



Lady Byron and Her Daughters

Julia Markus W. W. NORTON (2015)

In the bicentenary of computer pioneer Ada Lovelace (R. Holmes *Nature* **525**, 30–32; 2015), it is salutary to remember her brilliant mother Annabella, estranged wife of volatile poet Lord Byron. Dubbed by him the “princess of parallelograms”, Annabella was a talented mathematician — but also a radical educational and social reformer, as Julia Markus reveals in this lucid biography. Annabella’s abolitionism sparked the admiration of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852), who launched a fiery feminist defence of her in the face of virulent criticism from Byron’s hagiographers.