

Robert Burns

1759 – 1796

Called the national poet of Scotland, Burns has become popular not only in his native land but around the world. Every year, on January 25, his birthday is celebrated in cities, towns and villages in Scotland.

Burns was born in Alloway, Ayrshire to a small farmer and his wife. Although he received little formal schooling, his father, William Burns, was an intelligent man who tried to provide his sons with as much education as possible. He managed to employ a tutor for his sons, so they got a good education. Besides, Robert was fond of reading. He read a lot. Later he discovered and studied the Scottish poetry of his heritage.

Robert began to write poems when he was 15 years old. In his poems he described with love and understanding everyday things and people. His poems are mostly written in expressive Scottish dialect and combine rich humour with great lyric beauty. Robert Burns wrote a lot of poems, which are full of life.

Today Burns's poems are known and loved by millions of people. Many of his poems were set to music. Burns was called "The greatest song writer in English literature." His name will be famous in ages.

Burns died on the 21st of July in 1796 in Dumfries. He died at thirty-seven because of illness.