

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES SAAVEDRA

Miguel de Cervantes was born on September 29th, 1547 in Alcalá de Henares (Madrid). When he was four years old he moved with his family to Valladolid, where it was settled the Court of the Spanish King, Felipe II. When Cervantes was twenty years old, he went to Rome in order to service to the Cardinal Acquaviva. He toured Italy, joined the Armada Española (Spanish Army) in 1571 and participated in the Battle of Lepanto.

He published the novel "La Galatea" (1585) and fought, unsuccessfully, to excel in theater. In 1605 he published the first part of "Don Quijote". In 1606 he returned to Madrid, where he lived with economic hardship and delivered himself to literary creation. In his later years published the "Novelas Ejemplares" (1613), "Viaje del Parnaso" (1614), "Comedias y ocho entremeses" (1615) and the second part of "Don Quijote" (1615). He spent his last months of life writing "Los trabajos de Persiles y Segismunda".

His poetry includes sonnets, songs, pastorals, romances, and other minor poems dispersed or included in his plays and novels. He also wrote two major poems: "Canto de Calíope" (included in "*La Galatea*") and "Viaje del Parnaso" (1614).

In narrative prose Cervantes began writing a pastoral novel, that was his first published book, with the title of "Primera parte de La Galatea" (1585), although there was never a sequel. Between 1590 and 1612, Cervantes wrote a series of short stories that ended up meeting in 1613 in the collection of "Novelas Ejemplares".

In the summer of 1604 it was finished the edition of the first part of his great work, which was published in early 1605 with the title of "El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha" and whose success was immediate. The second part of this work is titled: "El ingenioso caballero don Quijote de la Mancha", which was published in 1615. In 1617 the two parts were published together in Barcelona, and since then "El Quijote" became one of the most published books in the world and, over time, translated into all languages with literary tradition.

In April of 1616, Cervantes died at his home in Madrid, attended by his wife and one of his nieces; wrapped in his Franciscan habit, his face uncovered, he was buried in the Convento de las Trinitarias Descalzas, in the then called Calle de Cantarranas. Nowadays, the exact location of his grave is still unknown.