

## *Contents*

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i>	ix
<i>Chronology</i>		x
<b>1 The making of <i>Don Juan</i></b>	<b>1</b>	
Byron and the Don Juan tradition	3	
Byron as narrator	5	
The historical setting	8	
<b>2 Style and form</b>	<b>13</b>	
The Italian influence	13	
Byron and <i>ottava rima</i>	15	
Comic rhymes	17	
Epic and satire	19	
<b>3 The poem</b>	<b>24</b>	
‘Fierce loves and faithless wars’	24	
‘The vast, salt, dread, eternal deep’	29	
‘Passion’s child’	34	
‘You’ve heard of Raucocanti?’	40	
‘Our hero and third heroine’	46	
‘A brain-spattering, windpipe-slitting art’	53	
‘In royalty’s vast arms’	59	
‘The thousand happy few’	64	
‘The fair most fatal Juan ever met’	73	
<b>4 The after-life of <i>Don Juan</i></b>	<b>79</b>	
Byron and the ‘atrocious reader’	79	
English imitations, forgeries and continuations	84	
<i>Don Juan</i> and the spirit of revolution	90	
Epilogue	98	
<i>Guide to further reading</i>	102	