

## “Mad Jack’s” Brat by Richard Alan Bunch

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My father was “Mad Jack Byron”  
and my mother Catherine who swayed away  
from me and then toward my infant self  
that caused in me a drama in poetic dreams.

Sometimes gentle, sometimes loving,  
I never stopped loving her.

At Harrow when a lad of thirteen fell in love  
with Mary Anne. The pangs of unwanted passion  
are as thorns in the body of Christ.

Then off to Cambridge and later a grand tour  
of the Continent: Spain, Portugal, Italy, the Balkans  
and began *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage* with  
myself as the dancing hero.

In England again and at twenty seven I married  
Anne Isabella Milbanke and our daughter Ada  
was born. But we were incompatible,  
irreconcilable differences.

I couldn’t love just one woman; I loved them all!

Decided to leave England forever and journeyed to  
Switzerland and visited the Shelleys.

At 29 I settled in Venice. Ah, the delights  
of Venice! Savored with the flavor of many days of  
wine, women, song.

But of all I liked Claire Clairmont for my own  
and she bore me Allegra. But ah the dreams of  
various women are shut up when the passion's over.

Then I met Countess Guiccioli who steadied me  
in my last years and by her consent, became my  
common law wife.

My final rebellious excitement came with the  
thought of aiding the Greeks in their liberation  
from the Turks.

Unfortunately a fever rang my last knell and death  
covered me with the waters of immortality.

Time passes too swiftly for lovers.

Born in Honolulu, Richard Alan Bunch grew up in  
the Napa Valley. He is a three-time Pushcart Prize  
nominee and the author of several collections of  
poetry including *Greatest Hits: 1970-2000*, *Sacred  
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