

Analyst and Computer Pioneer

Ada Countess of Lovelace

[10 December 1815 - 27 November 1852]



Special Scientific Achievements

Together with Charles Babbage, development (preliminary stages) of the first computer.

Important suggestions for the concepts of computer programming, and description of the primary aspects used by every computer language.

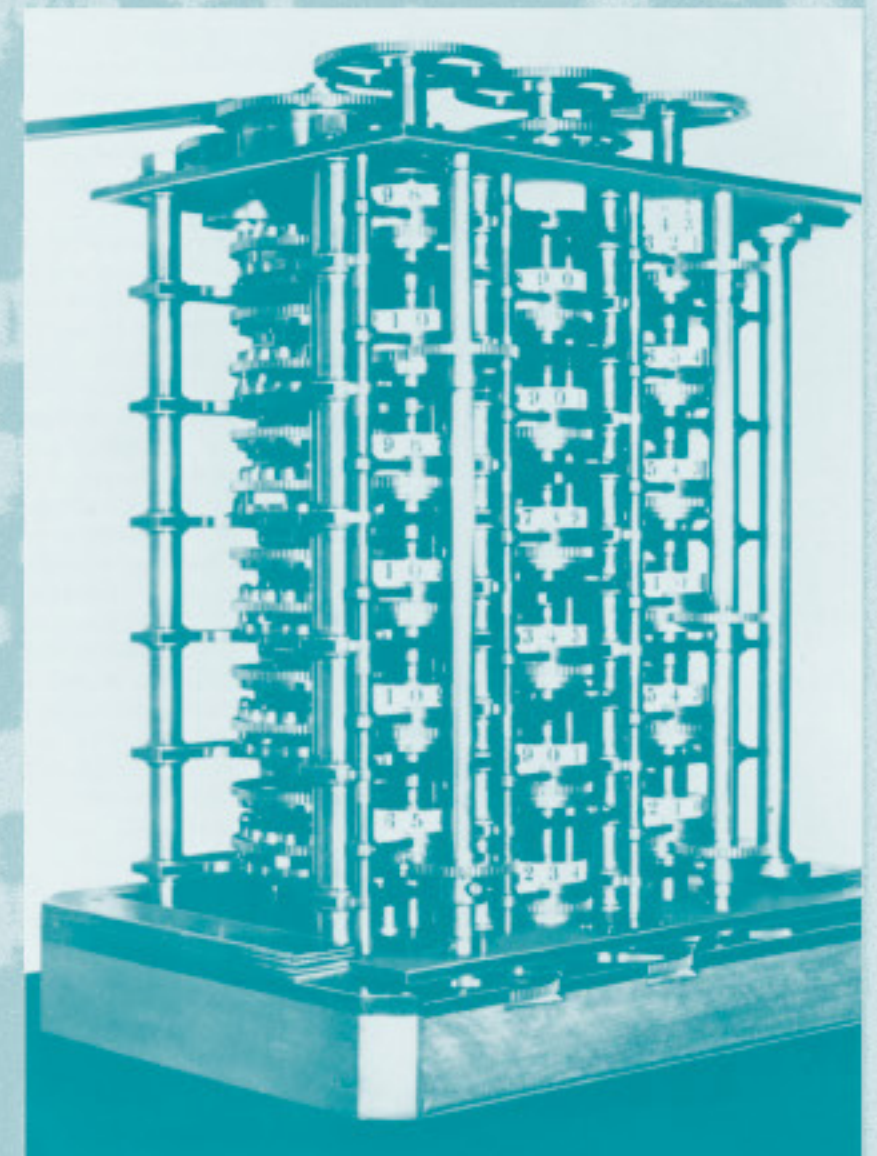
1815 Ada Byron is born in London to the well-known poet Lord Byron and his wife, Lady Byron.

Through her highly intelligent and mathematically talented mother, Ada receives a strictly scientific education. At a young age she begins to sketch construction plans for machines of all kinds.

1834 At 19, she marries the later Earl of Lovelace. In fast succession, she bears three children. Unfortunately, pregnancies and family obligations leave her little time for her mathematical studies. Her social position makes an entrance to scientific circles possible.

1842 - 1843 The accomplished mathematics professor Charles Babbage asks Ada Lovelace to assist him in the construction and launching of a new analytic calculating machine. In addition, he wants her to translate and interpret a scientific paper from French into English. She works on the translation eagerly for a full nine months, adding many of her own notes, for which she receives great acknowledgment.

Ada Lovelace describes the fundamental concepts of computer programming and the components which are needed in every computer language. Her work concentrates on what we understand today as software applications. The application possibilities of Babbage's machine propels Ada Lovelace into the realms of graphic diagramming, artificial intelligence, and the development of complicated computer-produced music. As a result, Lovelace and Babbage are associated with the development (preliminary stages) of the first computer.



1844 - 1852 Ada Lovelace withdraws more and more from family life, dedicating herself to mathematics and music, or falls into social life and dances through the night. She becomes an obsessive gambler, begins to bet on horses, and loses much money as a result.

In the last five years of her short life, she dedicates herself to work on a mathematically sophisticated system.

1852 At the age of 36 Ada Countess of Lovelace dies of cancer, the same age as her father.

Note:

Ada Countess of Lovelace never received the acknowledgement she deserved within her own lifetime. It was only in 1979 that she was first recognized for her efforts, when the British Ministry of Defence named a programming language "Ada" in her honour.