

Biography of Raymund Lull

ecessor of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." * In fact, Raymund Lull was the first European who wrote a religious story in the vernacular. The romances of the days of chivalry were doubtless well known to him before his conversion, and what was more natural than that the missionary knight should write the romance of his new crusade of love against the Saracens? "Blanquerna" is an allegory in four books. Its sub-title states that it is "a mirror of morals in all classes of society, and treats of matrimony, religion, prelates, the papacy, and the hermit's life." It is the story of the pilgrimage of Enast, the hero, who marries Aloma, the daughter of a wealthy widow. Their only child, Blanquerna, desires to be a monk, but falls in love with a beautiful and pious maiden, Doña Cana by name.

* Helfferich, pp. 111-122. He holds that the allegory was first written in Arabic and then put into Catalan. Several manuscripts of it are extant in the archives of Palma, etc. It was first printed in 1521.