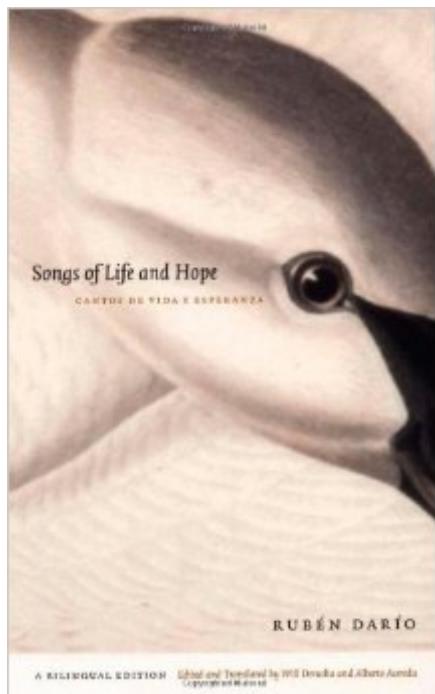


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Songs Of Life And Hope/Cantos De Vida Y Esperanza



Synopsis

Renowned for its depth of feeling and musicality, the poetry of Rubén Darío (1867–1916) has been revered by writers including Federico García Lorca, Pablo Neruda, and Octavio Paz. A leading figure in the movement known as modernismo, Darío created the modern Spanish lyric and permanently altered the course of Spanish poetry. Yet while his output has inspired a great deal of critical analysis and a scattering of translations, there has been, until now, no complete English translation of any of his books of poetry. This bilingual edition of Darío's 1905 masterpiece, *Cantos de vida y esperanza*, fills a crucial gap in Hispanic and world literature studies. Will Derusha and Alberto Acereda have provided not only an elegant English translation of Darío's work but also an authoritative version of the original Spanish text. Written over the course of seven years and in many locales in Latin America and Europe, the poems in *Cantos de vida y esperanza* reflect both Darío'sanguished sense of modern life and his ecstatic visions of transcendence, freedom, and the transformative power of art. They reveal Darío's familiarity with Spanish, French, and English literature and the wide range of his concerns—existential, religious, erotic, and socio-political. Derusha and Acereda's translation renders Darío's themes with meticulous clarity and captures the structural and acoustic dimensions of the poet's language in all its rhythmic sonority. Their introduction places this singular poet "arguably the greatest to emerge from Latin America in modern literature" and his best and most widely known work in historical and literary context. An extensive glossary offers additional information, explaining terms related to modernismo, Hispanic history, mythological allusions, and artists and writers prominent at the turn of the last century.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Duke University Press Books; Bilingual edition (March 29, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 082233271X

ISBN-13: 978-0822332718

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,433,084 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #260 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > Spanish & Portuguese #352

Customer Reviews

First of all, Rubén Darío's poetry is so immensely important and contemporary in its relevancy that I cannot believe this is the first quality translation of it! Originally published in Spain in 1905, "Cantos de vida y esperanza" is one of the most important collections of Darío's poetry. He is widely considered the father of the modernistic movement. For me to review his poetry would be folly- I believe everyone takes what they bring to the poem with them. I can tell you that his poetry has such an honesty in it that I cannot but help be moved by his plight... his plight as a human being :) something we all share, which is why his poems are great and immortal. One of his most famous poems is "Canción de otoño en primavera"/Song of autumn in springtime. While I do not feel at liberty to reproduce the translation included in the book, I will give you a small sample of the poetry itself in case you are new to his writings or curious.

Juventud, divino tesoro
ya te vas para no volver
Cuando quiero llorar, no lloro... y a veces lloro sin querer... Youth, divine treasure
you have gone, never to return
When I want to cry, I cannot... and sometimes I cry without wanting to... Much of his poetry is very personal and moving. I love the pictures he can create with words, like in his poem "Canto de esperanza" Song of hope: "Un gran vuelo de cuervos mancha el azul celeste." A great flight of ravens stains the blue celestial sky. "Verdugos de ideales afligieron la tierra,/en un pozo de sombra la humanidad se encierra" Executioners of ideals afflict the earth/in a well of shadow humanity is encircled. That is a very small sample of the wonderful poetry in this book.

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