

**NINE
SPANISH POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649297306

Nine Spanish Poems by F. de Arteaga y Pereira

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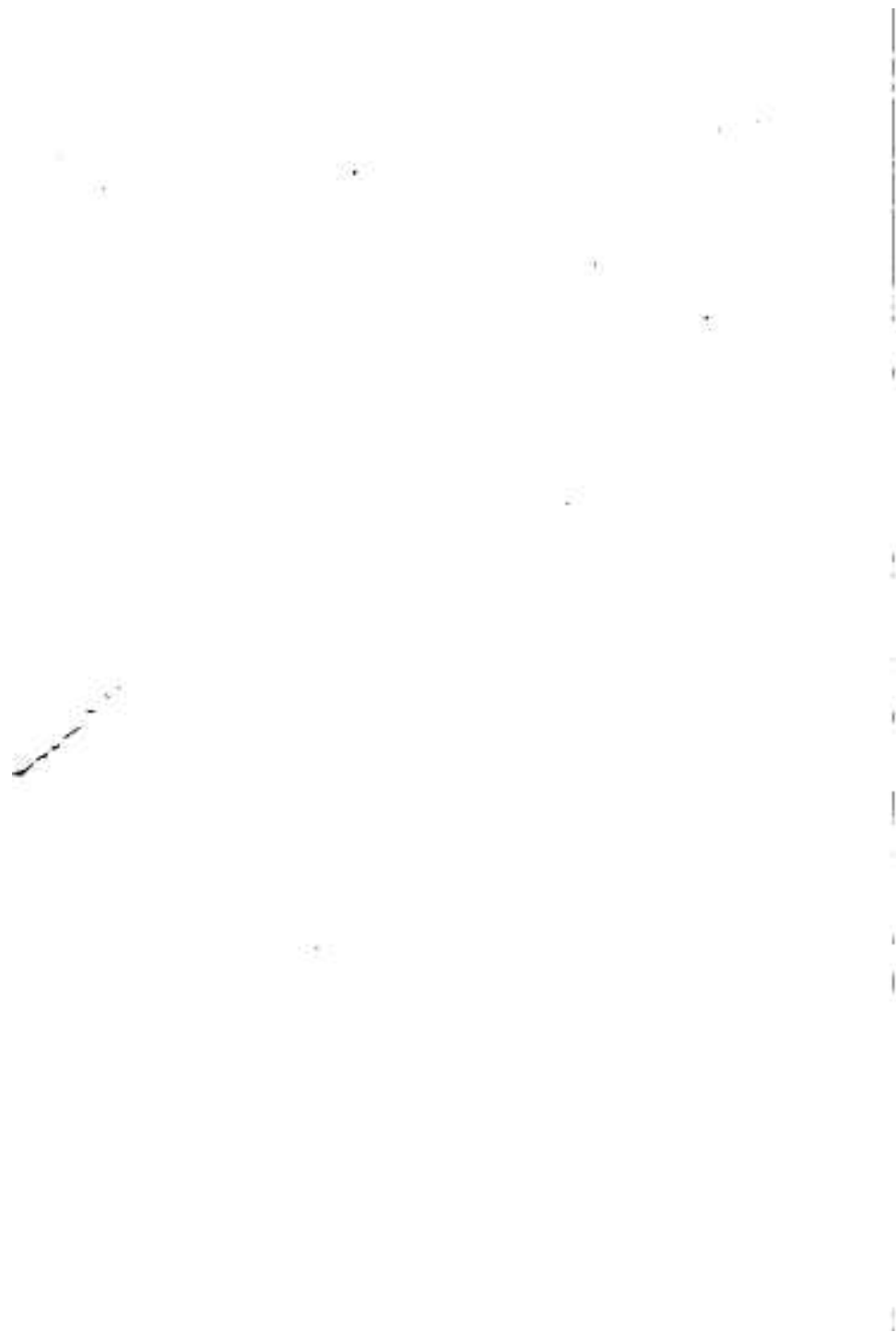
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F. DE ARTEAGA Y PEREIRA

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COLLECTED BY
F. DE ARTEAGA Y PEREIRA

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

HENRY FROWDE
LONDON, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW
NEW YORK, TORONTO AND MELBOURNE

1909

OXFORD: HORACE HART
PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

TO THE
LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Copla.

Dos besos tengo en el alma,
Que no se apartan de mí:
El último de mi madre,
Y el primero que te di.

This quatrain is an example of a kind of popular poetry peculiar to Spaniards, called *copla*, of great similarity to romance [or ballad]. While this latter generally deals with national exploits performed either by heroes, or the united efforts of the people, the *copla* appeals to the feelings which form the groundwork of ordinary life, and depicts the individual character. The two, taken in connection, complete the spirit of the country. Consequently, though they work out under the same poetical form—the half-rhyme—(the best adapted to the simplicity of their subjects, to the character of those who are addressed, and even to the non-literary education of their occasionally anonymous authors), they greatly differ from one another in development, the *copla* contenting itself with four lines, which, in order to be powerful enough to strike either our mind or heart, contain either a deep thought, or a tender feeling, or a sharp comparison, or, as more often happens and is here the case, a contrast.

YO VIVÍ
ABOGUADO

Fray Luis de León.

Belmonte de Tajo, 1527-1591.

La vida del campo.

¡ Qué descansada vida
La del que huye el mundanal ruido,
Y sigue la escondida
Senda por donde han ido
Los pocos sabios que en el mundo han sido !

Que no le enturbia el pecho
De los soberbios grandes el estado,
Ni del dorado techo
Se admira fabricado
Del sabio moro, en jaspes sustentado ;

No cura si la fama
Canta con voz su nombre pregonera,
Ni cura si encarama
La lengua lisonjera
Lo que condena la verdad sincera.

¿ Qué presta á mi contento,
Si soy del vano dedo señalado,
Si en busca de este viento
Ando desalentado
Con ansias vivas, con mortal cuidado ?