

Father Jacint Verdaguer

Born in Folgueroles in 1845, he was the son of modest farmers and joined Vic seminary in 1855. In 1865, he won his first prize in a poetry contest. Jacint was ordained a priest in 1870 and was assigned to the rural parish of Vinyoles d'Orís, where he composed a large number of popular poems and religious apologetics. Most importantly, he worked on his project, L'Atlàntida. In 1874, he moved to Barcelona because of health problems and entered as a priest in the Companyia Transatlàntica. He made trips to North America nine times and in the process recovered totally. The following period from 1877 to 1893 was the most prolific and brilliant of his literary career. The subsequent years, however, were marked by a series of problems and misunderstandings with his employer, the Marquès de Comillas, and with the ecclesiastical authorities of Barcelona and Vic. The years he spent at the shrine of Gleva provided for him an exercise in aesthetics as shown in the collection of desolate and dramatic verse called the Flors del Calvari – the Flowers of Calvary. Jacint Verdaguer died in Vallvidrera in 1902.

Josep Rodoreda

Josep Rodoreda was born in Barcelona in 1851. He began his studies at the Escolania de Nostra Senyora del Remei in Barcelona with Nicolau Manent, who taught him music theory, piano, harmony, and composition. From 1875 until 1883, he taught music theory and piano at the Conservatori del Liceu. He directed the Societat Coral Euterpe from 1876 until 1886. In 1878, he was named a permanent member of the Reial Acadèmia de Ciències Naturals i Arts de Barcelona. In 1886 he became the director of the Banda Municipal and of the Escola Municipal de Música de Barcelona. In 1896, he went to San Sebastián to head the city band. Around 1910, Josep moved to Buenos Aires to direct the music academy he had founded with Joan Goula and dedicated himself to teaching until his death in 1922. A prolific songwriter, he wrote more than four hundred works of different genres. The best known of these is the Virolai to the Virgin of Montserrat.