

"Projekts „Atbalsts vispārējās izglītības  
pedagogu nodrošināšanai prioritārajos  
mācību priekšmetos”

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**„Atbalsts vispārējās izglītības pedagogu nodrošināšanai prioritārajos mācību  
priekšmetos”**

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(UZDEVUMA IZPILDE TIKS TURPINĀTA UN PABEIGTA 2008./2009.M.G. 2.PUSGADĀ)

# Ada Lovelace

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace** (10 December 1815, London – 27 November 1852, Marylebone, London), born **Augusta Ada Byron**, was the only legitimate child of Lord Byron. She is widely known in modern times simply as **Ada Lovelace**.

She is mainly known for having written a description of Charles Babbage's early mechanical general-purpose computer, the analytical engine. She is today appreciated as the "first programmer" since she was writing programs—that is, manipulating symbols according to rules—for a machine that Babbage had not yet built. She also foresaw the capability of computers to go beyond mere calculating or number-crunching while others, including Babbage himself, focused only on these capabilities.

[1]

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## Biography

### Early years

Lovelace, born 10 December 1815, was the only child of the poet Lord Byron and his wife, Annabella.<sup>[2]</sup> Byron, and many of those who knew Byron, expected that the baby would be "the glorious boy", and there was some disappointment at the contrary news.<sup>[3]</sup> She was named after Byron's half-sister, Augusta Leigh, and was called "Ada" by Byron himself.<sup>[4]</sup>

On 16 January 1816, Annabella, at Byron's behest, left for her

Ada Lovelace



<b>Born</b>	December 10, 1815 London
<b>Died</b>	November 27, 1852 (aged 36) Marylebone, London
<b>Nationality</b>	<span><span> </span></span> English
<b>Fields</b>	Mathematics, computing



Ada Lovelace

parents home at Kirkby Mallory, taking one-month-old Ada with her.<sup>[3]</sup> Although English law gave fathers and mothers equal rights of their children in cases of separation, Byron made no attempt to claim his parental rights.<sup>[5]</sup> On 21 April, Byron signed the Deed of Separation, although very reluctantly, and left England for good a few days later.<sup>[6]</sup>

Lovelace was often ill; this dated from her early childhood. At eight she experienced headaches that obscured her vision.<sup>[7]</sup> Later in 1824, Byron died, but he did not have a relationship with his daughter, as her mother was the only significant parental figure in her life.<sup>[8]</sup> In June 1829, she was paralyzed after a bout of the measles. She was subjected to continuous bed rest for nearly a year, which may have extended her period of disability. By 1831 she was able to walk with crutches. Throughout her illnesses, Lovelace continued her education.<sup>[9]</sup> From 1832, when she was seventeen, her remarkable mathematical abilities began to emerge.<sup>[8]</sup>

Lovelace never met her younger half-sister, Allegra Byron, daughter of Lord Byron and Claire Clairmont, who died at the age of five in 1822. Lovelace did have some contact with Elizabeth Medora Leigh, the daughter of Byron's half-sister Augusta Leigh. However, Augusta purposely avoided Lovelace as much as possible when she was soon introduced at Court.<sup>[10]</sup> By 1834, Lovelace was a regular at Court and started attending various events. She danced often and was able to charm many people and was described by most people as being dainty. However, John Hobhouse, Lord Byron's friend, was the exception and he described her as "a large, coarse-skinned young woman but with something of my friend's features, particularly the mouth".<sup>[11]</sup> This description followed their meeting on 24 February 1834 in which Lovelace made it clear to Hobhouse that she did not like him, which was probably the influence of her mother that taught her to dislike all of her father's friends; this impression of each other was not to last, and they later would become friends.<sup>[12]</sup>

Lovelace's interest in mathematics dominated her life even after her marriage. Her obsession with rooting out any of the insanity of which she accused Lord Byron was one of the reasons that her mother taught Lovelace mathematics at an early age. Lovelace was privately home schooled in mathematics and science by William Frend, William King and Mary Somerville<sup>[13]</sup>. One of her later tutors was Augustus De Morgan.

## Career

On 8 July 1835 she married William King, 8th Baron King, later 1st Earl of Lovelace in 1838. Her full title for most of her married life was "The Right Honourable the Countess of Lovelace". Their residence was a large estate at Ockham Park, Surrey, along with another estate and a home in London. They had three children; Byron born 12 May 1836, Anne Isabella (called Annabella, later Lady Anne Blunt) born 22 September 1837 and Ralph Gordon born 2 July 1839. Immediately after the birth of Annabella, Lovelace experienced "a tedious and suffering illness which took months to cure".<sup>[12]</sup>

She knew Mary Somerville, noted researcher and scientific author of the 19th century, who introduced her in turn to Charles Babbage on 5 June 1833. Other acquaintances were Sir David Brewster, Charles Wheatstone, Charles Dickens and Michael Faraday.