

Sir Walter Scott

The celebrated poet and novelist Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) took to novel writing after his position as Britain's bestselling poet was supplanted following the publication of Lord Byron's *Don Juan*. His groundbreaking historical novels, with highly-coloured depictions of events ranging from uprisings to fanciful medieval tournaments, attracted a huge readership. *Ivanhoe* (1819), celebrating its bicentenary this year, cemented Scott's reputation as the pre-eminent

novelist of his time, and established the familiar folk legend of Robin Hood as we know it today. The depictions of the dastardly Prince John and the valiant Richard the Lionheart, alongside the famed feat of Robin's archery prowess as he splits an arrow at a contest, all appear for the first time in Scott's novel.



Portrait of Sir Walter Scott. Frontispiece from *Memoirs of the life of Sir Walter Scott, bart., Volume 1* by John Gibson Lockhart (1837-1838)

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