

# Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know: Byron and Women

Chawton House Library Fellow's Lecture  
16<sup>th</sup> October 2008

“I cannot exist without some object of love” – Byron to Lady Melbourne

Peter Cochran's lecture will show Byron's varying attitudes to the different women in his life, from his mother, via his childhood sweethearts, to his casual affairs and to the most important ones: his wife Annabella, his half-sister Augusta, his confidante Lady Melbourne, and his Italian mistress, Teresa Guiccioli.

Listen to poems by Byron, letters both by Byron and by his women, plus comments from his friends and his biographers. The lecture will conjure up the atmospheres of the different places where he lived – Nottinghamshire, Athens, London, Geneva, Venice, and Ravenna.

Was Byron the passionate lover of the myth, or was Madame de Staël right when she told him he had ‘no right to make love – that I had used – barbarously – that I had no feeling, and was totally *insensible to la belle passion*, and *had been all my life*’?

Or were his real feelings somewhere else all the time?

Peter Cochran is a well-known expert on Byron. He has edited Teresa Guiccioli's *Lord Byron's Life in Italy*

**Lecture Tickets:** £10 & £7.50 for friends/students (includes wine)

6.30pm Reception with wine

7.00pm Lecture

Chawton House Library



To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010  
Or email [info@chawton.net](mailto:info@chawton.net).

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