

## THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION WORK



**Manuel Alberto de Palacio Elisagüe**

He is one of the most important and significant designers of iron architecture between the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

Born in Sara (Lapurdi) in 1856, he was a trilingual Basque educated in Basque, Spanish and French.

He completed his studies at the School of Architecture of Barcelona and graduated with excellent marks in 1882.

The momentum to study took him to France, which at that time was the world leader in creative architecture.

There he was touched by all kinds of influences that would give rise to the idea of the Bizkaia Bridge which he designed very young, at the age of 31.



On May 11th, 1939 he died at his home in Getxo in Arieta street. Today, a bust by the sculptor Ricardo Iñurria commemorates him in the square next to the Bridge on the Las Arenas side.

Other outstanding works by Alberto de Palacio in Madrid include the Bank of Spain, the Crystal Palace and Atocha station.



**Ferdinand Arnodin**

(1845-1924)

A French engineer and businessman born in Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon, specializing in cable transport was the constructor of the Bizkaia Bridge. Later, he designed and built other transporter bridges across Europe such as one in Rouen, now defunct, or in Nantes, built at the mouth of the Loire and demolished in 1958.

Besides being the co-author of the Bizkaia Bridge patent, he was the creator of the wire rope that eventually would replace the chains on previous bridges. These steel ropes were called 'arnodins' after their creator. In France he was also called the "king of cable" and was considered the sole designer of the transporter bridge system.



**Santos López de Letona**

He was the funding pillar on which the Bizkaia Bridge project was based. He was a textile impresario who made his fortune in the Americas. Back in Europe, he decided to invest, together with another eleven small investors, in this bridge project, demonstrating his foresight and confidence in industrial progress.

In addition to being the one who brought the most capital to the venture, he helped to calm tempers in the numerous disputes between Palacio and Arnodin.