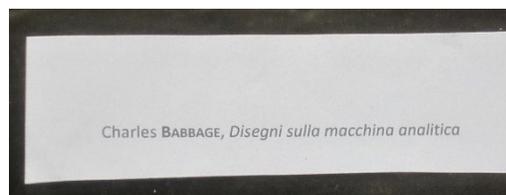
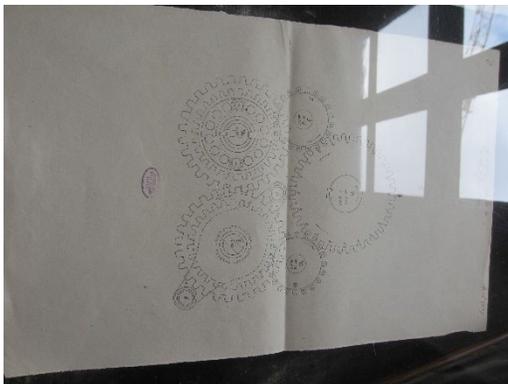


First Computer Programmer – Ada Byron Lovelace (1815-1852)



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Ada Lovelace was the daughter of the famous poet Lord Byron. As a mathematician she is best known for writing the first computer program which would have run on a machine designed by Charles Babbage, if it had ever been built. Babbage's Analytical Engine was to be a mechanical general purpose computer. Ada was able to visualize that the machine would be able to do more than just calculations. Babbage visited the Academy of Sciences in Turin, Italy, and gave a presentation on his machine.



While I was in Turin on a math study tour in 2012, I took the picture above of one of the papers that Babbage had left with them after his visit in the early 1840's (I've seen some sources say 1840 and others 1841). A mathematical physicist in Turin, Luigi Federico Menebrea, wrote an article about Babbage's Analytical Engine. Later Lady Ada Lovelace translated and greatly expanded on the article.

Required Reading

- **Ada Lovelace**, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ada_Lovelace
- **Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace**, <https://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/love.htm>
- **Augusta Ada King, countess of Lovelace**, <https://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Lovelace/>
- **Optional Reading and Viewing**
- **The Scientific Life of Ada Lovelace - Professor Ursula Martin**, <https://youtu.be/aBa7IBNSWp4>
- **Math Equals: Biographies of Women Mathematicians+Related Activities**, by Teri Perl, Addison Wesley, ISBN 0-201-05709-3, p. 101-112.
- **Notable Women in Mathematics: A Biographical Dictionary**, edited by Charlene Morrow and Teri Perl, Greenwood Press, ISBN 0-313-29131-4, *Ada Augusta Byron Lovelace*, p. 128-133