

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### European History

This series includes accounts of historical events and movements by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, as well as landmark studies that assembled significant source materials or developed new historiographical methods. It covers the social and political history of continental Europe from the Renaissance to the end of the nineteenth century, and its broad range includes works on Russia and the Balkans, revolutionary France, the papacy and the inquisition, and the Venetian state archives.

### A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Count Pietro Gamba (1801–27) was the brother of Teresa Guiccioli, Lord Byron's mistress, and a member of the Italian revolutionaries known as the Carbonari. He accompanied Byron on his mission to Greece in 1823, and was described by the poet as 'one of the most amiable, brave, and excellent young men' he had ever encountered, 'with a thirst for knowledge, and a disinterestedness rarely to be met with'. This account of the mission, and of Byron's death and the subsequent controversies over its cause and the disposal of the body, was published in 1825, and dedicated to Byron's close friend, John Cam Hobhouse. It was based on Gamba's diary, 'containing a minute account of all the events of the day ... My only object is to give a simple narrative of what Lord Byron did in Greece'. Gamba died of typhoid in 1827, still working for Greek independence.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

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

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

PIETRO GAMBA



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

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](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108076128](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108076128)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1825

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-07612-8 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

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

A  
NARRATIVE,  
&c.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

LONDON:

PRINTED BY THOMAS DAVISON, WHITEFRIARS.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A  
NARRATIVE  
OF  
LORD BYRON'S  
LAST JOURNEY TO GREECE.  
EXTRACTED FROM THE JOURNAL OF  
COUNT PETER GAMBA,  
WHO ATTENDED HIS LORDSHIP ON THAT EXPEDITION.

---

LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.  
1825.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TO

JOHN C. HOBHOUSE, Esq. M. P.

---

MY DEAR SIR,

I do myself the honour of dedicating this book to you. It contains a brief account of Lord Byron's last journey, which he undertook for the purpose of assisting in the liberation of Greece. It appears to me that this narrative in every way belongs to you. You are Lord Byron's oldest and dearest friend; you were the companion of his Lordship's early travels, when he first visited Greece; when the

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

contrast between its past glory and present degradation awakened his genius, and lit up in his breast an intense love for that sacred and unhappy country which endured to the last moment of his life.

I accompanied his Lordship in the expedition which terminated his existence. I conducted the greater part of his public business, every circumstance of which was communicated to me. I kept a diary, containing a minute account of all the events of the day. Every fact which I narrate may, therefore, be received as authentic. My only object is to give a simple narrative of what Lord Byron did in Greece; of the connexions he had there; and the influence he enjoyed. I shall state the benefits afforded by him to that country; benefits which would have become greater and more

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## vii

permanent, if pitiless death, which always seizes on the noblest prey, had not prematurely bereft us of him.

The glorious events which have assured, as it now appears, the liberty of Greece, have confirmed Lord Byron's anticipations, and have shown that his hopes were as well founded as his designs were nobly conceived. But the Greek people have not forgotten their benefactor in the day of their triumph—they have a profound sense of the obligations they owe to him, and their gratitude will endure as long as they have a name amongst the nations of the earth.

I am aware that many of the events which I record may appear insignificant—and they would be so under other cir-

cumstances:—yet I trust it is not to Englishmen, and I am sure it is not to you, that I need offer an apology for being too minute in any details connected with the name of Byron and the cause of Greece.

Next to the satisfaction I receive from the conviction of having fulfilled my duty towards the memory of Lord Byron, my best reward will be the approbation of his Lordship's friends, among whom the first rank must be assigned to you.

With the truest esteem,

I am, my dear Sir,

Your faithful, humble servant,

PIETRO GAMBA.

*London, January 13, 1825.*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

	Page
Lord Byron's departure from Genoa—His voyage to Cefalonia—His tour in Ithaca—His residence at Metaxata	1

## CHAPTER II.

Arrival of Colonel Stanhope—The Pacha of Scutari retires from the siege of Anatolico—Dissensions amongst the Greeks of the Morea—Lord Byron addresses a public letter to the legislative body, and a private letter to Prince Mavrocordato—Arrival of the Greek fleet and of Mavrocordato—Lord Byron sends a message to the Prince—Arrival of two Greek vessels off the harbour of Argostoli, with letters from the Prince and the Greek government to Lord Byron—Lord Byron embarks, and sails from Cefalonia—Arrives at Zante—Sails for Missolonghi—Is separated from Count Gamba—The latter, with part of Lord Byron's household, taken by a Turkish frigate, and conveyed to the Castle of the Morea—His release and arrival at Missolonghi, where Lord Byron also arrives—His joyful reception—Account of his dangerous voyage there—Departure

b

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## X

	Page
of the Hydriote fleet—State of Greece—Lord Byron's political conduct in that country—His intended enterprise against Lepanto—He takes five hundred Suliotes into his pay—Forms an artillery brigade—Establishes a Greek newspaper	56

## CHAPTER III.

Communication from the legislative body with Lord Byron—He rescues a Turkish prisoner—Letter from Coray to Mavrocordato—Lord Byron obliged to keep a Suliote guard in his house—Disturbances between the Suliotes and citizens of Missolonghi—Prince Mavrocordato's account of his own escape from the Turks—Lord Byron's sentiments as to his own situation in Greece—Affray with the Suliotes—The Turkish squadron come out of the Gulf—The Speziot ships return home—Lord Byron's conversation with Count Gamba on his expedition against Lepanto—Missolonghi blockaded—Lord Byron's poem on his birth-day—His resolution—Presentiment of dying in Greece—Messenger sent to Mr. Parry—Arrival of Captain Yorke at Missolonghi—His remonstrance with the Greek authorities—Lord Byron releases four Turkish prisoners—His letter to Yussuff Pacha on that occasion—Lord Byron appointed commander of the expedition against Lepanto—Captain Yorke's second visit—Lord Byron's letter on the observance of neutrality—He arranges the dispute between Captain Yorke and the Greeks—Difference of opinion between Colonel Stanhope and Lord Byron—Letter from Ulysses to Lord

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## xi

Byron—From General Londo—Anecdote of Londo in 1809—Lord Byron's letter to him—Lord Byron's attachment to oriental history—His accurate memory—Progress of the artillery brigade—Embarrassments of the Greek government	Page 104
--	-------------

## CHAPTER IV.

Lord Byron's visit to Anatolico—His reception there—Return to Missolonghi—Arrival of Mr. Parry, with the stores of the London Greek committee—Interview and arrangement with the Suliote chieftains—News from the Morea—Letter from Lord Byron to Lord Sidney Osborne—Proceedings at the Seraglio—News from Patras, and communication with Lepanto—Proceedings with the Suliotes—Intrigues of the Moreote chiefs—Difficulties with the Suliotes—Lord Byron attacked by a convulsive fit—Alarm at the Seraglio—Lord Byron releases twenty-four Turkish prisoners—Destruction of a Turkish brig—Captain Sasse killed by a Suliote—Disturbance with the Suliotes—The primates visit Lord Byron—Proposal from Ulysses to Lord Byron—The artillery brigade	151
---	-----

## CHAPTER V.

News from the Morea—Lord Byron indisposed—Communication from the islands—Anxiety at Cephalonia respecting Lord Byron—He receives proposals from Sessini of Gastouni, and from Colocotroni—Also from Parucca on the part of Pietro Bey—His letter to Parucca—His view of the politics of Greece—Alarm of the plague—	
---	--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07612-8 - A Narrative of Lord Byron's Last Journey to Greece

Pietro Gamba

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## xii

	Page
Offer from the government to appoint Lord Byron Governor-General of continental Greece—His reply—A public meeting at Missolonghi—Departure of Messrs. Finlay and Humphreys for Athens, with despatches from Lord Byron—Their interruption by the way—News of the conclusion of the Greek loan—Punishment of an artillery-man—Discipline of that corps—Lord Byron presented with the citizenship of Missolonghi—Distress of the government	202

## CHAPTER VI.

Affray between one of Lord Byron's guard and a citizen of Missolonghi—Lord Byron's letter on that occasion—Conspiracy of Cariaschachi—His troops enter Missolonghi—A body of Suliotes seize upon Basiladi—Lord Byron's journey to Salona prevented—A spy arrested in Lord Byron's house—Measures taken by Prince Mavrocordato—His proclamation at Anatolico—His letter to Lord Byron—Lord Byron's last illness—His death—The funeral service over his remains—Disastrous consequences of the death of Lord Byron—The transfer of the remains to Zante, and thence to England	233
NOTES	287