

# ADA LOVELACE: FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAMMER?

Long before today's pervasive digital computers, the first computer programmer was arguably Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace (born in 1815 as Augusta Ada Byron, daughter of the famous poet Lord Byron). She captured the essence of Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine, which was conceptualized by Babbage but was not constructed in his lifetime. An exceptional mathematician, in 1843 she wrote an algorithm to accompany Babbage's Engine and hence is an important pioneer for women in Science and Engineering. Her contribution to calculate Bernoulli numbers with the Analytical Engine has since been successfully translated, with minor changes, to the C++ programming language. As a Victorian computer programmer, it is crucial to remember that she achieved her insights through translating between languages, people, disciplines, and between the imaginary and the real. In doing so, Lovelace was a woman *of* her time.



**PRESENTED BY  
DR. ERICA  
HAUGTVEDT**

**TUESDAY, OCT. 20  
11-11:50 AM**

**HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES  
HUMANITIESINFO@SDSMT.EDU  
605.394.2481**

**BROWN BAG  
SERIES**  
JOIN VIA ZOOM

