

POETS



Poets

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1. Baudelaire

1.1 Who is Baudelaire

Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867). His mother re-married after his father's death and Charles' attitude towards this marriage was extremely hostile. His first album (*Les Fleurs du Mal*, 1857) was quite a shock at the time: he was fined 300fr for "outrage à la morale publique et aux bonnes mœurs". Financial problems made him leave for Belgium, where he wrote political and social poems. After a fall from the stairs in Namur, he died in Paris.

1.2 Albatros

Souvent, pour s'amuser, les hommes de l'équipage
Prendent des albatros, vastes oiseaux de mer,
Qui suivent, indolents compagnons de voyage,
Le navire glissant sur les gouffres amers.

A peine les ont-ils déposés sur les planches,
Que ces rois de l'azur, maladroits et honteux,
Laissent piteusement leurs grandes ailes blanches
Comme des avirons traîner à côté d'eux.

Ce voyageur ailé, comme il est gauche et veule!
Lui, naguère si beau, qu'il est comique et laid!
L'un agace son bec avec une brûle-gueule,
L'autre mime, en boitant, l'infirme qui volait.

Le Poète est semblable au prince des nuées
Qui hante la tempête et se rit de l'archer;
Exilé sur le sol au milieu des huées,
Ses ailes de géant l'empêchent de marcher

2. Lewis Carroll

2.1 Who is Lewis Carroll

Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Liddell) is mainly known as the author of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Lookingglass*. The latter he wrote to explain the moves in a chess game to Alice Liddell.

There is no need to tell that he also was a photographer of young girls in coy poses.

2.2 Jabberwocky

Twas brillig, and the slythe toves
Did gyre and gimble in th wabe;
All mimsy were the borogroves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!

He took his vorpal sword in hand:
Longtime the manxome foe he sought -
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood awhile in thought.

And as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,
And burbeled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and trough
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went gallumphing back

And has thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy
Oh frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!
He corteled in his joy

Twas brillig, and the slythe toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogroves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

3. Marcabru

3.1 Who is Marcabru

Macrabru is one of the greatest troubadours. He lived in the south of France (The Occitanie) round 1150. He was the first to make a distinction between carnal love (l'amar) and spiritual love (l'Amor).

His work is about l'amour provençal. This love is not only a literary experience, but has also been practised.

Those who are interested in l'amour provençal and Marcabru's roll in it should try to get a copy of René Nelli: L'érotique des troubadours (editions Privat, Toulouse)

3.2 A la fontana del vergier

A la fontana del vergier, on l'erb'es vertz josta'l gravier, a l'ombra d'un fust domesgier, en aziment de blancas flors, e de novelh chant costumier, trobei sola ses companhier, selha que no vol mon solatz.

So fon donzelh'ab son cors belh, filha d'un senhor de castelh, e quant ieu cugei que l'auzelh, li fesson joi e la verdors e pel dous termini novelh e quez entendes mon favelh tost li fon sos afars camjatz

Del huelhs plorat josta la fon, e del cor sospiret preon. Jhesus, dis elha, Reis del mon, Per vos creis ma gran dolors, quar vostra anta mi cofon, quar li melhor de tot es mon, vos van servir mas a vos platz

Ab vos s'en vai lo mieus amics, lo belh e-l gens e-l pros e-l ricx. Sai m'en reman lo gran destrics, lo deziriers soven e-l plors. ai mala fos reiz Lozoicx que fai los mans e los prezicx per que-l dols m'es el cor intratz

Quant ieu l'auzi desconortar, veis lieis vengut josta-l riu clar. Belha fi-m ieu per tro plorar, afolha cara e colors, a no vos cal desperar, que selh que fai lo bosc fulhar vos pot donar de joi assatz

Senher dis elhja ben o cre, que Dieus aia de mi mer ce en l'autre segle per jasse, quon assatz d'autres peccadors, mas sai mo tolh aquelha re, qui joi mi crec mas pauc mi te que trop s'es de mi alonhatz

4. Modest Petrovitch Moussorsky

4.1 Who is Modest Petrovitch Moussorsky

Modest Petrovitch Moussorsky (1839-1881) was a Russian composer. His operas are based on historical themes. His music seems difficult to understand and many other composers found it necessary to change parts of it. Boris Godounov has been completely revised by Rimsky Korsakov and Pictures at an exhibition has been orchestrated by Ravel.

4.2 Varlaams song from Boris Godounov

Как во городе было во Казани.
Грозный царь пировал да веселился.
Он татарей бил нещадно,
Чтоб им было неповадно
Вдоль по Руси гулять.
Он подходом подходил да под Казань-городок;
Он подкопы подкопал да под Казанку-реку.
Как татаре-то по городу похаживают,
На царя Ивана-то поглядывают,
Зли татарове.
Грозный царь-от закручинился,
Он повесил головушку на правое плечо.
Уж как стал царь пушкарей сзывать,
Пушкарей все зажигальщиков,
Зажигальщиков.
Задымилася свечка воску ярого;
Подходил молодой пушкарь-от к бочечке.
А и с порохом-то бочка закружилася,
Ой, по подкопам покатила
Да и хлопнула.
Завопили, загалдели зли татарове,
Благим матом заливались.
Полегло татаровой тьма-тьмушая,
Полегло их сорок тысячей
Да три тысячи.
Так во городе было во Казани!.. Э!

5. Pablo Neruda

5.1 Who is Pablo Neruda

Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) is seen as the most important poet from Latin America. His poems have inspired many, among who Che Guevarra. The Chilean regime of Pinochet saw him as a threat and left him in an hospital without medical attention while he was dying of cancer.

5.2 A poem by Pablo Neruda

Quando sonó la trompeta, estuvo
todo preparado en la tierra
y Jehová repartió el mundo
a Coca-Cola inc., Anaconda
Ford Motors, y otras entidades
La Compañía Frutera inc.
se reservó lo más jugoso,
la costa central de mi tierra
la dulce cintura de América.
Bautizó de nuevos sus tierras
como "Repúblicas Bananas",
y sobre los muertos dormidos
sobre los héroes inquietos
que conquistaron la grandeza,
la libertad y las banderas,
estableció la ópera bufa:
enajenó los albedríos
regaló coronas de César
desenvainó la envidia, atrajo
la dictadura de las moscas, moscas
Trujillos, moscas Tachos,
moscas Carías, moscas Martínez
moscas Ubico, moscas húmedas
de sangre humilde y mermelada,
moscas borrachas que zumban
sobre las tumbas populares,
moscas de circo, sabias moscas
entendidas en la tiranía.
Entre las moscas sanguinarias
la Frutera desembarca,
arrasando el café y las frutas,
en sus barcos que deslizaron
como bandejas el tesoro
de nuestras tierras sumergidas.
Mientras tanto, por los abismos
azucarados de los puertos,
caían indios sepultados
en el vapor de la mañana:
un cuerpo rueda, una cosa
sin nombre, un número caído,
un racimo de fruta muerta
derramada en el pudridero.

5.3 Poema 2

And, because I think Pablo Neruda is one of the best poets ever, a second poem, entitled "Poema 2"

En su llama mortal la luz te envuelve.
Absorta, pálida doliente, así situada
contra las viejas hélices del crepúsculo
que en torno a ti da vueltas.

Muda, mi amiga,
sola en lo solitario de esta hora de muertes
y llena de las vidas del fuego,
pura heredera del día destruido.

Del sol cae un racimo en tu vestido oscuro.
De la noche las grandes raíces
crecen de súbito desde tu alma,
y a lo exterior regresan las cosas en ti ocultas,
de modo que un pueblo pálido y azul
de ti recién nacido se alimenta.

Oh grandiosa y fecunda y magnética esclava
del círculo que en negro y dorado sucede:
erguida, trata y logra una creación tan viva
que sucumben sus flores, y llena es de tristeza.

6. Slauerhoff

6.1 Who is Slauerhoff

Slauerhoff lived from 1898 to 1936. He was a shipsdoctor and in that profession he traveled all over the world. He is an example of a romantic poet.

His poems are filled with nostalgia and reject of the dutch calvinistic hypocrisy of that time. He fled Holland to search happiness on the seas, only to find that on ships life is even more confined. His harsh criticism on the bourgeois mentality is often seen as a mask to hide his own sensitive nature

6.2 In Nederland

In Nederland wil ik niet leven
Men moet er steeds zijn lusten reven
Ter wille van de goede bureu
Die gretig door elk gaatje gluren
'k Ga liever leven in de steppen
Waar men geen last heeft van zijn naasten
Om 't krijzen van mijn lust zal zich geen reiger reppen
Geen vos zijn tred verhaasten

In Nederland wil ik niet sterven
En in de natte grond bederven
Waarop men nimmer heeft geleefd
Dan blijf ik liever zwerven
En kom terecht bij de nomaden
Mijn landgenoten smaden mij "Hij is mislukt"
Ja, dat ik hen niet meer kon schaden
Heeft mij in vrijheid nog te vaak bedrukt

In Nederland wil ik niet leven
Men moet er altijd naar iets streven
Om 't welzijn van zijn medemensen denken
In het geniep slechts mag men krenken
Maar niet een facie ranselen dat het knalt
Alleen omdat die trek mij niet bevalt
Iemand mishandelen zonder reden
Getuigt van tuchteloze zeden

Ik wil niet in die smalle huizen wonen,
Die Lelijkheid in steden en in dorpen
Bij duizendtallen heeft geworpen
Daar lopen allen met een stijve boord
-Uit stijl gevoel niet, om te tonen
Dat men wel weet hoe het behoort
Des Zondags om elkaar te groeten
De straten door in zwarte stoeten

In Nederland wil ik niet blijven
Ik zou er dicht groeien en verstijven
Het gaat me er te kalm, te deftig
Men spreekt er langzaam, wordt nooit heftig
En danst nooit op het slappe koord
Wel worden weerlozen gekweld
Nooit woordt zo'n plumpe boerenkop gesneld
En nooit, neen nooit gebeurt een mooie passieoord

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