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NEUROLOGICAL STAMP

Louis Charles Alfred de Musset (1810-57)

After a brilliant scholastic career at the Lycée Henri IV, Musset, French poet, novelist, and playwright, briefly considered law and medicine as a career. He dabbled in painting before finally turning to literature. Musset contracted syphilis as a young man, which led to his early death. The syphilis caused an aortic aneurysm and aortic insufficiency. He developed a rhythmic movement of his head synchronous with his heartbeat. This phenomenon became eponymically known as Musset's sign and was first described by A Delpech. Philatelically he was honoured as a great poet but is of medical interest because of Musset's sign. He was honoured by his native country, France, in 1951. The stamp shown here is one produced by Romania in 1960 (Stanley Gibbons 2763, Scott 1343). Two colleagues Anton Chekov and Robert Koch are portrayed in the same series.

L F HAAS