

TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

Celebrated the 3rd Wednesday in July



"I see my path,
but I don't know where it leads.
Not knowing where I'm going
is what inspires me to travel it."

Rosalía de Castro

Galician poet María Rosalía Rita de Castro was born February 24, 1837, to a teenaged mother. A forerunner of modern Spanish poetry and a predominant figure in the Galician Romantic movement known as the Renaissance (Rexurdimento) which followed the Dark Centuries (Séculos Escuros), her poetry is marked by notes of profound sadness, isolation and fear of death.

Contrary to the literary norms of her time, Castro wrote in Galego, the language of her native Galicia (Spain), which resulted in disdain and derision from the academics and critics who expected work to be written in Spanish, but earned her the adoration of the Galician people. Castro published her first collection, *Galician Songs*, on May 17, 1863, a date celebrated as Día del las Letras Galegas (Galician Literature Day) in commemoration of Castro's work and an official holiday which now recognizes a writer in the Galician language each year. Many public institutions in Galicia are named for the poet, whose likeness was printed on the 500 peseta bill in 1979.

Castro died in 1885.

How to take your favorite with you on Take Your Poet to Work Day

1. Color your poet
2. Cut out your poet along dotted lines
3. Attach a popsicle stick to the back of your poet with tape or glue
4. Take your poet to work



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