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Otero Muñoz, Blas de (1916-1979)

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Otero Muñoz, Blas de (1916–1979)

Along with Gabriel *Celaya and Ángela *Figuera, he is one of Spain's most notable social poets of the 1950s and 1960s. Due to his fervent opposition to Francoism, he lived for periods of times in France, the USSR, China, and Cuba. His poetry shows an evolution from personal to collective concerns.

After the religious poems of *Cántico espiritual* (1942; Spiritual Canticle), Otero published *Ángel fieramente humano* (1950; Fiercely Human Angel) and *Redoble de conciencia* (1951; Drumroll of Conscience), later combined in the volume *Ancia* (1958), whose title is derived from the first syllable of *Ángel* and the final syllable of *conciencia*. In these poetry collections, Otero addresses God in violent, dramatic, and biblical language as he searches for answers to his metaphysical doubts, but finds that God responds with silence. Other poems consider love as a path of salvation from existential agony.

Pido la paz y la palabra (1955; I Ask for Peace and Word) and *Que trata de España* (1964; Dealing with Spain) comprise Otero's two major collections of social poetry. In them, the poet makes claims for solidarity, peace, justice, and liberty, and

in simple style, expresses love and sorrow for his country. For him, poetry becomes a weapon to fight for a better society.

Iker González-Allende

See also Exile Literature by Spanish Civil War Émigrés; Poetry in Spain: 1900 to Present.

Work By:

All My Sonnets: Todos mis sonetos. Trans. Carl W. Cobb. Lewiston, ME: Edwin Mellen, 1997.

Antología poética. Ed. Sabina de la Cruz. Madrid: Alianza, 2003.

Work About:

Barrow, Geoffrey. *The Satiric Vision of Blas de Otero*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1988.

Gagen, Derek. " 'This Is No Book': Changing Poetic Structure in Blas de Otero." *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 82.3–4 (2005): 549–65.