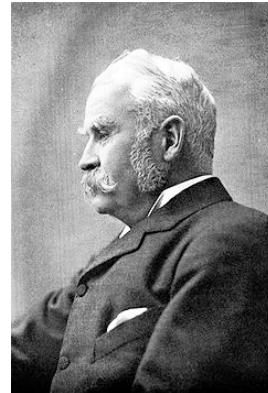


THE BAB BALLADS

The Bab Ballads

by W. S. Gilbert (1836-1911)

The Bab Ballads are a collection of light verse by W. S. Gilbert, illustrated with his own comic drawings. Gilbert wrote the *Ballads* before he became famous for his comic opera librettos with Arthur Sullivan. In writing *The Bab Ballads*, Gilbert developed his unique “topsy-turvy” style, where the humour was derived by setting up a ridiculous premise and working out its logical consequences, however absurd. The *Ballads* also reveal Gilbert’s cynical and satirical approach to humour. They became famous on their own, as well as being a source for plot elements, characters and songs that Gilbert would recycle in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. *The Bab Ballads* take their name from Gilbert’s childhood nickname, and he later began to sign his illustrations “Bab”. (Wikipedia)



W.S. GILBERT

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Total running time: 3:01:24

Read by Graham Redman

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Illustration for “The Bishop of Rum-ti-Foo”
by the author