

Classic Poetry Series

Jacques Delille
- poems -

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Jacques Delille()

Jacques Delille was a French poet and translator. He was born at Aigueperse in Auvergne and died in Paris.

Delille was an illegitimate child, and was descended by his mother from the chancellor De l'Hôpital. He was educated at the College of Lisieux in Paris and became an elementary teacher. He gradually acquired a reputation as a poet by his epistles, in which things are not called by their ordinary names but are hinted at by elaborate paraphrases. Sugar becomes le miel américain, Que du suc des roseaux exprima l'Africain.

The publication (1769) of his translation of the Georgics of Virgil made him famous. In 1786 he made a journey to Constantinople in the train of the ambassador M. de Choiseul-Gouffier.

Delille had become professor of Latin poetry at the Collège de France, and abbot of Saint-Sévrin, when the outbreak of the French Revolution reduced him to poverty. He purchased his personal safety by professing his adherence to revolutionary doctrine, but eventually quit Paris, and retired to Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, where he completed his translation of the Aeneid.

Delille emigrated first to Basel and then to Glairesse in Switzerland. Here he finished his *Homme des champs*, and his poem on the *Trois règnes de la nature*. His next place of refuge was in Germany, where he composed his *La Pitié*; and finally, he passed some time in London, chiefly employed in translating *Paradise Lost*. In 1802 he was able to return to Paris, where, although nearly blind, he resumed his professorship and his chair at the Académie française, but lived in retirement. He fortunately did not outlive the vogue of the descriptive poems which were his special province.

Christophe Colomb

Jacques Delille

Le Café

Jacques Delille

Le Coin Du Feu

Jacques Delille

Le Doux Printemps Revient...

Jacques Delille

Les Jardins

Jacques Delille

Ô Versaille!

Jacques Delille