

Biographical information on Darío

1867: born in Nicaragua where, as a boy, he was educated in a Jesuit school and raised by an aunt after his parents separated; he was recognized as a child prodigy poet, publishing his first poems before the age of 12 and giving public readings

1882: spent in El Salvador, where he met poet Francisco Gavidia who introduced him to works by French writers such as Victor Hugo and the Parnassian poets

1886-89: lived in Chile, where he was introduced to a sophisticated urban setting and wrote for important newspapers; he also published his first books of poetry

1888: published Azul, a collection of poems, vignettes and short stories, which has been recognized as the formal beginning Modernism; it was characterized by formal experimentation and an underlying disillusionment with modern bourgeois values

1889-92: returned to Central America due to financial difficulties; while there, he married and had a son

1892: chosen as secretary to the Nicaraguan delegation to the Fourth Centenary of the Discovery of America, he traveled to Madrid; when he returned home, he discovered his wife had died and he quickly remarried (not for love)

1893-98: lived in Buenos Aires, where he continued to write for newspapers as well as to write and publish poetry

1896: published his important collection of poetry, Prosas profanas (Profane Hymns)

1898-1914: lived in Europe, where he continued to write; found a female companion with whom he had three children

1905: published Cantos de vida y esperanza (Songs of Life and Hope), a collection which treated social and political themes more directly than his previous work (Spanish American War 1898, U.S. intervention in Panama 1903)

1907: published Canto errante (Wandering Song)

1907: visited Nicaragua, where he was received as a national hero

1910: published Canto a Argentina (Song to Argentina) and Poema del otoño y otros poemas (Poem of Autumn and Other Poems)

1914: with outbreak of WWI, he left Paris and returned to Guatemala, then Nicaragua

1915: died in Nicaragua