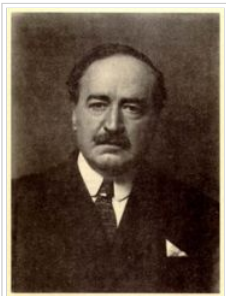


Vicente Blasco Ibáñez

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Vicente Blasco Ibáñez (January 29, 1867 - January 28, 1928) was a Spanish realist novelist writing in Spanish, a screenwriter and occasional film director.



Vicente Blasco Ibáñez

Born in Valencia, today he is best known for his World War I

novel *Los Cuatro Jinetes del*

Apocalipsis. Filmed in 1921 as

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, it was filmed again in 1962, reset in World War II.

However, in his time he was a best-selling author inside and outside of Spain, and also known for his controversial political activities. While *Sangre y*

arena (*Blood and Sand*) and *Los cuatro Jinetes del Apocalipsis* are his most popular novels, particularly outside of Spain, his Valencian novels such as *La barraca* and *Canas y barro* are the ones most valued by scholars.

He finished studying law, but hardly practised. He divided his time into politics, literature and dalliances with women for whom he was a deep admirer. He wrote with uncanny speed and energy. He was a fan of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.

His life, it can be said, tells a more interesting story than his novels. He was a militant Republican



Woman Triumphant, a translation of *La maja desnuda* by Vicente Blasco Ibáñez into English

partisan in his youth and founded a newspaper, *El Pueblo* (translated as either *The Town* or *The People*) in his hometown. The newspaper aroused so much controversy that it was brought to court many times and censored. He made many enemies and was shot and almost killed in one dispute. The bullet was caught in the clasp of his belt. He had several stormy love affairs.

He volunteered as the proofreader for the novel *Noli Me Tangere*, in which the Filipino patriot José Rizal expressed his contempt of the Spanish colonization of the Philippines. He travelled to Argentina in 1909 where two new cities, Nueva Valencia and Cervantes, were created. He gave conferences on historical events and Spanish literature. Tired and disgusted with government failures and inaction, Vicente Blasco Ibañez moved to Paris at the beginning of World War I.

He was a supporter of the Allies in World War I.

His themes include his native Valencia.

He died in Menton, France in 1928 at the age of 61.

Works

- *A los pies de Venus*
- *Argentina y sus grandezas*
- *Arroz y tartana*, available at Project Gutenberg.
- *Cañas y barro* [1], about life among the fishermen-peasants of the Albufera marshes in Valencia. Also a Spanish TV series.
- *Cuentos valencianos*
- *El caballero de la virgen*
- *El intruso*, about immigration to the Basque Country
- *El oriente*
- *El papa del mar*, about the antipope Benedict XIII, who established his court at Peñíscola.
- *El paraíso de las mujeres*, available at Project Gutenberg.
- *El préstamo de la difunta*, available at Project Gutenberg.
- *En busca del Gran Khan*
- *Entre naranjos* [2], another Valencian piece. Also a Spanish TV series.
- *Fantasma de las alas de oro*
- *Flor de mayo*
- *La araña negra*
- *La Barraca*, available at Project Gutenberg.
- *La bodega*
- *La Catedral*, available at Project Gutenberg.
- *La horda*

- *La maja desnuda*, about Goya's Naked Maja.
- *La Tierra de Todos*, available at Project Gutenberg.
- *Los argonautas*
- *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Los Cuatro Jinetes del Apocalipsis)* [3], about Argentina and the First World War. Several times filmed. *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, available at Project Gutenberg. Best seller in the United States in 1919.
- *Los muertos mandan*
- *Luna Benamor*
- *Mare Nostrum*, a spy novel in the Mediterranean. Filmed in 1926.
- *Novelas de la costa azul*
- *Blood and Sand (Sangre y arena)*, about a matador in a love triangle. Filmed several times.
- *Vistas sudamericanas*
- *Voluntad de vivir*
- *Vuelta del mundo de un novelista*, a travelogue.

External links

- Works by Vicente Blasco Ibáñez at Project Gutenberg

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