

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Literary Studies

This series provides a high-quality selection of early printings of literary works, textual editions, anthologies and literary criticism which are of lasting scholarly interest. Ranging from Old English to Shakespeare to early twentieth-century work from around the world, these books offer a valuable resource for scholars in reception history, textual editing, and literary studies.

My Recollections of Lord Byron

This two-volume work was originally published in French, and anonymously, in 1868. In 1869, Richard Bentley published an English translation by Hubert E.H. Jerningham, in which he stated that the work 'is the production of the celebrated Countess Guiccioli'. Teresa Guiccioli (1800–73) was nineteen, and married to a much older man, when she first met Byron in Venice. Their subsequent love affair lasted until Byron left for Greece, together with her brother Pietro Gamba, whose account of Byron's last days is also reissued in this series. Anxious to restore Byron's reputation, which she believed to be tainted by a conflation in the public mind between the poet and his more notorious characters, she attempts to refute some of the more scandalous assertions about his life. Volume 1 covers such topics as Byron's childhood, his 'benevolence and kindness', and the 'qualities of his heart and soul'.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

My Recollections of Lord Byron

And Those of Eye-Witnesses of his Life

VOLUME 1

TERESA GUICCIOLI



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1
Teresa Guiccioli
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108076050

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1869

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-07605-0 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LORD BYRON JUGÉ PAR LES TÉMOINS DE SA VIE.

MY RECOLLECTIONS

OF

L O R D B Y R O N,

&c.

VOLUME I.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

 OPINIONS OF THE CRITICAL PRESS.

 THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

THERE is little reason to doubt of this work having been written by the widow of the Marquis de Boissy, far better known as the Countess Guiccioli. There are, we believe, no grounds for thinking the authorship a secret, nor, although there is no direct evidence of the fact, do we think that our supposition will prove unfounded. The readers of it are carried backward and forward, from religion to the world, from mirth to melancholy, from society to solitude, from home scenes to foreign scenes. The authoress is justly indignant at the reiterated attempts made in Byron's lifetime and since, by English and foreign writers,—by some who knew him a little, and by many who did not know him at all, to represent him as an awful and anomalous being, of mystery all compact. If we had been asked, before this work came into our hands,—what we regarded as Byron's capital error throughout life, we should have replied, “affecting to be what he was not;” and this opinion is strengthened by the Marquise de Boissy's account of him. We find in him the seed of many virtues, but the harvest of many vices. At school, he was the generous protector of the weak; in early manhood, and throughout his life, he was deeply attached to his friends; his sympathies with the oppressed of the earth ended only with his days,—and nothing in his life was so creditable or hopeful as were the closing scenes of it at Missolonghi. The chapter of the work which will doubtless attract the most general attention, is that in which Byron's marriage is recorded and commented upon. This, besides the ordinary danger of interfering between man and wife, is obviously a very delicate topic for the noble authoress. The Marchioness de Boissy's volumes are never so agreeable as when Byron himself is called into court to give evidence on points connected with his own life. He may not be an unbiassed witness, but he is a communicative and instructive one. Struck in early days with the interesting and graphic character of Gibbon's journal, he began to keep a diary of his studies, thoughts, and all that he did or heard. Byron, though probably, like Waipole, aware that a letter by him addressed to one would be read by many, is the easier of the two in his language, and from his position in the world at home, and his yet more intimate acquaintance with foreign life and manners, was master of epistolary wealth in a degree far beyond the secluded Cowper. The authoress has wisely allowed Byron to speak for himself in his letters, and the extracts from his correspondence are no less judiciously supported by biographical or characteristic passages from his poems. The junction of his letters and journals with his verse, is auxiliary to a just apprehension of the writer of both. The juxtaposition of so many witnesses has this value; it enables us to collect into one focus the opinions of many, and thus to obtain a tolerably clear view of a not very consistent character. The Marchioness's chapters abound with anecdotes of the extraordinary effect produced by Byron's poetry upon the young and susceptible of both sexes. The scenes he described, the romance with which he clothed his characters, the fervency of his nature-worship, the occasional freedom of his opinions, were lures and charms of irresistible might.

 THE ATHENÆUM.

No greater proof could be given of the renewed interest which is being felt with respect to Byron, his life, his character, and his works, than this publication sent forth to gratify the awakened European curiosity. Successive editions of Byron's works—editions for luxurious librarians, and editions even for London boys who have but sixpence to spend, and leisure to read on a London door-step,—prove the hold the poet has taken on the national heart. This production, by Byron's particular friend, the Countess Guiccioli, is the work so long announced and eagerly expected. It is the genuine and authentic work of the celebrated Countess, widow of the Marquis de Boissy. In its pages she once appears in full, in reference to a remark by Byron, that if he could have married the Countess Guiccioli, he might have secured the happiness he had missed in this world, and was never likely to regain. The love passages between Byron and Lady Caroline Lamb are told at some length. He who died at Missolonghi, in 1824, when lit to be more than thirty six years of age, making the usually glad Easter a season of mourning and sorrow to all Greece, may have left—*did*, in fact, leave—an inheritance of some painful memories to his country, but therewith an increase of riches to her literature, which should make of all Englishmen his grateful heirs for ever.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



L O R D B Y R O N .

London: Richard Bentley, 1868.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Lord Byron jugé par les témoins de sa Vie.

MY RECOLLECTIONS
OF
L O R D B Y R O N ;
AND
THOSE OF EYE-WITNESSES OF HIS LIFE.

“The long promised work of the
COUNTESS GUICCIOLI.”—

Athenæum.



IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N :
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,
Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

1869.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LONDON: PRINTED BY W. CLOWES AND SONS, DUKE STREET, STAMFORD STREET,
AND CHARING CROSS.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TO
THE AUTHOR OF THIS WORK,
THE
ENGLISH TRANSLATION
IS
Respectfully Dedicated,
BY
HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

BY THE

ENGLISH PUBLISHER.



THE Publisher of this Translation feels authorized
to state, that it is the production of the celebrated
COUNTESS GUICCIOLI.

RICHARD BENTLEY.

October, 1868.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY SKETCH OF LORD BYRON	1
CHAPTER I.	
LORD BYRON AND M. DE LAMARTINE	45
CHAPTER II.	
PORTRAIT OF LORD BYRON	65
CHAPTER III.	
FRENCH PORTRAIT OF LORD BYRON	82
CHAPTER IV.	
HIS RELIGIOUS OPINIONS	133
CHAPTER V.	
HIS CHILDHOOD AND HIS YOUTH	227
CHAPTER VI.	
HIS FRIENDSHIPS	261
VOL. I.	<i>b</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07605-0 - My Recollections of Lord Byron: And Those of Eye-Witnesses
of his Life: Volume 1

Teresa Guiccioli

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x CONTENTS OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER VII.

	PAGE
LORD BYRON CONSIDERED AS A FATHER, AS A BROTHER, AND AS A SON.—HIS GOODNESS SHOWN BY THE STRENGTH OF HIS INSTINCTIVE AFFECTIONS	303

CHAPTER VIII.

QUALITIES, OF LORD BYRON'S HEART	321
--	-----

CHAPTER IX.

HIS BENEVOLENCE AND KINDNESS	375
--------------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER X.

LORD BYRON'S QUALITIES AND VIRTUES OF SOUL	404
--	-----