

## Topic Page: [Musset, \(Louis Charles\) Alfred de \(1810 - 1857\)](#)

Definition: **Musset, Alfred de** from *Philip's Encyclopedia*

French poet and playwright. He is best remembered for his poems which, after 1834, appeared in the periodical *Revue des Deux Mondes*. His four lyrics *Les Nuits* (1835-37) are the most famous of his poems.

### Summary Article: **Musset, (Louis Charles) Alfred de (1810–1857)**

From *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*

French poet and playwright. He achieved success with the volume of poems *Contes d'Espagne et d'Italie/Stories of Spain and Italy* (1829). His autobiographical poem *Confessions d'un enfant du siècle/Confessions of a Child of the Century* (1835) recounts his broken relationship with the writer George Sand. Typical of his work are the verse in *Les Nuits/Nights* (1835–37) and the short plays *Comédies et proverbes/Comedies and Proverbs* (1840). His play *Lorenzaccio* (1833), the most intriguing of the Romantic dramas, is a minor masterpiece.

Musset was born in Paris. He abandoned the study of law and medicine to join the circle of Victor Hugo. Following the failure of his play *La Nuit vénitienne/A Night in Venice* 1830, he produced two series of dramatic comedies and poems, for reading rather than acting, called *Un Spectacle dans un fauteuil/Armchair Theatre* 1833–34. His poem *Rolla* was also written 1833, the year that saw the beginning of his affair with George Sand. The four *Nuits (Nuit de mai/A Night in May, Nuit de décembre/A Night in December* both 1835, *Nuit d'août/A Night in August* 1836, and *Nuit d'octobre/A Night in October* 1837) are poems which reflect the bitterness and disillusionment which ensued after the rupture of their relationship, and the ending of the romantic dreams of ideal love which they had founded upon it.

He also published *Lettre à Lamartine/Letter to Lamartine*, the comedy *Il ne faut jurer de rien/Never Take an Oath* 1836, *Un Caprice* 1837, some of the *Nouvelles*, the fragment *Le Poète déchu, A trente ans*, and the spirited poem *Le Rhin allemand*. His later years were comparatively unproductive, although *Il faut qu'une porte soit ouverte ou fermée, Bettine*, and *Carmosine* were all published.

#### APA

#### Chicago

#### Harvard

#### MLA

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## APA

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## Harvard

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## MLA

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