



DELPHI  
CLASSICS

Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer  
Collected Works

DELPHI POETS SERIES

# DELPHI POETS SERIES

## Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer

(1836-1870)



### Contents

#### *The Life and Poetry of Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer*

Brief Introduction: Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer (1891) by Mason Carnes

From the Spanish of Gustavo Bécquer (1882) by Owen Innsly

Poems of Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer Rendered into English Verse (1891) by Mason Carnes

#### *The Fiction*

Romantic Legends of Spain (1909)

#### *The Spanish Texts*

Legends, Tales and Poems (1909) by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer

#### *The Biography*

Life of Bécquer (1907) by Everett Ward Olmsted

#### *The Delphi Classics Catalogue*

© Delphi Classics 2023

Version 1

DELPHI POETS SERIES

**Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer**



*By Delphi Classics, 2023*

## **COPYRIGHT**

*Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer - Delphi Poets Series*

First published in the United Kingdom in 2023 by Delphi Classics.

© Delphi Classics, 2023.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form other than that in which it is published.

ISBN: 978 1 80170 109 9

**Delphi Classics**

is an imprint of

Delphi Publishing Ltd

Hastings, East Sussex

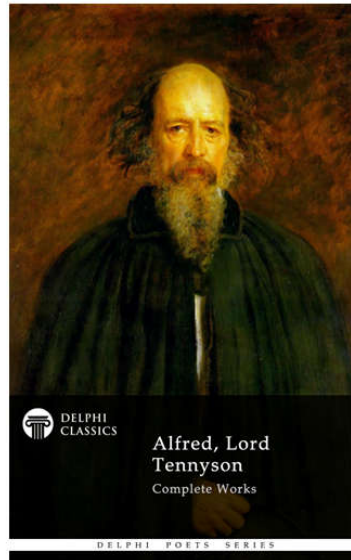
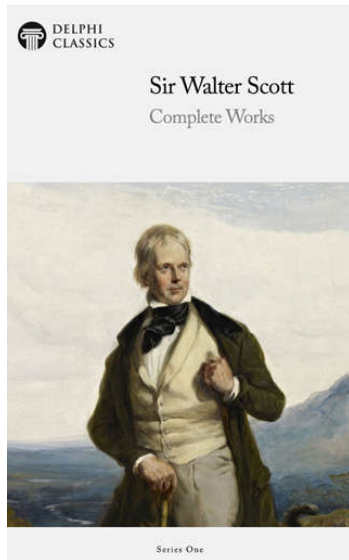
United Kingdom

Contact: [sales@delphiclassics.com](mailto:sales@delphiclassics.com)

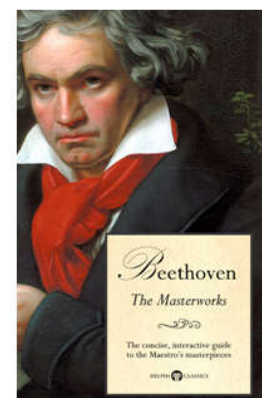
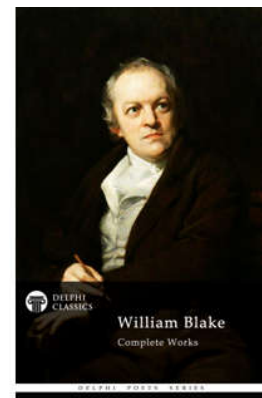
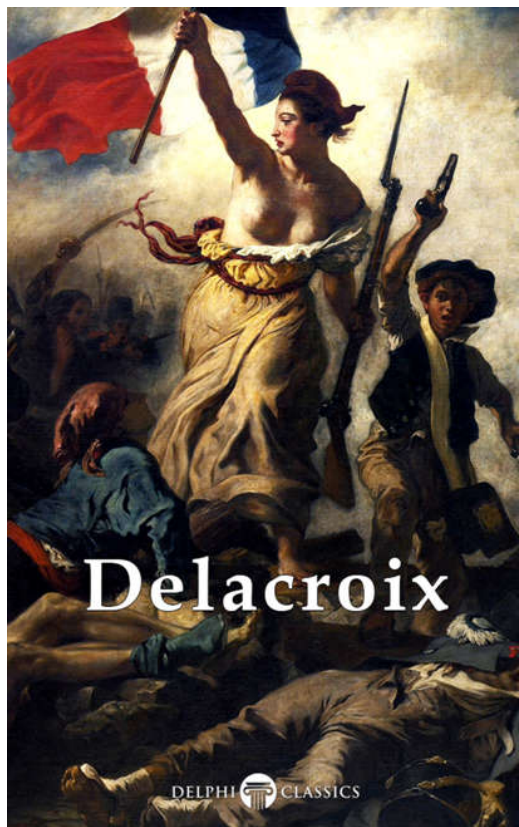


[www.delphiclassics.com](http://www.delphiclassics.com)

# THE ROMANTICS



*Explore the world of the Romantics at Delphi Classics...*



## NOTE



When reading poetry on an eReader, it is advisable to use a small font size and landscape mode, which will allow the lines of poetry to display correctly.



## The Life and Poetry of Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer



*Seville, Spain — Bécquer's birthplace*



*Seville in the second half of the nineteenth century*





*Birthplace of Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer — Calle del Conde de Barajas, Seville*

## Brief Introduction: Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer (1891) by Mason Carnes



GUSTAVO ADOLFO BECQUER, the son of a celebrated painter of Seville was born in that city the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 1836. Early left an orphan, he was educated under the care of his godmother at the school of San Antonio Abad, and afterwards at the naval school of San Telmo, where he remained but a short time. His godmother then determined to make a merchant of him, and directed his studies accordingly; but reading books was much more to his taste than keeping books, and he turned his uninteresting ledgers into sketch-books with much skill and humour. Encouraged by the success of his early verses, he determined to enter the arena of literature, and fight there for fame and fortune with an independence and strength of will astonishing in one so frail in health, so sweet and amiable in temperament. So, in 1854, against the wishes of his guardian, and sacrificing the prospects of the fortune she intended to leave him, he boldly set out for Madrid, with many hopes and little else.

Like many another similar capitalist, he soon found himself bankrupt, for his hopes dwindled away day by day as he saw his pen bringing him little more than bread and water, and that not regularly. So, finally, with his friend and future biographer and editor, Ramon Rodriguez Correa, he accepted a small post in the Department of Public Works. Always of delicate health endowed with a dreamy artistic temperament, and totally unfitted for the monotonous, deadening routine of a clerk's life, he proved a poor public servant, and was politely dismissed with a small pension.

Attacked by a terrible malady, with poverty in his home and death at his door, he struggled bravely on, writing for *El Contemporáneo* his most famous prose work, "Cartas desde mi celda," numberless stories, learned essays on architecture, of which he was passionately fond, translations, and even political and critical articles, in which the correctness of his taste and the excellence of his judgment were often nullified by the goodness of his heart.

In 1862 his brother Valeriano, having made some success as a painter in Seville, came to Madrid to live with him. They joined their forces against misfortunes and disappointments, and fought with courage, with even hope. While making ill-paid sketches, Valeriano dreamed of being able some day to buy canvases on which to paint his large conceptions; and Gustavo, toiling over the translation of an insipid novel, would long for time to give form to the magnificent ideas with which his fertile brain teemed, and which he feared — alas! too truly — would descend into the grave with him, unuttered and lost for ever.

A day of respite and of joy came at last, but death followed quickly in its wake, for in September, 1870, Valeriano died. From this shock poor Gustavo never recovered, and on the 22nd of the following December he breathed his last sigh.

After his death his prose works and his "Rimas," with an introduction by Correa, were published by subscription for the benefit of widows and orphans; and these two volumes are all that were left by the fecund brain that had conceived and planned in detail a marvellously long list of plays, stories, essays, and poems.

Patient and uncomplaining with his friends, he unburdened himself in poetry, pouring forth all his sorrows and longings in his "Rimas," which alone have gained for him an undying fame in his own country. For the sadness, beauty, passion, and originality of these lyrics, Bécquer has been compared frequently with Heine and de Musset; and Correa especially calls attention to the likeness of the "Rimas" to the

“Intermezzo” of Heine, inasmuch as each may be regarded as one poem, embodying the joys (few enough with poor Bécquer), the sufferings, the aspirations, and the life of a poet.

M. C.



*Bécquer, aged 19*

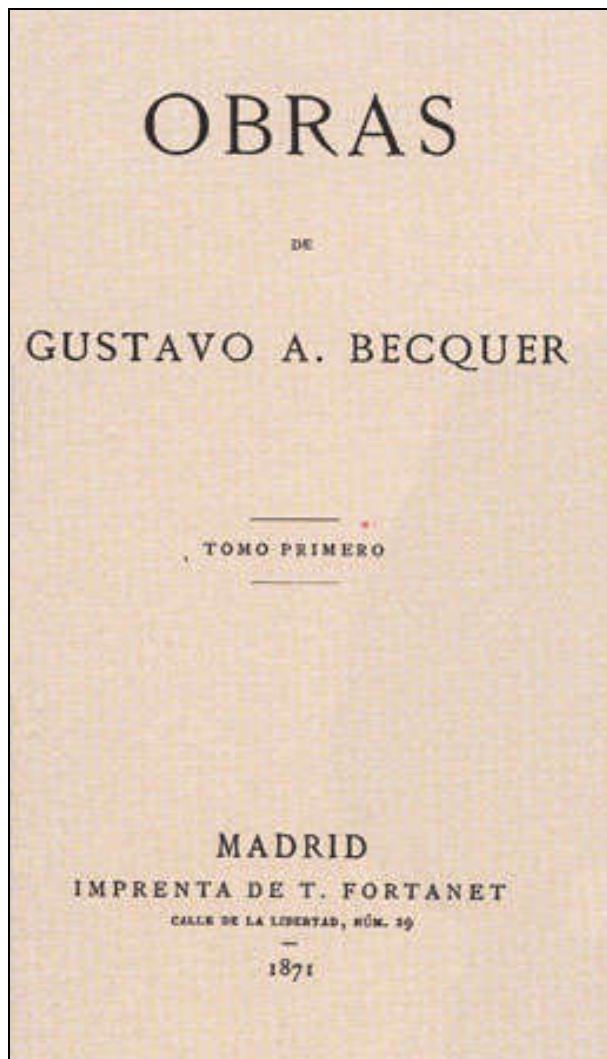


*Bécquer's muse, Julia Espín y Pérez de Collbrand (1838-1906), was a Spanish opera singer, daughter of the composer Joaquín Espín y Guillén.*





*Bécquer's loyal benefactor, Luis González Bravo (1811-1871), a politician, diplomat and intellectual author, who served twice as prime minister of Spain.*



*Title page of Bécquer's 'Obras', 1871, first edition*



*Daguerreotype of Bécquer by Jean Laurent, 1865*



*End of Sample*