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Folder 9

Blessington, Charles John Gardiner, 1st Earl of

Folder 10

C-D

Folder 11

Crosby, Ben

Folder 12

E-G

Folder 13

Ha-He

Folder 14

Hardy, Anne Louisa Emily Berkeley, Lady

Folder 15

Ho-Hz

Box 4 Folder 1

I-S

Folder 2

T-Z

Folder 3

Subseries B. Bound Letters, 1798-1832, 1859, undated

Letters I, "The Abbey of Newstede: Photographs, Letters, Manuscripts, and Pictures Relating To Newstead Abbey," illuminated history of the abbey, letters, and engravings, 1803-1832, undated; with note re. drawing by Caroline Lamb, undated; manuscripts of untitled verse, [1807]; preface to Hours of Idleness, undated; "Lines to Mr. Hodgson," 1809; and Ossian’s Address to the Sun in Carthon, 1805

Folder *


Folder 4

Letters III, Letters and poem by Byron, undated, 1807-1823; letters and poems by Anne Isabella Milbanke Byron, 1854, undated; and letters by Catherine Gordon Byron, 1798, 1801 (*removed to oversize box 14)

Folder *

Letters IV, Dawkins, Edward / Pisan Affray, 1822

Folder 5
Letters V, "Byroniana," letters by Byron and others, 1823-1828, with handwritten manuscript of Byron’s translation of Riga’s *The War Song of the Greeks*, undated; charter document for the brig "Hercules," undated; and two portraits of Greek revolutionaries by Henry Martin, undated (*removed to oversize box 9)

Letters VI, letters "Concerning the Drowning of Shelley," 1822-1823, bound with engravings of Byron, Shelley, etc. and clippings re. Shelley

Letters VII, Relating to *Poems on Various Occasions and Hours of Idleness*, 1805-1807

Letters X, Blessington, Charles John Gardiner, Lord, 1823

Letters XI, Dallas, Robert Charles, 1811

Letters XII, Hanson, John, 1815

Letters XIII, Harness, William, 1808-1811

Series III. Third Party Correspondence and Manuscripts, 1642, 1761, 1782-1872, 1896-1949, undated

Byron, Anne Isabella Milbanke. Manuscript poem to Miss Milner beginning "To say - to feel - 'I take my all...,'" undated, and correspondence, 1819, 1845, 1846, undated

Byron, Catherine Gordon. Correspondence, 1809, 1811

Byron, William Byron. Letter, 1761

Grioli, Letiando. Correspondence, 1839, 1840

Guiccioli, Alessandro. Correspondence, 1820-1830, and petition to the Pope, Leo XII, undated

Guiccioli, Ignazio. Letter, 1827

Guiccioli, Teresa. Note, undated

Hanson, Charles. Handwritten note, 1845, explaining envelope of 12 March 1808 by Urania, Countess Dowager of Portsmouth

Hastings, Thomas. *Manfred* (Opera composed by Thomas Hastings, from the dramatic poem of Lord Byron), handwritten musical score, 1833-1836. Bound with his "Bird of the Wilderness," music manuscript, 1831, and "Hear O Israel," two music manuscripts, undated, 1836 (altered 1843); and engraving of Astarte by H. T. Ryall, 1835

House, Aston. Letter, 1837

King, A. I. Noel. Letters re. "Powerless are thy magic numbers..." by Anne Byron, undated


Montanari, D. Copy of letter, 1824

Murray, John. Letter, 1829
Pigot, Cuthbert Becher. Correspondence, 1934, 1949

Pigot, Elizabeth Bridget. The Wonderful History of Lord Byron & His Dog, signed and illustrated manuscript, 1807. With photograph of Pigot and note by Pigot, 1854

Pratt, Willis Winslow. "Lord Byron and His Circle: A Calendar of Manuscripts in the University of Texas Library," corrected typescript, undated

Wurts, Louisa West. Letter, 1905, re. portrait of Byron by William E. West

Zilari, Susan. Letter, 1942, re. "Powerless are thy Magic numbers..." by Anne Byron

Numbered Manuscript Groups:

Misc. I

Unidentified author

"Byromania" and "Divination," manuscript copies in the hand of Lady Byron, possibly cut from an album, undated

"From thee such strains..." [poem], manuscript, undated

"George Byron, son of J[ohn] Byron," manuscript fragment re. Byron’s right to inherit barony, undated

"On the Death of Lord Byron," manuscript, undated

Bolton, Samuel. Correspondence, 1798

Boord & Ridpath. Letter, 1798

Byron, Anne Isabella Milbanke Byron, baroness
Manuscript poems, 1822, 1833, undated, and printed poem, undated  

"Powerless are thy magic numbers..." [untitled poem in response to Byron’s "Fare Thee Well," attributed to Lady Byron], manuscript in unidentified hand, undated

Correspondence, 1814, 1817, 1827

Correspondence to Augusta Leigh, [1815-1851?]

Byron, Catherine Gordon. Correspondence, 1788, 1798, undated

Byron, Elizabeth Shaw. Letter, 14 January n.y.

Byron, John. Handwritten will, 21 June 1791

Byron, John, 1723-1786. Letter, 21 February 1784 (*oversize folder 3)

Byron, John Byron, Baron, 1598 or 9-1652. Correspondence, 1642

Byron, Sophia Trevannion. Correspondence, 1782, n.y.

Byron, William Byron, Baron. Letter, 1778

Byron, William John. Correspondence, 1784, 1791

[Colman, George]. "To the Anti-Slavery Advocate," manuscript copy in the hand of Lady Byron, undated. Written on the verso is a letter from Lady Byron to unidentified recipient, 16 October n.y.

Crombie, Alexander. Correspondence, 1795-1798
Farquhar, James. Correspondence, 1795, 1798, and manuscript copy of document, 1796

Gamba, Pietro. Handwritten document, 29 April 1824

Hanson, John. Correspondence, 1798

Leigh, Augusta. Correspondence, 1816-1830

Leigh, Frances Byron. Letter, 1795

Lewis, M. G. (Matthew Gregory). "Lord Byron" and "To Greece, on the Death of Lord Byron," handwritten manuscript, 13 August 1824

Lovelace, Ada King, Countess of. Correspondence, 1823, 1845, undated

Milbanke, Ralph, Sir. Letter, 18 October 1809

Moore, Thomas. The "Living Dog" and the "Dead Lion," manuscript, undated

Smith, Constance Spencer. Letter, 1 October 1817

Taylor, John. "Lines on the Portrait of the Late Lord Byron Painted by R. Westall," manuscript, [1820]

Vandercom, ______. Letter, 4 May 1792

Wharton, ______. "Dr. Lushington is of opinion that Lady Noel Byron must…," manuscript copy, 30 November 1830

[White, Joseph Blanco]. "Mysterious night! when our first parent knew…," manuscript, undated
Misc. II, "Letters Regarding the Birth of Lord Byron," 1788, bound, with typescript copies

Misc. III, "Letters from The Countess Guiccioli Relating to Lord Byron," 1863-1872, bound with typescript copies

Misc. IV, Trelawny, Edward John. Letter, April 1858

Misc. V, Wright, John. Letter, 8 July 1824

Misc. VI--see 3* Last will and testament

Misc. VII--see 3* Last will and testament

Misc. VIII, bound collection of handwritten and printed materials with poems, articles, portraits, etc. re. Lord Byron by various authors, undated

Misc. IX, Byron, Anne Isabella Milbanke Byron, Baroness. Letters, with poems, to Harriet Siddons, 1817-1841; letters to Elizabeth Harriet (Siddons) Mair, 1829-1857; letters to Major Mair; manuscript of "To Mrs. Henry Siddons," Sept. 1844 (*bound volume 1)
Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824

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