

= Daniel O 'Connell (journalist) =

Daniel O 'Connell (1849 ? 23 January 1899) was a poet , actor , writer and journalist in San Francisco , California , and a co @-@ founder of the Bohemian Club . He was the grand @-@ nephew of Daniel O 'Connell (1775 ? 1847) , the famed Irish orator and politician .

O 'Connell 's strict classics @-@ oriented education in Ireland stood him in good stead for his early career choices of teacher and journalist . In San Francisco , he formed friendships with artists and influential men who joined with him in presenting and promoting theatrical productions and in publishing books and newspapers . He wrote short stories for magazines and journals , and lived a life rich in food , drink , and the arts . A dedicated family man in America , O 'Connell never lost his Irish poet 's sense of overarching sadness joined with keen pleasure in the sensations of the physical world .

= = Early career = =

O 'Connell was born to distinguished lawyer Charles O 'Connell in 1849 in Ennis , County Clare , Ireland , some two years after the death of his famed grand @-@ uncle Daniel O 'Connell . Young O 'Connell attended Belvedere College , a Jesuit school in Dublin , but was called home at the deaths of his mother and sister in a coach accident . This tragic event was later judged to be the source of O 'Connell 's sense of the impermanence of the world . After the funeral , he was transferred without enthusiasm to Clongowes Wood College where he studied the classics for three years . O 'Connell signed on with the Royal Navy as a midshipman . He travelled around Cape Horn to California in 1868 .

After disembarking in San Francisco , O 'Connell took a position as professor of belles @-@ lettres at Santa Clara College , then accepted an offer from St. Ignatius College in San Francisco to teach Greek .

= = Writer = =

O 'Connell worked for a number of periodicals in the San Francisco Bay Area . He edited the Morning Herald , the San Francisco Times , the Bulletin , the Chronicle , the Wasp , the Bohemian and the Portico . He helped Henry George found the San Francisco Daily Evening Post in 1871 . His best work includes " The Thrust in Tierce , " a short story written for the Overland Monthly , and a yearly Christmas piece , " quaint , grotesque or poetical " usually describing the serio @-@ comic antics of would @-@ be San Francisco aristocrats with little claim to fame .

= = Bohemian Club = =

In 1872 with a group of other Chronicle newspaper staffers , O 'Connell helped form the Bohemian Club . At first , the group rented a modest room as their clubhouse , and spent many evenings enjoying food , drink , music and the literary arts . Chronicle publisher M. H. de Young later wrote that the Bohemian membership of some of his employees was " not an unmixed blessing " because the " boys would go there sometimes when they should have reported at the office . " De Young said that " very often " when O 'Connell sat down to a good dinner , " he would forget that he had a pocketful of notes for an important story . "

" Dan , " as he was called by his friends , was a very active Bohemian , and was described as the " Prince of the club " when he wasn 't being toasted as " the rightful King of Munster . " O 'Connell took part in many Bohemian poetry readings and stage plays , including a turn as King Macbeth of Scotland in the witches ' scene from Macbeth . O 'Connell was the first member to formally announce an upcoming " Jinks " (literary and musical performance) ? his turn at host , or " Sire " , of an evening 's entertainment took place 30 November 1872 with the stated theme of " Tom Moore and Offenbach . " The Jinks events at the club were usually cheerful and sometimes boisterous . One of O 'Connell 's Jinks announcements joked that the " opening discordancy " of the presentation

would be played by the Bohemian Club 's own musicians , " who have done so much to lower the rents in this neighborhood . "

In 1876 , O 'Connell wrote the preface and edited a book of stories by William Henry Rhodes (a Bohemian who wrote under the pen @-@ name " Caxton ") entitled Caxton 's Book . In 1878 , O 'Connell worked for The Mail , an early newspaper in San Francisco . With his adroit editing , O 'Connell helped make famous the " Town Crier " column for the San Francisco News Letter , written by Ambrose Bierce , then by Ashton Stevens .

In 1881 , O 'Connell published Lyrics , a book of poetry evincing a " Celtic strain . " The poetry displays O 'Connell 's sense of sunt lacrimae rerum , that there will be tears with trials , and it expresses his bittersweet joy in life 's evanescent pleasures . O 'Connell wrote an Irish @-@ themed play , The Red Fox , which was staged with moderate success in San Francisco about 1882 . O 'Connell wrote " Ghoul 's Quest " for The Argonaut . In 1891 , he published The Inner Man : Good Things to Eat and Drink and Where to Get Them , a collection of anecdotes and advice for the epicurean who finds himself in the San Francisco area , and a cautionary description of common 19th century food adulterants such as chemical dyes and powdered lead .

O 'Connell wrote the libretto for a romantic opera entitled Bluff King Hal , working with fellow Bohemian Club member Humphrey John Stewart who composed the music . The opera was performed at San Francisco 's Grand Opera House in 1892 , with artist and Bohemian Amédée Joullin designing the costumes and painting the scenery , and architect and Bohemian Willis Polk modelling and designing the scenery .

O 'Connell was elected honorary life member of the Bohemian Club in the late 1890s and was made club historian .

= = Personal life = =

In 1874 , O 'Connell married Annie Ashley , called Mabel , the daughter of California Senator Delos R. Ashley who had died the previous year . The marriage produced seven children . The O 'Connell marriage was described by a close friend as a perfect union , " with kindred tastes and boy @-@ and @-@ girl love . " With seven children who adored their father , the O 'Connell home became a " small world where love reigned . " Gipsy O 'Connell , one of the daughters , later expressed that her favourite of her father 's poems was " Sing Me A Ringing Anthem " from Lyrics .

= = Death and remembrance = =

O 'Connell died suddenly in 1899 from a cold that turned into pneumonia . The New York Times published an obituary and printed a quatrain by the Australian poet Adam Lindsay Gordon incorrectly stating that it was one of O 'Connell 's :

In 1900 , Ina Coolbrith , Bohemian Club librarian , edited a collection of O 'Connell 's poetry , entitled Songs from Bohemia , copyrighted to Mabel Ashley O 'Connell . Coolbrith ended the book with " The Chamber of Sleep " , the last poem by O 'Connell , written ten days before his death . William Greer Harrison wrote in a memorial foreword that O 'Connell was an avid outdoorsman of eternally sunny disposition . He mentioned his appreciation for good food and his fine chef 's skill in delicate cookery . Harrison wrote of his flair for swordsmanship and his pleasure in fishing , and noted that during any of these activities , O 'Connell could be seen pausing to write down on a scrap of paper an idea for a story .

Mabel Ashley O 'Connell died of grief a year after her husband . Harrison wrote that she " lingered here only long enough to say farewell to her many friends , and then joined her husband in the land that is hidden from material eyes , where love and life are one . "