

**Chapter 1 : Robert Burns: Books | eBay**

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Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Here Burns grew up in poverty and hardship, and the severe manual labour of the farm left its traces in a premature stoop and a weakened constitution. He had little regular schooling and got much of his education from his father, who taught his children reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and history and also wrote for them *A Manual Of Christian Belief*. He was also taught by John Murdoch " , who opened an " adventure school " in Alloway in and taught Latin, French, and mathematics to both Robert and his brother Gilbert " from to until Murdoch left the parish. After a few years of home education, Burns was sent to Dalrymple Parish School in mid before returning at harvest time to full-time farm labouring until , when he was sent to lodge with Murdoch for three weeks to study grammar, French, and Latin. By the age of 15, Burns was the principal labourer at Mount Oliphant. Tarbolton Despite his ability and character, William Burnes was consistently unfortunate, and migrated with his large family from farm to farm without ever being able to improve his circumstances. At Whitsun , , he removed his large family from the unfavourable conditions of Mount Oliphant to the acre 0. Subsequently, the family became integrated into the community of Tarbolton. His earliest existing letters date from this time, when he began making romantic overtures to Alison Begbie b. In spite of four songs written for her and a suggestion that he was willing to marry her, she rejected him. This venture accordingly came to an end, and Burns went home to Lochlea farm. During this time he met and befriended Captain Richard Brown who encouraged him to become a poet. He continued to write poems and songs and began a commonplace book in , while his father fought a legal dispute with his landlord. The case went to the Court of Session , and Burnes was upheld in January , a fortnight before he died. Mauchline Full view of the Nasmyth portrait of , Scottish National Portrait Gallery Robert and Gilbert made an ineffectual struggle to keep on the farm, but after its failure they moved to the farm at Mossgiel, near Mauchline , in March, which they maintained with an uphill fight for the next four years. In mid Burns came to know a group of girls known collectively as The Belles of Mauchline, one of whom was Jean Armour , the daughter of a stonemason from Mauchline. Burns signed a paper attesting his marriage to Jean, but her father "was in the greatest distress, and fainted away". To avoid disgrace, her parents sent her to live with her uncle in Paisley. Burns was in financial difficulties due to his want of success in farming, and to make enough money to support a family he took up an offer of work in Jamaica from Dr Patrick Douglas of Garrallan, Old Cumnock , whose sugar plantations outside Port Antonio were managed by his brother Charles, under whom Burns was to be a "book keeper" assistant overseer of slaves. She was born near Dunoon and had lived in Campbeltown before moving to work in Ayrshire. Their relationship has been the subject of much conjecture, and it has been suggested that on 14 May they exchanged Bibles and plighted their troth over the Water of Fail in a traditional form of marriage. Soon afterwards Mary Campbell left her work in Ayrshire, went to the seaport of Greenock , and sailed home to her parents in Campbeltown. Her brother fell ill with typhus , which she also caught while nursing him. She died of typhus on 20 or 21 October and was buried there. To obtain a certificate that he was a free bachelor, Burns agreed on 25 June to stand for rebuke in the Mauchline kirk for three Sundays. He transferred his share in Mossgiel farm to his brother Gilbert on 22 July, and on 30 July wrote to tell his friend John Richmond that, "Armour has got a warrant to throw me in jail until I can find a warrant for an enormous sum The success of the work was immediate, and soon he was known across the country. Burns postponed his planned emigration to Jamaica on 1 September, and was at Mossgiel two days later when he learnt that Jean Armour had given birth to twins. On 4 September Thomas Blacklock wrote a letter expressing admiration for the poetry in the Kilmarnock volume, and suggesting an enlarged second edition. The Doctor belonged to a set of critics for whose applause I had not dared to hope. His opinion that I would meet with encouragement in Edinburgh for a second edition, fired me so much, that away I posted for that city, without a single acquaintance, or a single letter of introduction. On 27 November Burns borrowed a pony and set out for

Edinburgh. On 14 December William Creech issued subscription bills for the first Edinburgh edition of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish dialect*, which was published on 17 April. Within a week of this event, Burns had sold his copyright to Creech for guineas. Nasmyth had come to know Burns and his fresh and appealing image has become the basis for almost all subsequent representations of the poet. Here he encountered, and made a lasting impression on, the year-old Walter Scott, who described him later with great admiration: His person was strong and robust; his manners rustic, not clownish, a sort of dignified plainness and simplicity which received part of its effect perhaps from knowledge of his extraordinary talents. I think his countenance was more massive than it looks in any of the portraits. It was large, and of a dark cast, and literally glowed when he spoke with feeling or interest. I never saw such another eye in a human head, though I have seen the most distinguished men of my time. His stay in the city also resulted in some lifelong friendships, among which were those with Lord Glencairn, and Frances Anna Dunlop, who became his occasional sponsor and with whom he corresponded for many years until a rift developed. He embarked on a relationship with the separated Agnes "Nancy" McLehose, with whom he exchanged passionate letters under pseudonyms Burns called himself "Sylvander" and Nancy "Clarinda". He also had an affair with a servant girl, Margaret "May" Cameron. His relationship with Nancy concluded in with a final meeting in Edinburgh before she sailed to Jamaica for what turned out to be a short-lived reconciliation with her estranged husband. Before she left, he sent her the manuscript of "Ae Fond Kiss" as a farewell. Burns shared this interest and became an enthusiastic contributor to *The Scots Musical Museum*. The first volume was published in 1786 and included three songs by Burns. He contributed 40 songs to volume two, and he ended up responsible for about a third of the songs in the whole collection, as well as making a considerable editorial contribution. The final volume was published in 1793.

## Chapter 2 : Robert Burns | Poetry | Scottish Poetry Library

*Select Works of Robert Burns: Verse, Explanation and Glossary by George Scott Wilkie and a great selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at [calendrierdelascience.com](http://calendrierdelascience.com)*

Dumfries, Scotland Scottish poet Intense feeling and technical skill characterizes the work of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. His best work is in Scots, the language of southern Scotland. He is one of the greatest authors of that language in the last four centuries. Early life and education Robert Burns was born in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland, on January 25, 1759, to hard-working farmer parents. He began helping his father with farm work at the age of twelve. The difficulty of the labor later had a crippling effect on his health. The family worked hard on the Ayrshire farm and at several others, but their lives were never made easier. Ongoing troubles with landlords and their agents fueled the rebellion that Burns felt against authority, which later became a major theme in his poetry. In his father died, and the family moved a few miles away to Mossgiel, Scotland. Here and in the nearby town of Mauchline, Scotland, the charming and attractive Burns began numerous love affairs, some of which extended to about By the end of his short life he was to have fathered fourteen children by six different mothers. Achievement and sudden fame While continuing to do farm work in Mossgiel, Burns began writing poetry, and his talents developed in a spectacular way. In he published *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* at nearby Kilmarnock, Scotland, and the book was a success. At this time Burns was twenty-seven, and he had written some of the most effective and biting pieces of satire ridicule or scorn in the language. These and other poems by Burns are almost unequaled in their combination of accurate local language and depth of feeling. Not for centuries had such fine poetry been written in the Scots tongue. But was also a year of great distress for Burns. In addition, Burns was in love with Mary Campbell, for whom he wrote the song "Highland Mary," but she died in as a result of giving birth to his child. Burns considered leaving the country for Jamaica, but he abandoned the plan and spent the winter in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he was praised and honored for the success of his book. Early in a new edition of his poems was published that made him famous not only throughout Scotland but also in England and internationally. After a summer and fall spent touring Scotland the only real traveling he ever did and restarting his affair with Jean, Burns spent a second winter in Edinburgh. In March Burns returned to Mauchline and finally married Jean, who had given birth to a second set of his twins. Later years and his songs After his wedding Burns turned his efforts to supporting his family. In he leased a farm at Ellisland, Scotland, forty-five miles from Mauchline. After annoying delays in the building of his house and several rough years trying to make an income from his farmland, he moved with Jean and the children to Dumfries, Scotland. In he had begun working as a tax inspector, a profession in which he continued until his death. Burns also wrote numerous songs some of them original lyrics for old tunes, some reworkings of old lyrics for The Scots Musical Museum, a collection of Scottish songs with which he had been associated since His fellow townsmen and his coworkers respected him. His health, which always caused him problems, began to fail, and he died of heart disease on July 21, 1796. His wife gave birth to their last child on the day of his funeral. For More Information Lindsay, Maurice. *A Life of Robert Burns*. Comment about this article, ask questions, or add new information about this topic:

**Chapter 3 : Robert Burns Country: The Works**

*Select Works of Robert Burns: Verse, Explanation and Glossary [George Scott Wilkie, Robert Burns] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. A lifetime love of Robert Burns' poetry compelled George Scott Wilkie to analyze some of Burns' most endearing works and create explanatory notes which make some of the more difficult passages more accessible.*

All too human in his personal life, he carried that humanity over onto the page. Nothing was too small or too large to escape his notice, from a mouse in the mud to God in his heavens. A poet for all seasons, Burns speaks to all, soul to soul. His father was William Burnes, a gardener turned tenant farmer from the north-east of Scotland, and his mother was Agnes Brown, an Ayrshire woman of farming stock. He learned the three Rs, some French and much Scripture. Added to that, he was a voracious reader and also absorbed huge amounts of traditional stories and songs from his mother and a kinswoman of hers, Betty Davidson. Poetry sprang early into his heart, at the same time as love, and his first composition was a song for the girl he partnered in the harvest. Rarely having much time to sit and ponder poems, it became his habit to compose as he worked. His father died in , worn out by the struggle to keep farm after farm going, leaving Burns as head of the family. He also developed a satiric strain and circulated caustic poems on local contemporaries. Low in Robert Burns Burns began to think of gathering his poems together for publication and approached a printer in nearby Kilmarnock. Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect was published by subscription in July in an edition of copies. He also entertained the notion of emigrating to Jamaica. He had fallen in love with and made pregnant a local girl, Jean Armour, and her father was not best pleased. He arranged a new edition of his poems with the Edinburgh publisher William Creech selling his copyright for guineas and had put up in the Canongate churchyard a memorial stone to his literary hero Fergusson. He became almost obsessed with songwriting from this period on – rescuing traditional songs, rewriting their words, writing new words. He was blessed with an amazingly retentive memory. There was, however, the problem of earning a living. Through a friend he was offered the tenancy of a farm in Dumfriesshire. The farm was not a success and he had to fall back on the excise work, moving with his family into the town of Dumfries in by now he had married Jean Armour and had several children. The next few years were marked by increasing ill-health – the heart trouble he had suffered since his hard farming days allied with a rheumatic condition – and despite or because of a course of water treatment immersion in the sea , he died in Dumfries on 21 July , at the age of thirty-seven. Burns has been described as a chameleon, that is, he was able to change his personality to suit the company or situation. This is best seen in his letters, where he adapts his tone to suit his correspondent, while never deviating from his lively, humorous and intelligent self. What enabled him to do this was his innate sympathy – or empathy – with people indeed, all living creatures. He may have been admired by some more for his conversation than his poems, but it is the poems that live on and the poems which have made him such a universally loved figure, not only in the West, but in countries such as Russia and Japan. Not even Shakespeare has as many statues to his memory, or an annual dinner in his name. The poems can be satirical but also full of sentiment; they deal with love and lust Burns being well versed in these , human foibles and hypocrisies; they show a deep knowledge of and love of the natural world especially horses, dogs, mice and lice ; they can be funny and moving by turns. What makes them special is the way he writes about all of the above: He is one of those artists like Bob Dylan in our own time who absorbs everything and rewrites it. He is truly a poet who speaks to all, a poet for all seasons.

*Robert Burns (25 January - 21 July ), also known as Rabbie Burns, the Bard of Ayrshire, Ploughman Poet and various other names and epithets, was a Scottish poet and lyricist.*

It was watching his father being thus beaten down that helped to make Robert both a rebel against the social order of his day and a bitter satirist of all forms of religious and political thought that condoned or perpetuated inhumanity. He received some formal schooling from a teacher as well as sporadically from other sources. He acquired a superficial reading knowledge of French and a bare smattering of Latin, and he read most of the important 18th-century English writers as well as Shakespeare , Milton , and Dryden. John McLeish Proud, restless, and full of a nameless ambition, the young Burns did his share of hard work on the farm. He took sides against the dominant extreme Calvinist wing of the church in Ayrshire and championed a local gentleman, Gavin Hamilton , who had got into trouble with the kirk session a church court for Sabbath breaking. But these were not spontaneous effusions by an almost illiterate peasant. Burns was a conscious craftsman; his entries in the commonplace book that he had begun in reveal that from the beginning he was interested in the technical problems of versification. Though he wrote poetry for his own amusement and that of his friends, Burns remained restless and dissatisfied. He won the reputation of being a dangerous rebel against orthodox religion, and, when in he fell in love with Jean Armour, her father refused to allow her to marry Burns even though a child was on the way and under Scots law mutual consent followed by consummation constituted a legal marriage. Jean was persuaded by her father to go back on her promise. Robert, hurt and enraged, took up with another woman, Mary Campbell, who died soon after. On September 3 Jean bore him twins out of wedlock. Meanwhile, the farm was not prospering, and Burns, harassed by insoluble problems, thought of emigrating. But he first wanted to show his country what he could do. In the midst of his troubles he went ahead with his plans for publishing a volume of his poems at the nearby town of Kilmarnock. Its success was immediate and overwhelming. Simple country folk and sophisticated Edinburgh critics alike hailed it, and the upshot was that Burns set out for Edinburgh on November 27, , to be lionized, patronized , and showered with well-meant but dangerous advice. The Kilmarnock volume was a remarkable mixture. It included a handful of first-rate Scots poems: There were also a few Scots poems in which he was unable to sustain his inspiration or that are spoiled by a confused purpose. The trouble was that he was only half acting. After Edinburgh Edinburgh unsettled Burns, and, after a number of amorous and other adventures there and several trips to other parts of Scotland, he settled in the summer of at a farm in Ellisland, Dumfriesshire. At Edinburgh, too, he arranged for a new and enlarged edition of his Poems, but little of significance was added to the Kilmarnock selection. He found farming at Ellisland difficult, though he was helped by Jean Armour, with whom he had been reconciled and whom he finally married in Burns spent the latter part of his life in assiduously collecting and writing songs to provide words for traditional Scottish airs. He regarded his work as service to Scotland and quixotically refused payment. He was an admirable letter writer and a brilliant talker, and he could hold his own in any company. At the same time, he was still a struggling tenant farmer, and the attempt to keep himself going in two different social and intellectual capacities was wearing him down. After trying for a long time, he finally obtained a post in the excise service in and moved to Dumfries in , where he lived until his death. His life at Dumfries was active. The outbreak of the French Revolution excited him, and some indiscreet outbursts nearly lost him his job, but his reputation as a good exciseman and a politic but humiliating recantation saved him. Legacy Burns was a man of great intellectual energy and force of character who, in a class-ridden society, never found an environment in which he could fully exercise his personality. Yet he lived during the cultural and intellectual tumult known as the Scottish Enlightenment , and the problem was ultimately more than one of personalities. The only substitute for the rejected Calvinism seemed to be, for Burns, a sentimental Deism, a facile belief in the good heart as all, and this was arguably not a creed rich or complex enough to nourish great poetry. That Burns in spite of this produced so much fine poetry shows the strength of his unique genius, and that he has become the Scottish national poet is a tribute to his hold on the popular imagination. Burns perhaps exhibited his greatest poetic

powers in his satires. There is also a remarkable craftsmanship in his verse letters, which display a most adroit counterpointing of the colloquial and the formal. But it is by his songs that Burns is best known, and it is his songs that have carried his reputation round the world. Burns wrote all his songs to known tunes, sometimes writing several sets of words to the same air in an endeavour to find the most apt poem for a given melody. Many songs which, it is clear from a variety of evidence, must have been substantially written by Burns he never claimed as his. Burns wrote it for a simple and moving old air that is not the tune to which it is now sung, as Thomson set it to another tune.

**Chapter 5 : Robert Burns (Burns, Robert, ) | The Online Books Page**

*A lifetime love of Robert Burns' poetry compelled George Scott Wilkie to analyze some of Burns' most endearing works and create explanatory notes which make some of the more difficult passages more.*

Although he did not set out to achieve that designation, he clearly and repeatedly expressed his wish to be called a Scotch bard, to extol his native land in poetry and song. Works in Biographical and Historical Context  
Hard Work and Tragedy on Scottish Farms Born in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland on January 25, , to impoverished tenant farmers, Burns received little formal schooling, although his father, William Burnes whose famous son later altered the spelling of the family name , sought to provide his sons with as much education as possible. As the family was too poor to afford modern farming implements, their hardships progressively worsened. All his efforts notwithstanding, William Burnes was forced to declare bankruptcy in ; his death followed soon afterward. A Lover of Women and Poetry While a young man, Burns acquired a reputation for charm and wit and began to indulge in romance. He once attributed the beginnings of his poetry to his sensuality: I never had the least thought or inclination of turning poet till I once got heartily in love, and then rhyme and song were, in a manner, the spontaneous language of my heart. Throughout his life, Burns was fervently opposed to the strict Calvinism that prevailed in the Scottish Church. But although Burns was repelled by this, as well as by the Calvinist notion of humankind as innately and inevitably sinful, he was not irreligious; his theology has been summed up as a vague humanitarian deism, or belief in a distant and undefined God. Her parents forbade the match but demanded financial support from Burns. The plan never materialized, however, for during that year his Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect was published in Kilmarnock. The volume catapulted Burns to sudden, remarkable, but short-lived, fame. Upon success of the book, he went to Edinburgh, where he was much admired by the local intellectual elite, though he afterward remained in relative obscurity for the rest of his life. In the meantime, he was still involved with Jean Armour, whom he was finally able to marry in Back to the Hard Life Burns carried on his dual professions of poet and tenant farmer until the next year when he obtained a post in the excise service. The latter part of his creative career was devoted to collecting and revising the vast body of existing Scottish folk songs. In , at the age of thirty-seven, Burns died from rheumatic heart disease , apparently caused by excessive physical exertion and frequent undernourishment as a child. Works in Literary Context Through his treatment of such themes as the importance of freedom to the human spirit, the beauties of love and friendship, and the pleasures of the simple life, Burns achieved a universality that commentators believe is the single most important element in his work. Whatever his subject, critics find in his verses a riotous celebration of life, an irrepressible joy in the fact of living. Although natural surroundings figure prominently in his work, Burns differed from Romantic poets in that he had little interest in nature itself, which in his poetry serves but to set the scene for human activity and emotion. Each written to an existing tune, the songs are mainly simple yet affecting lyrics of the common concerns of love and life. Critics agree that this talent rendered Burns particularly fit for his role as a lyricist. They eagerly embraced the romantic image of Burns as a rustic, untaught bard of natural geniusâ€”an image Burns himself shrewdly fosteredâ€”but some critics, particularly English critics, were somewhat patronizing. They found the Scots dialect quaint to a point but ultimately intrusive and distracting. Although these assessments held sway until well into the nineteenth century, more recent critics have taken an opposing view. His use of color, his brush strokes, and his subversive subject matter would prove highly influential to later nineteenth-century painters. English chemist and physicist, Dalton was the first modern scientist to propose a model of atomic theory. Sir Walter Scott â€” An international celebrity in his own lifetime, Scott wrote several historical novels that were widely read and highly influential. A Scottish explorer, Park gained widespread fame for his first journey to discover the source of the Niger River. He returned for a second expedition with forty Europeans, all of whom, including Park, perished on the expedition. Do you think some of these metaphors are more effective than others? Give examples and explain your reasoning. Can you think of a modern form of poetry that uses a distinctive dialect? How does the use of dialect in poetry affect the reader? Do you think it enhances the poetry? Why do you think certain passages were written in Scottish

dialect? Try to imagine how it would see you and how you would explain your life to it. Other poets have used the same approach in their work: *Barrack-Room Ballads*, a poetry collection by Rudyard Kipling. Like Burns, Kipling wrote poetry in a distinctive regional dialect of the British Isles, in this case the Cockney slang of the common British enlisted man. Although most of his poems were written in conventional English, Dunbar, an African American poet, was one of the first to write poems in the dialect of Southern black culture, as in this collection. *The Works of D. Lawrence*, a collection by D. McKay would go on to be a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance of black writers and artists during the s. Aberdeen University Press, *There Was a Lad: An Essay on Robert Burns. The Ballad and the Folk. The Life of Robert Burns*. Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

### Chapter 6 : Robert Burns - Poet | Academy of American Poets

*The Works of Robert Burns: With an Account of His Life, and a Criticism On His Writing. to Which Are Prefixed, Some Observations On the Character and Condition of the Scottish Peasantry, Volume 4* ISBN ()

### Chapter 7 : Robert Burns | calendrierdelascience.com

*A lifetime love of Robert Burns' poetry compelled George Scott Wilkie to analyze some of Burns' most endearing works and create explanatory notes which make some of the more difficult passages more accessible.*

### Chapter 8 : Robert Burns biography

*Robert Burns >The work of the Scottish poet Robert Burns () is characterized by >realism, intense feeling, and metrical virtuosity. His best work is in >Scots, the vernacular of southern Scotland, and he is one of the greatest >authors in that language of the last 4 centuries.*

### Chapter 9 : Robert Burns - Wikipedia

*The Works of Robert Burns, 5 volumes, edited by James Hogg and William Motherwell (Glasgow: Fullarton, ). The Life and Works of Robert Burns, edited by P. Hateley Waddell (Glasgow: Wilson, ).*