



Consuelo De Saint Exupery



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Consuelo De Saint Exupery

Consuelo de Saint Exupéry, officially **Consuelo Suncín, comtesse de Saint Exupéry** (10 April 1901 in [Armenia, El Salvador](#) – 18 May 1979 in [Grasse, France](#)) was a Salvadoran-French writer and artist, and the wife of the French aristocrat, writer and pioneering aviator [Antoine de Saint-Exupéry](#) (1900-1944).

Biography

Born Consuelo Suncín de Sandoval as the daughter of a rich coffee grower and army reservist, she grew up in a family of wealthy landowners in a small town in the [Salvadoran department of Sonsonate](#). Due to her asthma, her father sent her abroad to the United States, where she studied in [San Francisco](#); later she studied in [Mexico City](#), and also in France. Her first marriage was to a Mexican army captain, Ricardo Cárdenas, whom she met in the United States. Though this marriage ended in divorce, she lied and said it ended with his death during the [Mexican Revolution](#), since divorced women were then stigmatized by society, and being a widow was preferable to being a divorced woman. While in France, she met and later married [Enrique Gómez Carrillo](#), a [Guatemalan](#) writer, diplomat and journalist. Following his death in 1927, she took up residence in [Buenos Aires](#).

In 1931, she met and married the French aristocrat, writer and pioneering aviator Count [Antoine de Saint-Exupéry](#), making her a countess. At the time Consuelo was a twice-widowed [Salvadoran](#) writer and artist who possessed a bohemian spirit and was known as a mischief-maker. Saint-Exupéry, thoroughly enchanted by the diminutive woman, would leave and then return to her many times; she was both his muse and over the long term the source of much of his angst. It was a stormy union, with Saint-Exupéry travelling frequently and indulging in numerous [extramarital affairs](#), most notably with the Frenchwoman Héléne de Vogüé (1908-2003), known as 'Nelly' and referred to as "Madame de B." in Saint-Exupéry biographies. Consuelo also had numerous extramarital affairs.

Following the disappearance of her husband in July 1944, with her loss of Saint-Exupéry still fresh, she purportedly wrote a memoir of their life together, *The Tale of the Rose*, which was sealed away in a trunk in her home. Two decades after her death in 1979, the manuscript came to light when José Martínez-Fructuoso, her heir and long-time employee, and his wife, Martine, discovered it in an attic trunk. Alan Vircondelet, author of a biography of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, edited it, improving her French and dividing it into chapters. Its publication in France in 2000, one century after Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's birth on 29 June 1900, became a national sensation. As of 2011 it had been translated into sixteen languages.

Consuelo died on 28 May 1979 and is buried in [Père Lachaise Cemetery](#) in Paris, alongside her second husband Enrique Carrillo.

Portrayal in *The Little Prince*

Despite their tumultuous relationship, Antoine kept Consuelo close to his heart. She is the likely inspiration of the major character in [The Little Prince](#), the prince's 'flower', identified as *The Rose*, whom he protects under glass and with a windscreen on his tiny planet which is named Asteroid B-612.

The Prince's home asteroid also possesses three tiny [volcanoes](#), likely inspired by Consuelo's home country [El Salvador](#), i.e. by the three volcanoes in the [Cordillera de Apaneca](#) volcanic range complex, which are directly visible from Consuelo's home town. The two active volcanoes were inspired by [Santa Ana Volcano](#) and the famous conical shaped [Izalco \(volcano\)](#), which at the time was active spewing ash and lava when Antoine visited Consuelo's small town in El Salvador, the dormant volcano is Cerro Verde.

Saint-Exupéry's infidelity and doubts about his marriage are symbolised by the field of roses the Prince encounters during his visit to Earth. In the [novella](#), *The Fox* tells *The Prince* that his *Rose* is unique and special, because she is the one whom he loves.

Honors

Antoine's 1939 memoir, *Wind, Sand and Stars* (*Terre des hommes*), was employed to create the central theme-- *Terre des hommes/Man and his world*--of the 1967 International World's Fair in Montreal, Canada, [Expo 67](#). The Countess de Saint Exupéry, Consuelo, was a guest of honour at the official opening ceremonies of the world's fair.

Popular culture

Actress [Janet Waldo](#) was the voice for The Rose in the animated TV series "The Adventures of the Little Prince". Singer [Máiréad Carlin](#) played The Rose in [The Little Prince \(opera\)](#) musical. Consuelo's relationship with Antoine was portrayed by [Miranda Richardson](#) and [Bruno Ganz](#) in the 1996 biopic [Saint-Ex](#). The film combines elements of biography, documentary, and dramatic re-creation. Consuelo is also a major character in the forthcoming historical novel *Studio Saint-Ex* by [Ania Szado](#). The book examines Consuelo and Antoine's time in New York City during World War II while Antoine is writing [The Little Prince](#).

References

Footnotes

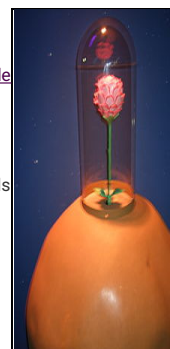
- ↑ Héléne (Nelly) de Vogüé (1908-2003), born Héléne Jaunez to a French businessman, became a well known French business executive and also an intellect fluent in several languages. She married the equally well known French noble Jean de Vogüé in 1927 and had one child with him, Patrice. Héléne is referred to only as "Madame de B." in multiple Saint-Exupéry biographies. This occurred due to agreements she made with writers before granting them access to her troves of the author-aviator's writings, which will not be released from the French national archives until 2053 after she deposited them there. It is believed she sought her anonymity in order to protect Saint-Exupéry's reputation, as during the Second World War, the U.S. [O.S.S.](#) suspected she was a secret Vichy agent and Nazi collaborator.

Madame

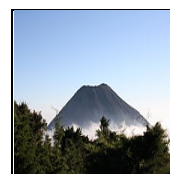
Consuelo de Saint Exupéry

Consuelo de Saint Exupéry in 1942

Personal details	
Born	Consuelo Suncín de Sandoval 10 April 1901 Armenia, El Salvador
Died	18 May 1979 (aged 78) Grasse, France
Resting place	Père Lachaise Cemetery
Spouse(s)	Ricardo Cárdenas (divorced) Enrique Gómez Carrillo (widowed) Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (m.1931-1944; his death)
Occupation	writer, artist



The Rose', as portrayed at the Museum of The Little Prince in Hakone, Japan.



One of the active volcanoes in *The Little Prince* was inspired by El Salvador's [Izalco \(volcano\)](#). At the time Antoine visited Consuelo's home town, Izalco was active spewing ash and lava.

- ↑ Marilyn S. Severson (2004). *Masterpieces of French Literature*. Greenwood Publishing Group. p. 159. ISBN 978-0-313-31484-1.
- ↑ *abcd* Webster, Paul. *Flying Into A Literary Storm: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Author Of The Little Prince, Was Born 100 Years Ago. The Celebrations, However, Have Been Marred By His Widow's Bitter Account Of Their Marriage*. London: *The Guardian*, June 24, 2000.
- ↑ Curtis Cate (1 April 1997). *André Malraux: a biography*. Fromm International Pub. Corp. p. 180. ISBN 978-0-88064-171-5.
- ↑ *abc* "Biography: Nelly de Vogüé (1908 - 2003)". *AntoinedeSaintExupery.com*. Retrieved May 23, 2012.
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Further reading

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- Abigaíl Suncín, *La rosa que cautivó al principito : Consuelo de Saint-Exupéry*, 2003.
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- Alain Vircondelet, *C'étaient Antoine et Consuelo de Saint-Exupéry*, 2009.
- Marie-Hélène Carbonel et Martine Fransioli Martinez, *Consuelo de Saint-Exupéry, une mariée vêtue de noir*, 2010.

External links

- A biography of Consuelo de Saint Exupéry*
- A website dedicated to Mme Consuelo de Saint.Exupéry*

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Consuelo de Saint Exupéry (born Armenia, El Salvador, April 10, 1901â€”died Grasse, France, May 28, 1979) was a Salvadoran-French writer and artist, and wife of the writer and aviator Antoine de Saint Exupéry. Ognyan Tortorochev. Jeanne d'Arc: "The Holy Warrior", Great Women in History, Women. I Capture The Castle Writers Write Writers And Poets Albert Camus Classic Literature Portraits Scribe The Little Prince Book Writer. Consuelo & Antoine de Saint Exupery Le petit prince Randall. History. The Little Prince Authors It Works The Aviator Il Piccolo Principe Princesses Hist