



## MANUEL IRADIER BULFY

VITORIA-GASTEIZ, SPAIN 1854 - VALSAÍN, SEGOVIA, SPAIN, 1911

At age fourteen, Manuel Iradier, impassioned with the African fever that ran across the continent, made public during a conference his plans to venture into Equatorial Africa, a project he shared with the famous explorer Henry Stanley, correspondent at the Carlist War for *The New York Herald*. In 1873, his dream finally came true and he travelled to the Dark Continent. The experience of that four-year stay with his family (during which malaria claimed the life of his daughter) still has echoes in today's Tropical Africa. A few years later, after getting more funds, he returned to the region, and the result of that second travel was the annexation to Spain of what today is Equatorial Guinea. Back again in Spain, he developed several inventions (an automatic water meter, typographical improvements, accessories for photography) and became interested in astronomy (he kept up an intense correspondence with Camille Flammarion). Iradier was a real-life character from the books of Verne, and stood out over his contemporaries thanks to his utmost respect for indigenous peoples and cultures. He died due to health issues originated during his African adventures.



## LUDWIG SALVATOR OF AUSTRIA

FLORENCE, ITALY, 1847 - BRANDEIS, BOHEMIA, 1915

Archduke Ludwig Salvator of Austria was a scholar who led a wandering and adventurous life, a romantic traveller who walked the five continents. Although he considered that his yacht, the *Nixe*, was his true home, he had brief stays in Majorca, Trieste and Alexandria. The fact that he favoured the Mediterranean could be due to secret missions by order of the Austro-Hungarian Emperor, but his personal bonds with those places went well beyond strategic interests. As a positivist scientist, an artist and a writer, he published over sixty works in French, German, Czech, Spanish, Italian and Catalan. There are particularly fond memories of him in Majorca, where he established a small and extravagant kingdom in the estate of Miramar, near Valldemossa. There he devoted himself to a comprehensive study of the fauna, flora, architecture, anthropology and history of the Balearic Islands, a vast work that took the form of the nine volumes of *Die Balearen: Geschildert in Wort und Bild* (1869-1891). Jules Verne met the Archduke and consulted his work as research for the settings of his novels *Clovis Dardentor* (part of which takes place in Majorca) and *Off on a Comet* (featuring the island of Formentera, with a geography reminiscent of Lincoln Island, *The Mysterious Island*).



## JULIO CERVERA BAVIERA

SEGORBE, CASTELLÓN, SPAIN, 1854 - MADRID, SPAIN 1927

Julio Cervera Baviera could have been one of the protagonists of Verne's novels. A military man with the rank of commander and a diploma in engineering (he studied Physical Sciences at the University of Valencia), a liberal and a freemason, he was worried about the Spanish decadence and called to remedy it. He participated in the exploration and colonization of Northern Africa, where he took part in several expeditions, among them the 1886 scientific expedition where he led the geologist Francisco Quiroga and the interpreter Felipe Rizzo. He was imprisoned due to his criticism of the slack attitude of the Spanish Government in Moroccan affairs, and in 1898 he defended Guamaní, in Puerto Rico, during the war against the United States. After the war he experienced a change in interests and committed himself to technological innovation. He worked during three months with Marconi, and in 1902 he performed some tests that, according to certain scholars, could have achieved the wireless transmission of voice between Alicante and Ibiza, which would have been the first successful radio test. Later on he created the International Electrotechnical Institution for distance education in engineering. However, because of his tireless activism for the Radical Republican Party, he eventually fell from favour and his works were forgotten.