

**SONNETS FROM THE
TROPHIES OF JOSÉ-
MARIA DE HEREDIA**

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Sonnets from the Trophies of José-Maria de Heredia by Edward Robeson Taylor

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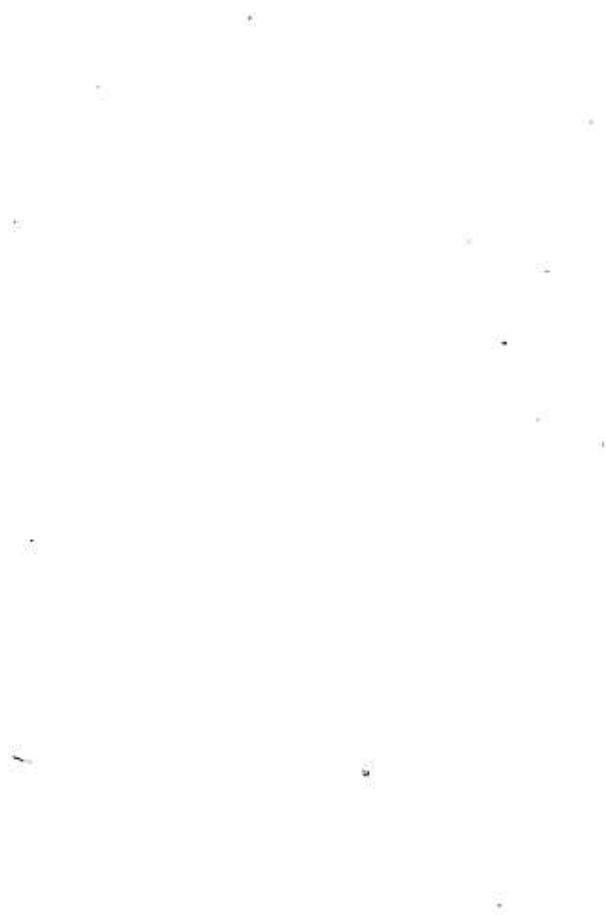
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EDWARD ROBESON TAYLOR

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SONNETS
FROM THE TROPHIES OF
JOSÉ-MARIA DE
HEREDIA

RENDERED INTO ENGLISH BY
EDWARD ROBESON TAYLOR

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TO THE MEMORY OF
LEVI COOPER LANE
THESE VERSIONS
ARE REVERENTLY
DEDICATED

PREFATORY NOTE TO THE FOURTH
EDITION

THE Sonnets here presented are versions of all those contained in Heredia's "Les Trophées." Since the first publication of these versions I have made many changes in them, in the interest of a truer rendering and a better art, while some of the sonnets have been almost entirely recast. That such art as Heredia's can best be exemplified in the French may be conceded; but at the same time it must likewise be conceded that in no language has the sonnet reached greater variety or force, or beauty for the matter of that, than in the English. Indeed, of all the forms borrowed from the French and the Italian, the sonnet form, as has been well said, seems to be the only one that has become deeply rooted in our literary soil. That the task of representing Heredia's sonnets acceptably in the English is truly Herculean may also be conceded; but the very difficulty is a challenge to those who love the sonnet form and delight to work in it; and even partial success in such an endeavor is almost a victory.

In the sonnets of "Les Trophées" the poet never employs more than two rhymes in the octave, his rhyme being, without exception, arranged as follows: abba-abba. In the sestet he allows himself more liberty, about two-thirds of the sonnets having the rhyme arrangement