

**BURNS' CLARINDA: BRIEF  
PAPERS CONCERNING THE  
POET'S RENOWNED  
CORRESPONDENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649219032

Burns' Clarinda: brief papers concerning the poet's renowned correspondent by John D. Ross

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN D. ROSS**

**BURNS' CLARINDA: BRIEF  
PAPERS CONCERNING THE  
POET'S RENOWNED  
CORRESPONDENT**





*Clarinda* —

# BURNS' CLARINDA:

Brief Papers concerning the Poet's  
Renowned Correspondent.

COMPILED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES BY

JOHN D. ROSS, LL.D.,

*Author of "Scottish Poets in America," "Random Sketches on Scottish Subjects,"  
"A Cluster of Poets," and Editor of "Celebrated Songs of Scotland,"  
"Round Burns's Grave," "Highland Mary," "All About  
Burns," "The Burns Scrap Book," "Centenary  
Burnsiana," "Burnsiana," etc. etc.*

"It is no idle dream  
That we have heard a voice from Heaven:  
'Behold this heart hath loved much,  
And much to it shall be forgiven.'"  
—AGNES MAULE MACHER.

---

New York:  
THE RAEBURN BOOK COMPANY.

1897.

“NOUGHT can ever be unwelcome to Scottish readers which comes so near to the heart of ROBERT BURNS as to treat of one whose grace and beauty and intellectual superiority evoked his unqualified admiration—one who loved him with her whole heart and soul, and was the heroine of at least two of the most vivid and tenderly passionate lyrics that came from his pen.”

—ROBERT FORD.

PA  
4332  
R. 23  
1847

ADAM E.B.

Dedicated to  
THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF  
THE EDINBURGH BURNS CLUB  
BY  
A SCOT ABROAD WHO IS PROUD OF HIS BEING A  
NATIVE OF THEIR ILLUSTRIOUS CITY.

*JOHN D. ROSS.*

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
LIBRARY

480007  
En Seto - English



## PREFACE.

---

ONE of the most pleasing results of the spread of the Burns cult is the painstaking manner in which the lives and characters of most of those who had any influence in shaping his career have been investigated and made clear to us. Even the lives of those who have been merely casually mentioned in his writings have been made the object of careful study, until now the student of the poet's earthly journey, and of the magnificent legacy he bequeathed to Scotland and the world, not only understands what manner of man he was, but is able to estimate the value to him of his mission to the men—and the women—with whom he associated in all the varied phases of his brief but memorable career.

As a result of all this scrutiny and investigation, which may be said to have started as the echoes of the birthday centennial of 1859 began

to die away, we know much better than Burns students did before that year the character of the people to whom our country's poet gave his friendship, his respect, his admiration, and his love. Some have suffered in the fierce light which editors and commentators, anxious to present to the world something new, have brought to bear upon lives which, but for his eminence, would long since have passed into such utter forgetfulness as not to leave even a memory behind. We do not, for instance, think so pleasantly now of William Nicol as we did when we simply knew him as the brewer of that "peck o' maut" which still enlivens many a brewing all over the world; and we have a higher regard, now that we have learned more about him, for the memory of John Wilson, Session Clerk of Tarbolton and afterward schoolmaster in Glasgow, than we did when we knew him only as the subject of that merciless satire, "Death and Dr Hornbook."

So too with the women who were his charmers, his friends, his advisers. Year by year the fitness of Bonnie Jean to be his life companion has been more acknowledged, while the halo of romance with which he has

invested her memory makes her, as the seasons roll, take a higher and tenderer place in our national literature as an inspirer of song, a heroine of poetry. So too, possibly in a more marked degree, has been the development of the reverence for the memory of "Highland Mary," which found its most recent public expression in the statue erected last year at Dunoon.

The present volume deals with another of the loves of Burns—the hapless Clarinda. It is safe to say that the memory of this gifted but unfortunate woman is held in high esteem for her genuine worth more than it was forty years ago. Then it was clouded, because people did not understand, did not have the means of understanding, her character, her career, or the story of her innocent intimacy with the poet. Since then her life-story has been searched, been weighed, been commented on; the closest scrutiny has been bestowed on her actions, her words, her writings, and the most scalpel-like dissection has been made even of her thoughts as far as they have become recoverable. Out of all this she has emerged without a stain, with the early cloud rolled away, and with, as her only weakness, an acknowledged love for the