



Jorge Isaacs Ferrer (Cali, Colombia, 1837-Ibagué, Colombia, 1895) is Spanish America's most well known romantic writer. His father, George Henry Isaacs, was born in Jamaica to a family of English Jews. At a very young age he moved to Colombia, first to Chocó, and then to Cali, where he married Manuela Ferrer. According to Donald McGrady, George Henry Isaacs converted to Catholicism in order to marry her, and lived the rest of his life as a true Christian (14).

Jorge Isaacs's fame rests on the novel *María*, published in 1867. It became an immediate success, with many editions in Spanish; it was later translated into many languages. It still is the most read novel by a Spanish American writer. After his success as a novelist, Isaacs started a career as a journalist and a politician.

It is perhaps the success of *María* that has obscured Isaac's poetry. Before publishing his novel, Jorge Isaacs was well known as a poet in Bogotá. He published a collection of his poems, *Poesías*, in 1864. During the last years of his life he worked on a long poem, *Saulo*, but he managed to finish only the first *Canto* or section. His poems were collected and published in Barcelona, in 1920, by the Maucci Publishing House.

Obra citada

McGrady, Donald. Introducción. *María*. Ciudad de México: Red Editorial Iberoamericana, 1988. 13-48.