



REAL ACADEMIA  
DE LA HISTORIA

DB~e

*Diccionario Biográfico electrónico*

January 31st, 2022

## General information

The electronic edition of the *Diccionario Biográfico (DB~e)* allows the spread, through the web, of biographical information corresponding to more than **50,000 relevant figures of Hispanic history** – many of them biographed for the first time-, **from the seventh century BC until nowadays**, belonging to **all occupations, areas and fields of study**, as well as **all the territories** that, along with the Iberian Peninsula, were part of the **Spanish Administration**: either overseas (the American viceroyalty, North America, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines...) or trans-Pyrenean (the Netherlands, the Franche-Comté, the Duchy of Milan...)

For the first time, both electronically and available across countries, it is disposed an amount of historical information about the Hispanic world, which has never been achieved before. **The whole of contents, integrated by more than 60,000 pages of text, are entirely accessible for free on the Internet.**

## A foundational project

The *Diccionario Biográfico electrónico (DB~e)* is meant as the culmination of a foundational project.

The Real Academia de la Historia ([www.rah.es](http://www.rah.es)) started as a literary meeting among friends, back in the year 1735. The participants asked for the royal support of Philip V and thus, the King gave them his protection. As a consequence, the gathering, already-specialised into the past's research, was translated into the Real Academia de la Historia. Dated the 18th of April, 1738, the King Philip V passed a decree directed to his Council, in which he stated the condition and title of “Academy” to the Board that was having regular meetings in the rooms of his Royal Library for the study of History and by creating a *Diccionario Histórico-Crítico Universal de España*., The final aim of this institution was to clarify “the important truth of the events, grabbing the fables introduced by ignorance or evil, leading the knowledge of many into a darkening of the former times or which carelessness has buried.”

The old aspiration of the Academy regarding what was known in the eighteenth century as “varones ilustres” (the important figures of the intellectual class) was retaken at the end of the twentieth century through the *Diccionario Biográfico Español*, promoted by the director

during that time, Gonzalo Anes. For this reason, the 21st of July, 1999, an agreement with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports was signed, that materialized ten years later with the printed edition, consisting of fifty volumes which, including more than 40,000 figures, was initiated in 2009 and ended in September, 2013. Until that moment, Spain did not count with a collective biographical repertoire.

The Real Academia de la Historia finally promoted and boosted the electronic edition of the *Diccionario Biográfico (DB~e)*, a **pioneer, virtual environment concerning the syndication of both historical and biographical contents**, offered to multiple research purposes and also to the general audience, which was presented at the Royal Palace of El Pardo (Madrid), under the presidency of Their Royal Highnesses the King and the Queen of Spain, on the 3rd of May, 2018.

The screenshot displays the website's search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Real Academia de la Historia logo and the DB~e logo. Below this, there are two search bars: 'Buscador sencillo' and 'Buscador avanzado'. The main content area shows a search results page for 'Hasekura Tsunenaga'. It includes a portrait of Hasekura Tsunenaga and text indicating '400 años de su muerte' (400 years since his death) and 'Hasekura Tsunenaga' (1571-1629). Below the featured entry is a quote by Pedro Vaga: '«si el olvido es muerte de las cosas, si escribir las sera resucitarlas, darles vida, hacerlas inmortales»'. The page also features logos for the Real Academia de la Historia and Google.

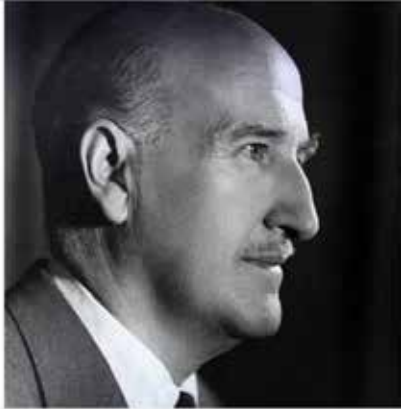
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Vicente Alexandre y Merio

[Biografías guardadas](#)

[Búsquedas guardadas](#)

[Preguntas frecuentes](#)



Alexandre y Merio, Vicente. Sevilla, 26-VI-1896 - Madrid, 13-XII-1964. Poeta y académico.

Es difícil separar la vida de Vicente Alexandre de su constante entrega a la poesía. Nació en Sevilla, en el crucial año de 1896 (el mismo en el que nacen Dámaso Alonso y Federico García Lorca), hijo de Efrasa Merio y García de Pruneda, natural de La Coruña, y del entonces capitán de Ingenieros Cirilo Alexandre y Ballesera, natural de Valencia. Fue treinta días después en el Registro Civil de la capital hispalense con el nombre del abuelo paterno, Vicente, seguido de varios nombres más como era costumbre: Pablo (y no Pío, como el poeta creía recordar), Marcelino y Cirilo.

Terza dos años cuando su familia se trasladó a Málaga, donde pasó su infancia. Allí, a muy corta edad, comenzó sus estudios en un parvulario de monjas, donde aprendió a leer, que en "una forma de teatro", solía decir el poeta, y a los siete años pasó al colegio de Ventura Barraco Bosch, en el que tuvo como compañero de aula a Emilio Prados, la amistad histórica más antigua sin duda del grupo del 27. A Málaga le dedicaría uno de sus más hermosos y nostálgicos libros, *Sueño del Paraíso* (1944), en agradecimiento a la suñer dichosa que vivió en ella y en sus playas de El Pedregalejo, donde la familia Alexandre tenía una casa para los veranos.

En 1909 su padre, que había dejado el ejército y trabajaba como ingeniero de Ferrocarriles en la Red del Oeste, fue trasladado a Madrid. Nuevo rumbo familiar.

Aún no había cumplido los once años cuando Vicente llegó a Madrid con sus padres y su única hermana, un año menor que él, Conchita, y que con el tiempo sería su única e inseparable compañía familiar.

El Colegio Teresiano donde siguió el bachillerato era de enseñanza libre y llevado por señores, lo que contribuyó a la formación independiente y laica del futuro escritor. Su tenaz voluntad y su extraordinaria memoria le permitieron ir superando cada curso y adelantar asignaturas del siguiente, de tal manera que a los quince años terminó el bachillerato.

La vida de Alexandre no alcanza especial significación hasta que, ya a punto de concluir sus estudios universitarios de Derecho e Inocencia Mercantil, en 1917, no descubre en toda su magnitud lo que la poesía era: no una serie de insensuales rimas como la Prescriptiva literaria de sus años escolares le había hecho creer y hasta casi aborrecer, sino, como dirá el más tarde con honda exactitud, "una profunda verdad comunicada".

Quien le inició en el goce y misterio de la poesía fue otro joven de su misma edad, Dámaso Alonso, uno de sus más constantes amigos y, al mismo tiempo, miembro destacado de la Generación del 27. El libro que al serle prestado por Dámaso le reveló un nuevo mundo para la emoción y la expresión estética era de Rubén Darío, casi con toda probabilidad la antología que del gran maestro maragüe se preparó el también poeta modernista Andrés González Blanco en 1910. El decisivo descubrimiento tuvo lugar durante el verano de 1917, en Las Navas del Marqués (Ávila).

En el mes de octubre de ese mismo año, ya vuelto a Madrid, y tras la lectura del volumen *Poesías escogidas*, de

## Resources

Among other resources, there is a network of **more than 500 national and international scientific institutions** which have collaborated with the Real Academia de la Historia and the ensemble of **more than 4,500 historians and researchers**, who have contributed to the elaboration of the *Diccionario Biográfico*, and made of it a reference work for the knowledge and study of the Spanish History.

Elaborated by specialists and supported by the Real Academia de la Historia, these texts are given the authority criterion and the scientific quality guarantee, which cannot usually be found in the majority of the contents available on the Internet, often characterized by both anonymity and lack of reference.

## Digital development

*The Diccionario Biográfico electrónico (DB-e)* channels **one of the largest networks of historical knowledge**, providing not only the wealth of its data, but the diversity of its numerous browsing criteria and its modulation to different search levels, from a general audience to the most specialized investigators. The original development and the contents structure allows the **project to be useful for a wide range of segments of society**: from a Primary, Secondary or Highers student to a specialized researcher, as well as the whole university community.

A digital platform has been developed, having into account criteria of accessibility, usability and simplicity in data recovery and getting the most of every capacity, so the complexity of the provided data are offered to the user in a simple and intuitive manner. The greatest learning throughout the complete process has been that **both design and development of these innovations must be defined by the aspiration of simplicity for their later use**.

The design has considered the diversity of devices from where the platform can be accessed, being in this sense *responsible* to reach the maximum spread and establishment of its contents.

Each and every one of the figures has been catalogued according to more than twenty different criteria that allow the search of information both in terms of descriptors and free text, in a wide variety of combinations. **The browsers** of the *Diccionario Biográfico* allow alphabetical location, browse by normalized descriptors, hipertextual navigation, textual searches into the biographies, chronological, geographical and disciplinary annotations, by religious and cultural range and by genre.

From the perspective of these contents' search, two browsers have been outlined: a simple browser and an advanced browser.

- **The simple browser** allows free and completed access to the whole of contents into the *Diccionario Biográfico*. It allows the alphabetical location of a figure through any part of his or her name, nickname or title of nobility. Both single terms and collocations might be introduced in order to narrow the search down.

- On the other hand, **the advanced browser** –accessible through a previous register/subscription– allows the multiple combinations of all the fields that the tool has been structured into, for more specific searches that maximize the available resources and facilitate the access to more accurate historical data. Moreover, the advanced browser can also search for a specific term or terms into the textual body of the biographies to find a word or a collocation throughout all the contents of the *Diccionario Biográfico*. At the same time, each field admits various possibilities and might be combined together with including, excluding or disjunctive criteria.

## Links

Through a **double system of references, completely new**, all the characters appear related among them according to **various levels of contextualization**.

At the end of each biography, there is a display of **the whole network of relationships for each character**, which incorporates,

- on one hand, the characters who are mentioned in the biography itself, and
- on the other hand, those biographies where this particular character is cited. These links allow to show the projection or track of a character in History through their impact in other biographies, further than their time-space coordinates.

This **collection of relationships, this visual map of relationships among characters** establishes a dialogue between the texts that allows them to enrich and to complement with data that might come from other biographies. By this crossing of information, the vast knowledge of a character or of a period is not achieved by the isolated reading of one single biography, but in addition by the connections that are created along with other characters. This fact **multiplies the associations of a character** regarding the usual amount of information that has been usually available in any electronic environment.

Furthermore, the user could directly access an **additional level of contextualization** (“Similar Characters”), which displays more characters who, in the same period [with a 50-year margin], shared one of the following features:

- The same activity (being able to choose each one of them)
- Were born in the same place
- Died in the same place

In this way, the characters achieve a complete contextualization.

## Relación con otros personajes del DBE

### Biografías que citan este personaje

- Manuel Albaladejo Iñigo
- Dámaso Alonso y Fernández de los Ríos
- Antonio Aparicio
- Manuel Ángel Cifra
- Julián Ayesta Heróides
- Francisco de Paula Aguirre García Quirós



Vicente Fox and Merino

### Personajes citados en esta biografía

- Rafael Alberti Merino
- Dámaso Alonso y Fernández de los Ríos
- José Manuel Blecua Vajero
- Carlos Blasco Piets
- Haroldo Castrovegó Sirones
- Pedro Calientes Lizar

## Personajes similares

Mismo ámbito disciplinar / Misma época

Período, día

- Manuel Añel
- Isopólo Aguirre de Mera
- José María de Aguirre Igarza
- Alfonso Ansoáin Corripio
- José Alta Iba
- Joaquín Ansaldo de Zaba
- Juan Grande Añóna Haritillo
- Francisco Almirán Sarri
- José María Alfaro Polanco
- Cabriel Alomar i Vilatorrada
- Jaime Aguirre i Gargallo
- Francisca Aguirre Ibarra
- Ignacio Aguirre Irujo
- Rafael Alberti Merino
- Aurora de Alzamor Peña
- Manuel Albaladejo
- Francisca Alvarez Merino
- Rafael Alfaro
- José Alvarado Camps
- Manuel Alonso Alvalde

Siguiente =

## Goals, maintenance and updating

The digital development of the *Diccionario Biográfico electrónico (DB-e)* means a step forward into the aspiration of **service to society and culture** that has defined the Real Academia de la Historia, convinced of the fact that the disposition of its services and contents in an electronic format will help to the achievement of its goals.

Given the fact that the Hispanic world did not own a historical contents database, this project comes to fulfil a need.

Due to its electronic format, the *Diccionario Biográfico electrónico (DB-e)* is an endless project. Apart from the 50,000 figures whose biographies form the actual platform, the Real Academia de la Historia has kept working –many times collaborating with the users themselves– to improve the number of biographies and to update the already-existing data. Therefore, there is already available **an ensemble of 20,000 additional figures** to be incorporated in the forthcoming months.

The initial development and the promotion of the electronic edition of the *Diccionario Biográfico* has allowed the **maintenance and the continuous updating of its contents**, boosting and facilitating an extensive cultural and social network which connects the interests related to history and biography, with a special regard to the Ibero-American community. Users and contents are related for contributing to the project's improvement, always open, through different channels and participation modes, to generate a merge of contents.



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## Presentation and awards

The 3rd of May, 2018, the *DB~e* of the Real Academia de la Historia was presented at the Royal Palace of El Pardo (Madrid), under the presidency of Their Royal Highnesses the King and the Queen of Spain.

The presentation counted with the presence of some members of the government and some relevant figures of the Administration, as well as representatives of Spanish business and culture. The ceremony was broadcast live on the Spanish National Television.

Itemisation of contents in order of intervention:

- Speech of the Director of the Real Academia de la Historia, Carmen Iglesias: 3 min 25 s – 15 min
- Demonstration of the capacities of the advanced browser by Jaime Olmedo, Technical Director of the DB-e: 22 min 28 s – 31 min 02 s
- Speech of His Royal Highness, King Philip VI: 36 min 28 s – 52 min

Link to the complete video of the presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVYEJxd4tsg&feature=youtu.be>

The DB~e was awarded with the Quality Innovation Award (QIA) 2018 under the category of “Education Sector Innovations”. DB~e candidacy was evaluated by the **Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (ANECA)**, reaching the highest rating, and was unanimously elected in the national competition phase.

The Quality Innovation Award is an annual, international competition created in 2007 by **Excellence Finland** to increase the amount and level of innovations. Hundreds of innovators from various countries have applied to this international competition for neutral evaluation and recognition. Certificates for the winners are signed by the President of the Republic of Finland.

On the 18th of November, 2018, Carmen Iglesias, Director of the Real Academia de la Historia, collected the QIA Award from the Asociación Nacional de **Centros Promotores de la Excelencia-CEX** at the headquarters of the **Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)**, located in Madrid.