

ROBERT BURNS

Occupation
Poet & Lyricist

Nationality
Scottish

Famous Quote
“The best laid schemes o’ Mice an’ Men gang aft agley”

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet, born on the 25th January, 1759. He is widely regarded as Scotland’s national poet. Burns was a fiercely proud Scotsman and wrote a lot of his poetry in Scottish dialect. For many, he has come to embody Scottish culture and identity.

FIRST PUBLICATION

Burns wrote many of his poems in Scottish dialect, including the famous lines in the poem 'To a Mouse', “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men / Gang aft a-gley.”

BIRTH

Robert Burns was born in 1759 in Alloway, Scotland.

EARLY LIFE

Burns grew up in a cottage on a farm. His country upbringing inspired much of his later poetry.

“The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men / Gang aft a-gley”

Translation:

The best laid schemes of mice and men/Often go awry

'To A Mouse', 1785

RISING POPULARITY

Burns' poetry and writings became increasingly popular. He later moved to Edinburgh to build on his success.

“For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.”

'Auld Lang Syne', 1788

AULD LANG SYNE

The most famous of his poems, 'Auld Lang Syne', is sung all over the globe on New Year's Eve.

“My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.”

'My Heart's in the Highlands', 1789

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL POET

Burns went on several tours of Scotland, to observe the country and absorb its traditions and history. He devoted the rest of his life to rescuing traditional Scottish songs.

LEGACY

Today, around the UK, Burns' Day is celebrated on the 25th January each year, to mark the anniversary of his birth.