

THE BAB BALLADS

A NEW SELECTION

W.S. GILBERT

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY ANDREW CROWTHER,
SECRETARY OF THE W.S. GILBERT SOCIETY

- Contains notes and extra material on Gilbert's life and the ballads by Andrew Crowther, the author of *Gilbert of Gilbert and Sullivan* and secretary of the W.S. Gilbert Society.
- A new selection of the best Bab ballads, priced to appeal to both students and lovers of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic works.
- Features the original illustrations Gilbert prepared to accompany the poems.
- Reproduces the earlier versions of the ballads, in their original, unsanitised forms.

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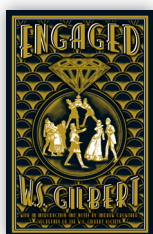
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*““What?” said the reverend gent,
“Dance through my hours of leisure?
Smoke? Bathe myself with scent?
Play croquet? Oh, with pleasure!””*

Today W.S. Gilbert is best known for the comic operas he produced in collaboration with Arthur Sullivan, but another of his great – and numerous – literary contributions were his humorous ballads, written and illustrated under the pseudonym ‘Bab’.

Combining his trademark absurdist wit with keenly observed character studies, the ballads are a satirical tour de force that lambast society figures. This new selection, chosen and introduced by Andrew Crowther, Secretary of the W.S. Gilbert Society, brings together the very best of the ballads and presents the ‘Bab’ works for a new readership.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

William Schwenck Gilbert (1836–1911) was a dramatist, poet, author, illustrator and librettist. Although he was a prolific writer, producing around 75 plays and dramatic works, he is best known today for the comic operas he produced in collaboration with Arthur Sullivan, including *HMS Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*, which continue to enjoy huge popularity worldwide.



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