



# Robert Burns. (1759-1796)

Robert

Burns





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Scotland's National Bard  
and the Poet of Humanity.

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet and a lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland. He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a "light" Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland.



# Scotland

For other uses, see [Scotland \(disambiguation\)](#).

## Scotland (English / Scots)

*Alba* (Scottish Gaelic)



Flag



Royal Standard

**Motto:** *In My Defens God Me Defend* (Scots)

(often shown abbreviated as *IN DEFENS*)

**Anthem:** None (*de jure*)

Various *de facto* - see National anthem of Scotland and note <sup>1</sup>



Location of **Scotland** (orange)

- in the European continent (camel & white)
- in the United Kingdom (camel)

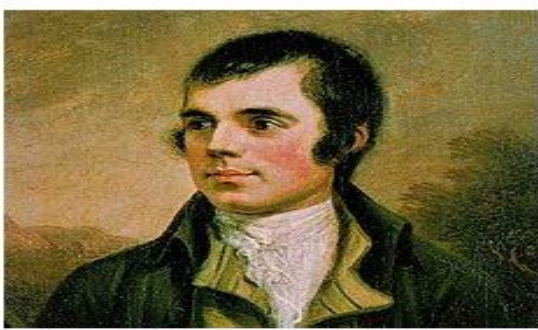
**Capital** Edinburgh  
55°57′N 3°12′W / 55.95°N 3.2°W

**Largest city** Glasgow

**Official language(s)** English

Burns composed verses to the melodies of old folk songs, which he had admired from his early childhood. He sang of the woods, fields and wonderful valleys of his native land.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,  
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer,  
A-chasing the wild deer, and following the roe –  
My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go.  
Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,  
The birthplace of valour, the country of worth.  
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,  
The hills of the Highlands forever I love.  
Farewell to the mountains high covered with snow,  
Farewell to the straths and green valleys below,  
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods,  
Farewell to the torrents and loud pouring floods.  
My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,  
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer,  
A-chasing the wild deer, and following the roe –  
My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go.



The best-known portrait of Burns

<b>Born</b>	25 January 1759 Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland
<b>Died</b>	21 July 1796 (aged 37) Dumfries, Scotland
<b>Occupation</b>	Poet, lyricist, farmer, exciseman
<b>Nationality</b>	Scottish
<b>Literary movement</b>	Romanticism
<b>Notable work(s)</b>	<i>Auld Lang Syne</i> , <i>To a Mouse</i> , <i>A Man's A Man for A' That</i> , <i>Ae Fond Kiss</i> , <i>Scots Wha Hae</i> , <i>Tam O'Shanter</i> , <i>Halloween</i> , <i>The Battle of Sherramuir</i>

Influences

Robert Fergusson

Influenced

Charlotte Brontë, John Clare, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Bob Dylan, James Whitcomb Riley, Frank Leiby Stanton, John Steinbeck, William Wordsworth, J. D. Salinger, James Joyce

Signature



R. Burns was born in a clay cottage at the picturesque village of Alloway near Ayr in Scotland. He was the eldest of the seven children in the family. He had little regular schooling and got much of his education from his parents. He was also taught by John Murdoch (1747–1824). He also studied at Dalrymple Parish School. Hard farm work in his youth undermined his health, leading to the rheumatic heart disease from which he eventually died.





1766 - the family moved to Mount Olifrant. It was here, in the autumn of 1774, that Burns wrote his first song "Handsome Nell"

1777 - the family moved to Lochile in Tarbolton parish.

1780 - Burns took a leading part in founding the Tarbolton Bachelors' Club, a debating society.

1784 - His father died, leaving him as the head of the family.

1784 - Burns read the works of the Edinburgh poet Robert Fergusson.

1785 - Burns fell in love with Jean Armour, who's father forbade their marriage.

- Burns arranged to issue by subscription a collection of his poetry. "Poems. Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect" was a success.



1786 – Burns moved to Edinburgh, he was met by the fashionable society.

1787 - He successfully published a second, 300-copy edition of “Poems”. He was able to travel and finance another winter in Edinburgh. He married Jean Armour, mother of his twins.

1788 – Burns leased a poorly equipped farm in Ellisland, but the land was unproductive.

- Burns was appointed to a position in the Excise Service.

1790 – His masterpiece “Tam o’Shanter” was written.

1791 - Burns gave up the farm in Ellisland and moved into the town of Dumfries.

1795 - Burns was in financial difficulties, he was ill.

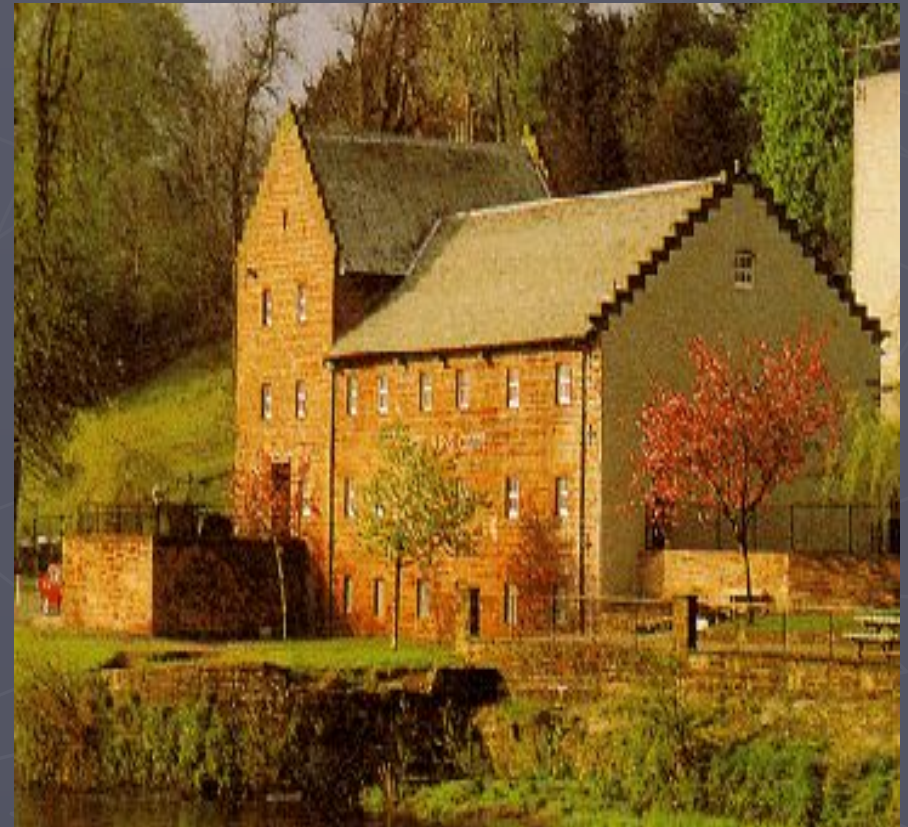
1796 – Burns died in Dumfries.



# Burns House

Home of the Bard from May 1793 until his death in 1796. Jean Armour remained here until her death.

The house is now a museum.

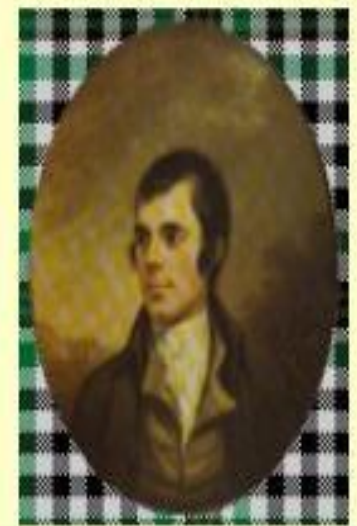


## The Robert Burns Centre

It tells the story of the connections between Robert Burns and the town of Dumfries. The well-researched exhibition is illuminated by many original documents and relics of the poet.



# Home



Robert Burns lived, worked and died in Dumfries, Scotland. The Burns Howff Club is a society celebrating his life, works and contribution to Scottish heritage.



Statue of Burns in  
Dumfries Town Centre

# Ellisland Farm, Dumfries

Robert Burns, Scotland's National Bard and the Poet of Humanity, spent three of the most fruitful years of his short life at Ellisland Farm, Dumfries.

The farm, which Burns owned from 1788 to 1791, is a museum and working farm today.



# Alloway South Ayrshire, Scotland



The Burns Cottage.



Inside the Burns Cottage Museum



# Burns Night



Burns Night, a second national day in Scotland, is celebrated on the 25-th of January with Burns suppers around the world. First come general announcements, the Grace, then come the piping and cutting of the haggis. The reading called "The immortal memory" is given. The next event is the singing of "Auld Land Syne".

## AULD LANG SYNE - СТАРАЯ ДРУЖБА (ЗА ДРУЖБУ ПРЕЖНИХ ДНЕЙ)



### AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

#### CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup of kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne!

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,  
And surely I'll be mine,  
And we'll tak a cup o kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne!

#### CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup of kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne!

We twa hae run about the braes,  
And pou'd the gowans fine,  
But we've wander'd monie a weary fit,  
Sin auld lang syne.

### СТАРАЯ ДРУЖБА (Перевод С.Я.Маршак)

Забить ли старую любовь  
И не грустить о ней?  
Забить ли старую любовь  
И дружбу прежних дней?

#### ПРИПЕВ:

За дружбу старую - До дна!  
За счастье прежних дней!  
С тобой мы выпьем, старина,  
За счастье прежних дней.

Побольше кружки приготовь  
И доверху налей.  
Мы пьем за старую любовь,  
За дружбу прежних дней.

#### ПРИПЕВ:

За дружбу старую - До дна!  
За счастье юных дней!  
По кружке старого вина -  
За счастье юных дней.

С тобой топтали мы вдвоем  
Траву родных полей,  
Но не один крутой подъем  
Мы взяли с юных дней.





Robert Burns was a poet and a writer of traditional Scottish folk songs and poems.

Burns touched with his own genius the traditional folk songs of Scotland. He wrote about his countryside and hard farm life, about love. Some of his songs were original, others were inspired by a line or phrase from one of the many ballads in the Scottish dialect. From the oral folk tradition, he learned a great deal about song rhythms and the fitting words to music.





Robert Burns is a remarkable lyric poet. His works are popular in Scotland and all over the world.

- Auld Lang Syne
- To a Mouse
- A man for A`That
- Tam O`Shanter
- Epigrams
- Halloween
- The Battle of Sherramuir
- A Red, Red Rose
- John Barleycorn
- My Heart`s in the Highland's
- Comin` through the Rye
- Ode, Sacred to the Memory of Mrs. Oswald