

# The Poet, the Printer, and Porters



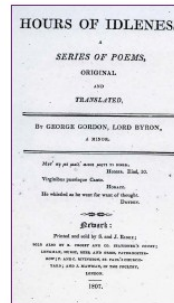
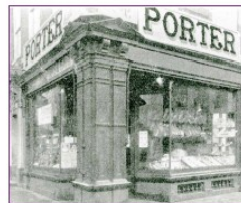
Ridge's Printers in Newark's town.  
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Porters grocery shop in Newark Market place today a long-established business in the town.

For much of its history, however, the building was occupied by successive generations of the Ridge family—booksellers and printers.

Ridge's gained the distinction of printing (in 1806 and 1807) the first collections of poems by the world famous poet Lord Byron.

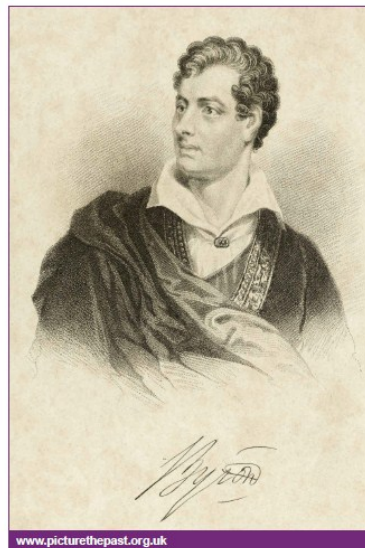
Byron is known to have stayed in Newark (at the Clinton Arms across the market square) whilst the poems were being printed, and to have visited Ridge's shop on many occasions.



The business that became Porters appeared in Newark in c.1890 when George Howard Porter moved here from Nottingham to manage a new branch of Spence & Co.s grocery business.

Porter bought the business in c.1894 and it remained in the family's ownership until 1968.

Since that time a succession of owners has operated the business, all retaining Porters name as a mark of history and quality.



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DISCOVER

Visit Newark's Millgate Museum to see the printing press on which it is said Byron's first poems were printed

Find out more about Byron and Ridge the Printer in the book 'Newark as a publishing town' by T.M. Blagg available at Newark Library

See thousands more old photographs of Newark and Nottinghamshire at [www.picturethepast.org.uk](http://www.picturethepast.org.uk)

Find out more about the history of Newark and your own family history at Newark Library and Newark Millgate Museum

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