



CONFRATERNITY AND MEMBERS' EVENTS - WINTER 1992/3

Saturday 21 November -A Day in Gloucester with the Bristol Group

For details see Bulletin 43, p.5. For late enrolment please ring Sue Morgan on (0272)-733853.

Monday 7 December - 'A Walk to Santiago de Compostela' - an illustrated talk by Jocelyn Rix to the Leamington Spa branch of the National Trust. 7.30pm at the Spa Centre, Newbold Terrace (off the Parade, and near Jephson Gardens park). The Spa Centre is a large building set back, about half way up Newbold Terrace, on the left (if coming from the south). Entrance free to NT members, but a charge will be made for non-NT members.

Tuesday 8 December - 'Mysteries on the Road to Santiago' - a talk by Phinella Henderson. 7pm, St Andrew's Seminar Room, Maria Asumpta Centre, 23 Kensington Square, London W8. Entrance: members (of London Earth Mysteries Circle): £1, non-members £2, unwaged £1-50.

Saturday 23 January 1993 – 10th Anniversary Annual General Meeting plus Ten Years of the Confraternity, a light-hearted and fast-moving retrospective of the past ten years, with a host of dynamic speakers. This will be followed by a late New Year Party on the theme 'The Camino in Wine and Food', an idea we owe jointly to Paul Graham and John Cotter; the latter has kindly donated some special Galician wine for the occasion. 2.30 till 8 (doors open 11am) at the St Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1. New members, old members and very old (founder) members are all warmly invited; full details in AGM papers in late December.

Saturday 23 January – The Medieval Pilgrimages to St James of Compostella: Manifestations of the Cult in the East Midlands, a morning lecture in Nottingham by Professor Brian Tate. 10.30 to 12.30 in Room 12, Centre for Local History, Orchards Annexe, next to the Politics Building, at rear of School of Education, University of Nottingham. £2 fee, at the door. For campus map tel. (0602)-514398.

The Wednesday Lectures in Holy Year

Seven special lectures for Holy Year on many aspects of the pilgrimage to Santiago will be held on Wednesdays from February to November 1993 in the medieval Crypt of St Etheldreda's Church, Ely Place, London EC1. Please note the first three in your diary:

Wednesday 17 February - Introduction: The Pilgrimage to Santiago and the Confraternity of St James, by Dr Mary

Remnant.

Wednesday 17 March - Saints and Pilgrimage with reference to St James by Dr David Hugh Farmer

Wednesday 19 May – The Illumination and Decoration of the Codex Calixtinus by Professor Alison Stones

Tickets: £2-50 per lecture, series £14 (from the Secretary or at the door). The full list of lectures appears in the enclosed Holy Year programme.

Saturday 27 February - The Northern Group Meeting

The group aims to meet twice a year, once informally and once for a lecture or similar event. The next meeting will be an informal gathering on Saturday 27 February 1993 at St James' Church Hall, Horsforth, Leeds, from 12 noon. All those who have asked to be kept informed of northern events should have had a letter from Simon and Ann Clark giving details. Would anyone else interested please contact them at 49 Gledhow Wood Ave, Leeds LS8 1NX, tel.: (0532)-662456.

27 to 28 March – Practical Pilgrim Weekend in Northampton (earlier than usual to catch early-departing pilgrims). It is hoped to have a full set of 1993 guides ready by mid-March and available at Practical Pilgrim. Full details in January Bulletin.

Tuesday 11 May – An Evening of Words and Music at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, London SW3, at 7.15pm. Performers include Neil Curry, Ian Martin, Kate Morgan, Mike Brown and William Griffiths.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

3 to 6 February - International University Colloquium on 'Le Pendu Dépendu: Miracles et Légendes sur les Chemins de Saint-Jacques' at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail, organised by the University, the Centre Européen d'Etudes Compostellanes (Paris) and the Association de Coopération Inter-Régionale "Les Chemins de St-Jacques de Compostelle". The general context of the colloquium is the revival of the Chemins de St-Jacques in the regions of the south of France (Aquitaine, Languedoc-Roussillon, Midi-Pyrénées, Provence/Alpes/Cote d'Azur). As well as academic papers there will be visits to some of the best-known monuments of Toulouse and excursions to Cordes, Rabastens, Saint-Bertrand de Comminges, Villefranche de Rouergue and Villeneuve d'Aveyron. We are still waiting for details such as registration fee, accommodation etc but hope to receive these shortly. If you would like further details please send a 9" by 6" s.a.e. to Pat Ouaife, 57 Leopold Road, London N2 8BG.

16 to 18 April (and 3 to 5 December) - Spanish Weekend at Madingley Hall, Cambridge, organised by the University of Cambridge Board of Continuing Education. The weekend is conducted entirely in Spanish for those with a fair knowledge of the language. Residential fee; £86 in April, £90 in December. For further details and full programme of courses write to the Board at Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB3 8AQ. (Ed: the course in December 1991 was very enjoyable.)

Study Tours in Spain and France

The January Bulletin will contain the usual supplement on study and walking tours along the pilgrim routes in Spain and France. But members may like to know now that the Association for Cultural Exchange's (ACE) 1993 brochure is already available. Among their study tours are two on 'The Road to Compostela', both led by Christie Arno, 5 to 19 June and 12 to 26 September, costing £1180 per person in twin or double (single: £210 extra), and one in May (15 to 29 May) on 'The Road to the Pyrenees' following some of the French sections of the route, including Poitiers, Toulouse, Moissac, Oloron Ste Marie, the Pyrenees, Albi and Châteauroux. Leader is Christie Arno and the price £930 per person (single £200 extra). Other ACE tours of interest include Aquitaine and the High Aragon. Full details in their brochure, from ACE, Babraham, Cambridge CB2 4AP, or tel: (0223)-835055.

13 to 17 September 1993 - Anglo-Norman Durham 1093-1993, a 900th Anniversary Conference. The year 1993 is the 900th anniversary of work beginning on the construction of the Norman Cathedral at Durham. The University of Durham is organising a major international conference to focus attention on the historical, artistic and architectural riches of Durham in the century or so after the Norman Conquest. The venue is St John's College, Durham, very close to the Cathedral. Registration fee £40 and flexible booking for accommodation and meals. For full details please write, with s.a.e. to Dr David Rollason, Dept of History, University of Durham, 43 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3EX.

From the Secretary's Notebook

Music

Music has always been an important part of Confraternity gatherings so we are delighted that Mary Remnant has agreed to teach us some of the polyphonic music from the Codex Calixtinus to supplement the songs some of us already know, notably 'Ad Honorem Regis Summi' and 'Dum Paterfamilias'. A first rehearsal has taken place of people who had previously expressed interest and we should be very pleased to welcome more singers to the group. If you are interested please contact David Elliot on (081)-699 6181. The next rehearsal is at Mary Remnant's house, 15 Fernshaw Road, Chelsea, London SW10 on Saturday 16 January at 5pm, followed by a light supper; small contributions of food will be very welcome.

The Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago by Elias Valiña

Due to recent financial events the long-awaited new book which
arrived recently (by ship) from Spain costs more than was
originally envisaged. Those who paid in advance should have
their copies by now (please let me know if you have not) at the
price originally quoted, but new orders are to be charged at £1595 (£16-50 overseas) including postage and packing.

Bookplates

Many apologies to members who enthusiastically ordered bookplates from the August Bulletin. There has been a delay owing to production difficulties, for which our printer apologises too. Packs already ordered will be sent out shortly. Thank you for your patience.

New Committee Members for 1993

At least one 1992 committee member is standing down and therefore a replacement will be needed. Please think if you would be interested in joining the Committee for 1993 and getting to know people and the workings of the Confraternity. Meetings are held about six times a year in London at different members' homes. Full details will appear in the forthcoming AGM papers.

Your Coded Label

Quite a few members now pay their annual subscription by banker's order and others have paid for two or more years by lump sum in advance. Both these methods are of considerable help to our Membership Secretary. To help remind members what they have done, we have arranged for the address labels on the envelopes in which this and future Bulletins are dispatched to be appropriately coded. 'A' followed by a date, eg 'A 94' means that you have paid in advance up to the end of the year specified, ie 1994, and 'B' means that you are paying by banker's order. If there is no letter, then you are simply paying annually. We hope these codes will help members when it comes to renewing their membership in 1993; subscriptions become due at or immediately after the AGM on 23 January.

Slide Library Catalogue

John Hatfield, keeper of the Slide Library, now has an updated catalogue available. If anyone giving talks would like to borrow slides please contact John on (0622)-757814.

Guy Taylor Memorial Pilgrimage

Those who contributed towards Frank Taylor's pilgrimage to Santiago in memory of his son, Guy, will be pleased to know that the target of £20,000 was well exceeded and on 1 November had reached £22,000. £5000 has been specifically donated to the Royal Marsden Hospital where Guy was treated and cared for. The remainder was presented to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in late October, when Frank and his colleague Bernard Burke who administered the appeal were presented with the President's Special Award.

New Members

We are glad to welcome the Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies of Reading University as an institutional member. Their winter lecture programme includes Dr Nicola Coldstream on 'Early Romanesque Art' (14 January), on 'Architecture in the Ile de France, 1130-1200 (21 January), and on 'English Shrines and their Setting 1066-1200 (28 January). Dr Catherine Reynolds then gives 3 lectures on 'Independent Paintings in the Later Middle Ages', with 'The Paintings and the Painters' on 25 February, 'Content and Context' on 4 March and 'Demand and Supply' on 11 March. All lectures are held from 2 to 3.30pm in Room GO6 in the Palmer Building, University of Reading. Further details from Judith Hunter on (0734)-875123, ex.7944,

St James Garlickhythe

Restoration work is progressing well with a view to completion in January 1993. A big celebration is planned in the nearby Painters' Hall on 1 February 1993 and a grand re-opening in May.

Research Working Party

Phinella Henderson, our Berkshire County Coordinator, has decided that due to pressure of work (which includes the preparation of one of the Confraternity's Holy Year publications) she cannot manage to visit and research the St James' churches in Berkshire. We would therefore like someone else to take on the task. Details from, and offers to, Marion Marples on (071)-633 0603.

Buñuel's Milky Way

Bristol members have a chance to see Buñuel's cult film, which follows French gentlemen of the road on the way to Santiago. You'll either love it or hate it; find out by going to the Arnolfini Arts Centre, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol, on 27, 28 or 29 November at 6.45 or 8.50pm. Advance bookings on (0272)-299191.

Marion Marples

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The Irish Society of the Friends of St. James

CUMANN CÁIRDE SAN SÉAMUS I nÉIRINN

Founded to promote the Pilgrim Routes to Santiago de Compostela

In ancient times pilgrims gathered at St James's Gate, Dublin on their way to take ship at Ringsend Port to sail on the great pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. This tollgate on the outer defences of the city walls had a church nearby dedicated to St James and St Catherine.

It therefore seemed very fitting that the launch of the Irish Society of the Friends of St James by H.E. The Spanish Ambassador, D. Fermin Zelada, should take place at the Guinness Reception Centre, St James's Gate on Friday 6 November 1992. Nearly 100 members and invited guests, including many Spanish people now living in Ireland, were present at the reception and heard Chairman, Don Henihan, speak about the reasons for the founding of the Society and its future role in exploring Irish connections with Santiago and the pilgrim route.

The Confraternity, which I had the honour to represent at the launch, had sent a message of congratulations and donated a number of publications to the new Society. Already a number of events are planned for 1993, including another sponsored walk to Santiago in aid of MS Ireland, and a walk along the Barrow Valley following the route of Irish medieval pilgrims on their way to take ship to Spain.

We wish the Irish Society every success in all its undertakings in the years ahead.

Further details of the Society can be obtained from the Secretary, Patricia Kennedy, 13 Ardoyne House, Pembroke Park, Dublin 4.

Aileen O'Sullivan

Refugio Gaucelmo Appeal News

The Barn

This is the second report on the restoration of the barn, the work having been carried out in two phases in May and September. Thanks to Ken Thomas and his September group, both the rebuilding of the walls and the reroofing have now been completed, and were much admired by the Ponferrada/Villafranca visiting group on October 17th when they spent the afternoon in Rabanal. It was good to see the interior cleared as well and wardens David and Diane Wesson's tandem propped against one wall and looking very much at home. Barry Aston describes the fortnight's work below.

The barn is a remarkable example of 'giving back to the Camino' through voluntary work by a team who did not know each other beforehand but who worked superbly well together for nearly a fortnight some 11 to 12 hours a day.

Our thanks to Ken Thomas, who led the team, and to Barry Aston, Ted Dickinson, Tony and Paddy Marris, Peter McMullin, Paul Harman (who devoted a day of his pilgrimage to the project) and to Amando, the Spanish builder from Rabanal.

Wardens

We thank the many wardens who did the job so well in 1992 and who, between them, looked after the 2677 pilgrims who stayed at the Refugio Gaucelmo this year. (In 1991, the figure was 1913 pilgrims from mid-June to late October.)

1993, being the first Holy Year since 1982, promises to be busier than ever, so arrangements are under way now for ensuring the refuge has sufficient wardens, particularly during the peak months of July and August. Etienne and Nelly Van Wonterghem Teirlinck have kindly offered their services for May and June, and letters have recently been sent to past and prospective wardens on our list, including a young Spaniard, asking for volunteers for the other months between April and October. If any member is interested but is not already on the list, please contact Walter Ivens at Flat D, 1 Airlie Gardens, London W8 7AJ, tel.: (071)-229 2624.

Wardens Elsewhere on the Camino

Jose Ignacio Diaz, editor of PEREGRINO magazine, who recently held a meeting for wardens in San Juan de Ortega, would also welcome offers from members to act as wardens in some of the other Spanish refugios. Please write direct to him, in English or Spanish, at the following address: Jose Ignacio Diaz, Director - PEREGRINO, Apartado 60, 26250 Santo Domingo de la Calzada, La Rioja.

Working Party - April 1993

Walter Ivens is planning to form a small working party going by car before Easter (Easter is 9 to 12 April) to open up the refugio and to carry out various DIY jobs including interior painting. He appears to have a full carload already and wonders if any member is prepared to use his/her car to organise a second carload. Please contact Walter at the address above.

Hostel Appeal Fund

Following the preparation of the Confraternity year-end accounts (to 30 September 1992), Treasurer Stephen Badger reports that the fund has now reached £63,000. This sum includes important gift payments such as the St James statue and the John Halliday memorial bench.

Although we still need some funds for certain capital costs, the main thrust of the Appeal is now turning to building up reserves for future maintenance. The hostel is very heavily used in the summer months – as of course it should be – and already there is a long list of tasks to be done by the April working party. The sponsor-a-week scheme, devised by Paul Graham, gives more details of how individual members can help.

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1993 Your Week at the Refugio Gaucelmo

1993

Thanks to the work of the two Barn building groups in May and September, the main reconstruction of the Refugio buildings at Rabanal has been accomplished. Although some ancillary works remain to be done, we now want to look to the years that lie ahead in this last decade of the century.

In order to safeguard the refugio fur future generations, we believe it would be prudent to establish a small fund for the maintenance of the building. You may say: 'but surely the refugio pays for itself with contributions from pilgrims passing through?' Yes, at the height of the season the voluntary contributions (there is no fixed charge) from pilgrims at the Refugio Gaucelmo do cover the day-to-day outgoings, leaving a small surplus for general maintenance. However, at other times contributions are, of course, less. This is why we feel it prudent to raise funds for on-going maintenance. Rabanal is one of the outstanding refugios on the Camino and will only remain so if the standards established are continued.

With this in mind, we would like to offer members the opportunity in 1993 only to SPONSOR A WEEK at Gaucelmo.

Under this project, to be launched at the AGM on 23 January, members will be invited to contribute £50 to sponsor a specific week of their choice between early April and late October - a week which perhaps embraces a special anniversary or coincides with some anticipated event. It may be that two (or more) people would like to club together to sponsor a week in this first Holy Year since 1982. It is hoped that afterwards the Gaucelmo warden for the week will be able to send the sponsor/s a report of the names and nationalities of those who stayed during the week, what the weather was like, the contributions received and any other local news of interest.

In this way, apart from helping to maintain the refugio, those who for one reason or another are unable to visit Rabanal will have a chance of feeling more directly 'part of it' for a week in Holy Year. We hope you like the idea.

Register now for your 1993 week (Monday to Sunday dates from 5 April to 24 October) with Pat Quaife, 57 Leopold Road, London N2 8BG. An enlarged 1993 calendar will be available at the AGM for further weeks to be reserved.

Horniman Museum Presentation

Members who attended the Horniman Summer Fete on 18 July will recall farewelling the Museum's Deputy Director, Mike Houlihan, as he prepared to cycle to Santiago, fund-raising while doing so for the Friends of the Horniman and for the Rabanal appeal. On Monday 2 November, at the Horniman's Open Evening, Mike presented cheques to the Friends (to improve facilities for disabled visitors to the Museum) and also to Pat Quaife representing the Confraternity. We are very grateful to Mike for his endeavours and look forward to a long and happy association with the Horniman, which became an institutional member of the Confraternity earlier in the year.

Donors - August to early November 1992

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Mrs Aveling, Elisabeth and Gerhard Ahner, Bisgood Trust, Felicity Blake, Heather Coleman, Joseph Cheer, Adam Crick, Desmond Crone, Simon Clark, Rosemary Clarke, Penelope Carew Hunt, P.Connor, John Coulston.

Laurie Dennett, Patric Emerson, John Fletcher, Fr Gerhild Fleischer, Doreen Hansen, Brian Haigh, Ron James.

Bernard McDonnell, Marion Marples, James Maple, Frank Mackey, William Matthew, Laura Milbanke, Molly Norris, Parish of Holy Trinity, Birmingham.

Mr J.R. Robins, Nancy Rudden, Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles, Alison Shrubsole, Patricia Stoat, Alfred Willcox.

Raising the Roof at Rabanal

Barry Aston

This is a report of the group - Ted Dickinson, Patricia (Paddy) and Tony Marris and myself, led by Ken Thomas - which set out in September to re-roof the barn at Rabanal. The workers had to fit in with the regular business of the refugio, so ably supervised by wardens David and Diane Wesson, namely accommodating and giving breakfast to 'peregrinos autenticos', often more than twenty in number. This meant for us a pilgrim breakfast at 7.40 precisely, which coincided with the beautiful Rabanal dawn. By eight it was light enough to begin work; a short tea break around ten, lunch at one, an afternoon tea break and then work until 7.30 followed by a glorious hot shower and supper in the village. This was the inflexible pattern for the next fifteen days.

Previous workers had stripped the roof of tiles, the muck they were bedded in and the rotten boards supporting them, leaving revealed the timbers of the roof and the few remaining sound boards plus endless neatly stacked piles of roof tiles in the surrounding meadow and gardens. Re-roofing was in three distinct stages: first, setting up and re-aligning the roof timbers; second, re-boarding the timbers with, mostly, new boards; and third, re-laying the tiles.

The first task was for Ken to demolish the dangerously overhanging gable at the south-west corner of the barn and to reset the massive roof truss to a truly vertical position. The ridge and valley beams and all associated timbers in that area then had to be raised and levelled. These consisted of ancient oak (some possibly walnut), roughly flattened on one side, and despite superficial worminess, unbelievably hard. As each timber in this area of the roof had to be re-cut and re-fastened, and many timbers in other parts had to be trimmed and all re-fastened, this stage of the process took several days. This is probably the place to introduce Amando, the stone mason ('cantero') who was rebuilding, as necessary, the stone walls of the barn. A cheerful and generous man, the re-roofing owes much to his ability to locate supplies of slate, sand and cement whenever the job was endangered by their absence.

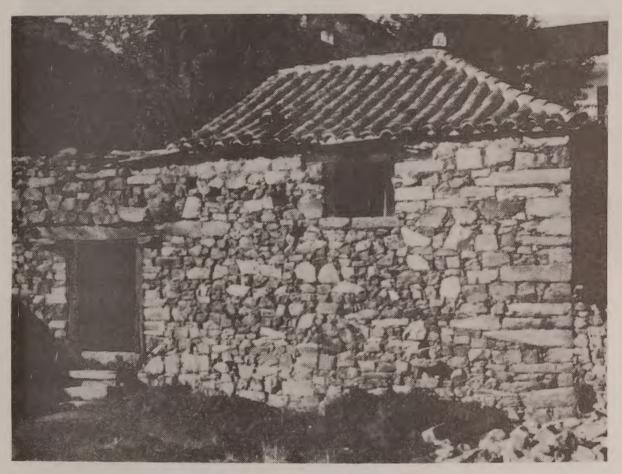


Halfway There Tiles to the Left, Boards to the Right Photo Barry Aston

Back to the roof. Stage two: the boarding party. This began with the arrival of a load of boards of random width which were simply cut to shape and nailed to the roof timbers. Except that nothing was simple. Amando had capped all the stone walls with slate slabs and we had to butt the boards closely to these slabs. It was now we discovered how approximate our levelling of the timbers had been and how reluctant the oak timbers were to accept nails. By the time the last board had been fixed we were into the second week.

Now for the main business of replacing the tiles. These are the traditional semi-cylindrical, baked clay tiles universal throughout southern Europe. Tony estimated that we would need over 2000 and there they were all around us. All needed to be wire-brushed clean and given the 'ping' test to detect cracked ones. Next they had to be sorted into bottoms and (mossy) tops, and all the

former had to be drilled at one end in order to be nailed to the boards; in addition many had to be cut to fit the odd shape of the roof. This was a daunting task; the tiles were rough to handle and dust from brushing and cutting was most unpleasant in the heat. Paddy did more than her share and Diane was to be seen most afternoons wielding a wire brush, as were Lois Thomas and Heather Powell after walking part of the camino. Pilgrims occasionally joined in this task unbidden, particularly a party of Catalans and a group of French pilgrims.



Rear of Barn with 'New' Roof and Rebuilt Walls. Photo: Charles Francis

The tiles themselves were fixed in the following manner: first, the botton 'channel' tiles were laid in vertical rows with each tile nailed at its upper, wider end overlapping the tile below so as to cover the nailhead in the lower tile. Next, the capping tiles were placed on a generous bed of sand and cement mortar over the spaces between the channels. Finally all joints in the capping tiles were tightly pointed. All this had to be done in a strict

sequence to avoid the aerial equivalent of painting oneself into a corner. In order for tiling to progress smoothly, scaffolding had to be moved constantly, vast quantities of sand and cement mortar mixed by hand, and tiles saturated with water to enable mortar to adhere in the hot sun. The tilers had to be kept supplied on the roof with the appropriate type of tiles, buckets of mortar and large quantities of broken tiles. Ted, despite his 72 years, was in charge of all cutting, drilling and mixing and kept his promise to his wife to stay on the ground - more or less.

Ken did everything requiring experience and skill at alarming speed and inspired everyone. Tony and I did whatever we were told and soon progressed from teetering along the roof on all fours to using the power saw on the apex. In addition to the roof we cleared all our debris from the neighbouring gardens, in which task we were given a complete day's help by Confraternity pilgrim, Paul Harman, who found himself a day ahead of schedule on the camino. As the time approached for our departure additional help arrived in the guise of Peter McMullin; I don't know what Peter expected but he set to work willingly.

What was achieved? Certainly a new roof, the best in Rabanal. Less tangibly there is merit for the Confraternity in doing the job ourselves, an appreciation of which I detected in many of the international pilgrims passing through el Refugio Gaucelmo.

Wardens' Meeting: San Juan de Ortega 17 to 18 October 1992

This meeting, organised in anticipation of Holy Year, 1993, by Jose Ignacio Diaz, editor of PEREGRINO magazine, was attended by around 40 people, including Etienne and Nelly van Wonterghem who were able to speak about Rabanal. The main conclusions of the meeting are set out below.

Participants stressed the importance on the Camino of the figure of warden, who traditionally had played a key role in the reception of pilgrims going to Santiago. Now at the end of the 20th century this role was being renewed through the voluntary work of former pilgrims dedicating part of their holidays to receiving current pilgrims. In order to maintain the spirit in which the task is undertaken, agreement was reached on the following points:

1) reaffirmation of the free and voluntary nature of the work of

wardens;

2) the work of wardens is above all to be of service in meeting

the needs of pilgrims;

3) it is also the task of the warden to encourage reflection on the part of pilgrims, to help them discover the true, spiritual feeling of the Camino de Santiago;

4) emphasis on the importance of granting the pilgrim record

(or 'credencial') in a careful and serious manner;

5) each year a short practical training course will be available for new wardens, which will provide them with some basic medical knowledge, information about the area where the refuge they will be working in is situated, and hints and advice that the previous warden will leave for his/her predecessor;

6) the warden must welcome all pilgrims in a friendly manner, without discrimination, subsequently explaining any limitations on groups or on bicycles, due the limited capacity of the refuge.

Pilgrims from Rabanal

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In the pilgrim register at the Cathedral of Santiago is a column for the home town of pilgrims, as well as their starting point, date of arrival, mode of travel and so on. Looking through the entries for September 1992 recently I was delighted to see that two young pilgrims who arrived on foot on September 11th had not only started their pilgrimage from Rabanal but actually came from Rabanal. They are Antonio Pérez (24) and his cousin Aurelio Pérez (also 24). The name Pérez is a well-known one in the village and many CSJ members will have seen Antonio helping in the Bar/Mesón Refugio run by his father, also Antonio. Not to be outdone, two of Antonio's younger sisters, Marie Cruz and Marie José, also walked to Santiago as pilgrims some three weeks later. Many congratulations to all four Rabanal pilgrims. Their efforts must mean that Rabanal has the highest proportion of pilgrims in its population (27) in the whole of Spain.



HOLY YEAR

1993

A copy of the Confraternity's 1993 Holy Year Programme is enclosed with this Bulletin. Please display it in a prominent place and encourage friends and colleagues to come to the various events. Events arranged by other organisations will be mentioned in 1993 Bulletins in the normal way. If you would like more copies of the programme to circulate to St James' churches, adult education groups, French or Spanish language classes etc. please let Marion Marples know and she will be pleased to send them.

Early Booking – for reasons largely connected with the need to book group accommodation (especially in Santiago itself) early in 1993, we need to have a preliminary idea soon of the number of members interested in participating in certain events: the May pilgrimages to Canterbury, the August pilgrimage on the Camino Inglés (La Coruña to Santiago) and the October visit to Spain.

1) At Canterbury, 30/31 May - the aim is to gather together as many Confraternity members and friends in Canterbury on Bank Holiday Monday, 31 May, as possible. Our initial idea of gathering at Aylesford, near Maidstone, on Friday 28th has had to be changed and we hope to meet together in Canterbury for the evening of Sunday 30 May.

The Ecumenical Service will be held at 12 noon on 31 May in the Jesus Chapel in the Cathedral. If anyone would like to make suggestions for this service there is still just time to get in touch with Marion Marples on (071)-633 0603. The small Confraternity choir hopes to sing some music from the Codex Calixtinus and other pieces. (See item in the 'Secretary's Notebook'.)

2) Walking Pilgrimage from Reading to Canterbury, 22-30 May
The gathering in Canterbury will be preceded by a walking
pilgrimage from Reading Abbey, arriving in Canterbury the
previous evening, organised by Stephen Badger. The intention is
for this to be as flexible as possible so that people can make up
their own groups and do as much or as little of the walk as they
wish.

The route that has been devised follows the Thames from Reading to Windsor, then runs along the London Countryway through Sunningdale and West Byfleet to join the Pilgrims' Way (alias the North Downs Way) near Dorking. This then continues all the way to Canterbury. The total distance is some 130 miles. Departure point in Reading is the north courtyard of Reading Abbey at 9am on Saturday 22 May, giving an average distance of 141/2 miles a day. There is a wide variety of accommodation along the route ranging from luxury hotels to village halls which could possibly be hired for those whose needs are extremely basic. Again different groups may wish to take different approaches. Indeed it would be quite possible to complete most of the route by staying in London and catching a train out each morning (the London Countryway was originally devised by Keith Chesterton with exactly this in mind - see his book of the same name, published by Constable, 2nd ed., 1981).

The majority of members may wish to walk only on the final bank holiday weekend, but it is hoped that at least a representative selection will be interested in making the whole pilgrimage from Reading. To facilitate planning, it would be helpful if those who think they may come on any part of this walk could complete the questionnaire at the end of the Bulletin (form no.1) and return it to Stephen Badger, 154 Burbage Road, London SE21 7AG (tel.: (071)-274 8121) before Christmas. Further details will then be given at the AGM.

3) Cycling Pilgrimage from Winchester 28 to 30 May

Similar arrangements will be made for a cycling pilgrimage from Winchester to Canterbury, starting on 28 May, which is being arranged by Terence Morris. Potential cycling pilgrims are asked to complete the cycling form (on reverse of walkers' form) at the end of the Bulletin.

All Others Coming to Canterbury on 30/31 May (but not walking or cycling) are asked to complete form no. 3 (below form no.2) at the end of the Bulletin if you need overnight accommodation in Canterbury on Sunday 30 May.

4) Walking Pilgrimage on the Camino Inglés, 24-30/31 August

For the first time since the late Middle Ages a group of pilgrims from Britain and, it is hoped, Ireland, (and perhaps also from the province of La Coruña) will walk from the port of La Coruña to the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela, a distance of some 62km. The travel arrangements envisaged will be flexible to suit members' needs and whereabouts in late August and will consist of the following options: a) fly to Santiago on 24 August and participate on 25 August with members of the Société des Amis de St Jacques in the inauguration (Mass) of the restored reredos of the 'Chapelle de France' in the Cathedral at Santiago; bus to La Coruña, night in La Coruña on the 25th; or b) meet at Santiago bus station on the afternoon of 25 August, or c) meet in La Coruña late pm 25th August.

The walk itself will take place on 26, 27 and 28 August, with one night in Ordenes, one night (probably) in a school hall and the night of the 28th in Santiago. On Sunday 29 August it is hoped that there will be a 1993 European Associations day with members from all our sister associations present. The nights of the 29th and 30th can also be spent in Santiago. Please note that there will be no back-up vehicle and participants will have to carry all their own gear including a sleeping-bag. Those flying will return from Santiago to London on 30 or 31 August. Note also that this is a splendid way of avoiding the August Bank Holiday in the UK. This historic pilgrimage is being organised by Pat Quaife and more details willbe available at the AGM. Costs will be kept as low as possible, to cover flight, bed and breakfast and minimum admininstration costs, or b. and b. only if people travel independently or are in Spain already. If you are interested, please complete form no 4 at the end of the Bulletin and return to Pat as soon as possible.

5) 1993 Visit to Spain: 22 to 30 October

In 1989 we visited Burgos and stretches of the Camino east and west; in 1991 León and the stretch from Sahagún to Rabanal del Camino and in 1992, based in Ponferrada and Villafranca, we

covered Rabanal to El Cebrero, the first toehold in eastern Galicia. In 1993 the aim is the ambitious one of travelling from Oviedo to Finisterre via Rabanal, Cebrero, Sarria, Portomarín, Vilar de Donas, Melide, Santiago and Padrón. The programme is: fly to Oviedo, 2 nights in Oviedo, 1 night in Rabanal itself, 1 night in Sarria and 4 nights in Santiago, return from Santiago. The cost, to include flights, bed and breakfast, some main meals, bus travel in Spain including an excursion to Finisterre, will be around £500 (but for 8 nights, not our usual 7). Single rooms will be difficult in some places and so a flexible supplement system of £5 per night where they are available will be used. Please be as flexible as possible. Numbers will be limited to 20. If interested please complete form no.5 (below form no.4) and return asap to Pat Quaife at 57 Leopold Road, London N2 8BG.

Recent Conversation between CSJ Editor and Secretary

Ed: all these forms - isn't this bureaucracy gone mad? Sec: not at all, it's good forward planning, and in any case form no.6 (on reverse of nos. 4 and 5) is an order form for interesting publications, old and new.

Ed: aaaaaaaargh (splutters)

Sec: so please count them carefully and ask readers to fill in forms fast and furiously.

The Contemporary Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

Marion Marples

(This lecture opened the University of Reading's Summer Symposium on Pilgrimage, held in conjunction with the Confraternity on Wednesday 1 July 1992.)

In April, Chaucer observed, folk long to go on pilgrimage.

'Only, these days, professional people call them conferences' says David Lodge in the Prologue to Small World. continues: 'The modern conference resembles the pilgrimage of medieval Christendom in that it allows the participants to indulge themselves in all the pleasures and diversions of travel while appearing to be austerely bent on selfimprovement. To be sure, there are certain penitential exercises to be performed - the presentation of a paper, perhaps, and certainly listening to the papers of others. But with this excuse you journey to new and interesting places, meet new and interesting people, and form new and interesting relationships with them; exchange gossip and confidences with them (for your well-worn stories are fresh to them and vice versa); eat, drink and make merry in their company each evening; and yet, at the end of it all, return home with an enhanced reputation for seriousness of mind.'

Well, I am very pleased to be able to combine pilgrimage with a conference and to open this Symposium on Pilgrimage on behalf of the Confraternity of St James. The Confraternity is now in its tenth year and we have been in a unique position to both stimulate and monitor the growth of interest in pilgrimage, particularly the pilgrimage to the shrine of St James, Santiago de Compostela in north-west

Spain. My comments here are based on my experiences as Secretary of the Confraternity for the last three years and great involvement before that. I haven't actually made the pilgrimage myself yet, but sometimes feel as though I have.

We shall be hearing about the routes the medieval pilgrims took and the places they visited this afternoon, when Dr Mary Remnant, a founder member of the Confraternity, presents her lecture-recital on 'The Musical Road to Santiago de Compostela'. So I shall not say too much about these. I shall look at how the 20th century pilgrim compares with his medieval predecessor. It seems that David Lodge thinks that medieval pilgrimage has been superceded by the modern conference as a means of travel and self-improvement. I should like to contend that making a pilgrimage in 1992 is just as relevant and modern an activity as it was nine hundred years ago.

We first ask the inevitable question, 'What is a pilgrimage?' A simplistic definition is a journey to a holy place. A weekend conference held in 1988 at Digby Stuart College on pilgrimage in the major world faiths tried but failed to come up with a better satisfactorily comprehensive definition. So I shall not start to do so now!

The Confraternity regards a true pilgrim as someone who plans and makes his or her own pilgrimage, whether on foot, bicycle, horse, pennyfarthing or donkey cart, either alone or in a small group. This is the preferred definition in France and Spain, where special budget accommodation may be available for these pilgrims. This ethos is also promoted by the Cathedral authorities at Santiago de Compostela who only issue the coveted 'compostelas' to those who have completed at least 150kms by their own effort. Thus the church retains its hold on the management of the Camino and ensures that the journey made to Santiago continues to be more important than actually

visiting the holy places on arrival. For this is the essence of the pilgrimage to Santiago and differentiates it from the journey to Rome or Jerusalem in modern times. Some of our members have made the other pilgrimages, but in each case there is a lack of the infrastructure and information which characterises the Santiago pilgrimage. I think too that organised pilgrimages, "religious tourism", miss this essential aspect. (I had better be careful of what I say as I know there is a representative of Inter-Church Travel here.) Travelling by coach in a large group can develop friendship and camaraderie. But even having a spiritual leader as well as a tour guide can never replace the experience of being reliant on the good will of whoever one meets along the way or the exhilaration of physically making the journey oneself.

However, of course I cannot say that people should stay at home. The increasing number of study tours organised for example by University Departments of Continuing Education confirms the interest in the phenomenon of the pilgrimage, its history, churches and cathedrals, its music, its literature. It is not necessarily a spiritual pilgrimage but the traveller is united with the potent cultural identity forged by the Catholic Church in medieval Europe. The publication of magazines such as *Medieval World* also points to this interest.

Why, then, does an individual decide to undertake this journey? Davies, in his book *Pilgrimage Yesterday and Today*, compares the motivation of pilgrims from the earliest times with the 20th century traveller. Some concepts, such as the granting of indulgences or the crusading pilgrimage are rejected. However, I think most of the other standard reasons for pilgrimage resonate with today's experience.

Firstly, it is often the fulfilment of a lifelong interest in matters connected with the pilgrimage. For instance, many

visitors to south-west France are intrigued by the constant references to the Chemin de St Jacques and have investigated further, promising themselvesthat one day they would actually make the whole journey. In doing this they resemble the medieval men and women who vowed to go on pilgimage as a thanks for the answer to prayer, often leaving money in a will for someone to go to 'Saynt Jamys in Galice' on their behalf if they did not make it in time. Sadly this latter practice has not survived to the present day.

By bringing together many disciplines: art, architecture, music, history, theology, there are many surprises as new areas unfold and connections are unlocked. The stimulus to actually bringing these things together is often a life crisis – early retirement, redundancy, divorce – occasions when the individual needs time and space to reflect upon and reassess life. By following the road, undistracted by the material side of life and open to the encounters along the way, the pilgrim is making a spiritual journey not far removed from the possibly more theologically expressed insights of medieval times which are described in Davies's book.

Healing the soul, or re-ordering one's life is perhaps the modern equivalent of the physical healing which was a feature of medieval pilgrimages. Santiago is often regarded as not being known for its miracles. However, books of miracles do exist in the library of Santiago Cathedral – indeed would its attraction have been so great if there had not been cures to prove the efficacy of devotion to St James? It is notable now that whereas Lourdes and Knock can attract large numbers of sick pilgrims from this country, Santiago does not. However, continental Catholic Europe does look to Santiago as a major pilgrimage centre for all needs.

Spiritual growth and self discovery are strong motives for making a pilgrimage – a physical and worthwhile challenge which can be achieved in a fortnight on a bicycle or a month on root, times well suited to the modern traveller.

Not everyone chooses to go on pilgrimage. Just as in medieval times the pilgrimage was given as a penance, the Flemish judicial authorities in Belgium offer making the pilgrimage as an alternative to custodial sentences. Slader in *Pilgrims' Footsteps* recalls meeting a young man with two younger charges on the road. His initial impression of 'two unlikely looking pilgrims' is revised as he talks to them of their experiences and there is a fragment of hope that they will not merely return to their former lives and almost certain criminal involvement.

Having mentioned Belgium I should now like to look at the pilgrimage from the European standpoint. In 1987 the Council of Europe declared the Camino de Santiago to be a 'premier cultural itinerary' and marked its declaration with a ceremony in Santiago, multiple distinctive blue and gold signs and maps at the entrance to every village and the establishment of an international academic committee of experts. It managed to convene one conference in Bamberg in 1988 and the committee was promptly disbanded with no proper reason given The Conference Proceedings give an idea of the range of research being carriedout all over Europe. Many other international conferences have been held, indeed the Confraternity held its own at Hengrave Hall in 1990, with contributions from Professors Derek Lomax. who sadly died earlier this year, Brian Tate and Brian Kemp, who is here today. I should like to know what David Lodge makes of conferences about pilgrimages!

I should like to refer to one specific piece of research. It was presented as an MA thesis (University of London) in 1964 by Constance Storrs. Jacobean Pilgrims from England from the Early 12th to the Late 15th Century is a most

valuable work, examining all the ships licences and material relating to English pilgrims and has formed the basis for all further research in this country. Rather belatedly, the Confraternity is negotiating with the University of Santiago to publish this work, hopefully in 1993.

Many conclude that the end of the pilgrimage is really just the beginning of a new life. Hanbury-Tenison in Spanish Pilgrimage: a Canter to St James tried unsuccessfully to integrate his experience of the pilgrimage into a 'green' framework. The pilgrimage is above all an individual experience and can only realign the individual in his actions rather than whole nations. A practical example of wider benefit from the experience of making the pilgrimage has been the Confraternity's own project at the remote village of Rabanal del Camino. Over £50,000 has been raised by grateful pilgrims and friends to rebuild the parish house as a 'refugio' for pilgrims with benefits accruing to pilgrims and the village alike. The close cooperation with the community has been widely commended and copied by other European associations of St James, particularly the Germans and Italians

I am often asked how many people make the pilgrimage. The cathedral at Santiago publishes figures for the number of 'compostelas' issued. (Incidentally I should explain that 'compostelas' entitle pilgrims to three free meals for three days in the staff dining room at the Hotel de los Reyes Católicos.) The latest figures I have are for 1990. About 5000 people completed the pilgrimage, over half of them Spanish. The next largest groups were the Germans and the French, who together were about 1000. Only about 100 pilgrims camefrom the UK with the rest coming from Belgium, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, USA, Austria, Portugal and Ireland. We know from our own records in 1991 at Rabanal del Camino that about 2000 pilgrims passed through between Easter and October in about the same proportions. These figures take no account of those not making the

pilgrimage for purely spiritual or cultural reasons and more realistically it has been suggested that in the Holy Year of 1965 2 million pilgrims visited the shrine. In 1982 it was 6 million. 1993 is the next Holy Year and there is grave concern now that the infrastructure may no longer be able to cope with even greater numbers. The Xunta de Galicia, the autonomous government of Galicia, is planning ahead with improvements to the Camino and accommodation, but there is a lingering fear that this work may actually destroy the authentic experience of walking the road that our medieval predecessors took.

The pilgrimage to Santiago is now at a critical stage and we hold our breath for its survival into the 21st century. However, the pilgrimage has changed its nature over the centuries and will doubtless continue to evolve, as new needs are met by the experience of being on the road.

I began by quoting David Lodge. Where is he now? He is making his own pilgrimage, along on the Camino (with a BBC research team and camera crew not far in front). We look forward to seeing his verdict on this contemporary phenomenon early next year.

The Road to Jerusalem

The contemporary pilgrim par excellence must be CSJ Vice-Chairman Laurie Dennett. After walking to Santiago and to Rome in recent years she is now on her way to Jerusalem, fund-raising again for research into multiple sclerosis. Now (November 20th) she is on the south-east coast of Italy, on the long road to Bari from where she takes ship to Greece. Anthony Brunning, now living in Rome, joined her for a week in October and from time to time she has a rendez-vous with enthusiastic members of the Italian MS Society. Laurie aims to be in Jerusalem for Christmas and we hope to see her at the AGM in late January. In the meanwhile we send her our very best wishes for a safe and rewarding pilgrimage.

A Walk to the End of the World

Phinella Henderson

Cape Finisterre is Spain's westernmost point, a narrow granite promontory jutting out into the Atlantic from the coast of Galicia. About 80km from Santiago, it was regarded with awe in early times as the end of the known world. Some medieval pilgrims to Santiago continued their travels to the church of Santa Maria das Areas at Finisterre to venerate the images of the Christ who walked on the waters and of Our Lady of the Boat. Having walked from Saint Jean Pied-de-Port to Santiago, Sue Morgan and I decided to follow their example.

Armed with Alison Raju's Finisterre notes and the best maps we could find, Sue and I left Santiago one sunny June morning. Initially we walked beside a busy main road past overspill development, but fairly soon we branched off along minor roads through eucalyptus woods and vineyards to the attractive village of Puente Maceira, where an old stone bridge spans a boulder-strewn river and a crenellated wall surrounds an enigmatic manor house and its domain.

The yellow waymarking familiar from the Camino proper begins at Puente Maceira, and leads to Negreira, a small town some 21km from Santiago and the last outpost of civilisation until Cée, more than 40km away. We continued by way of the road past vistas of wooded ridges and pastures, having concluded after a brief foray into a maze of forest tracks that the waymarking could not be relied on. We saw peasants with pitchforks making hay and elderly ladies in black wearing large straw hats busy with farm or garden tasks.

As the afternoon wore on and the landscape opened out into gorse-covered heath, we became increasingly concerned about accommodation for the night. We were told in a bar that floorspace might be available in the village of Maroñas, but on arrival there after trudging through prickly undergrowth, continually attempting to bear west in the absence of any consistent path, we were directed on to a 'casucha' in the nearby hamlet of Santa Mariña. This was a tin-roofed hut in the

churchyard cum cemetery, where we passed a reasonably comfortable night, able to look out at the corbels of the Romanesque church until night fell. Santiago was about 43km away, but felt far more distant.

The next day dawned bright but windy, and we set off through bare and rugged country under the translucent sky characteristic of the west coasts of Europe, passing scattered hamlets and ancient wayside crosses. After a few hours' walk we ascended on to an exposed hilltop covered with yellow broom and fantastically shaped rocks. The view was spoiled by gigantic smoking factory chimneys. This was Hospital; only the name remained evocative of medieval travellers.

A tentative exploration of the high-level route to Cée mentioned by Alison Raju proved abortive due to lack of waymarking and our fear of becoming lost in inhospitable terrain late in the day. Instead we followed the main road to Cée, which descends steeply to the coast. We caught our first sight of the Atlantic, fringed by ranks of headlands stretching away to the south.

We took full advantage of the amenities of Cée, tired after the somewhat circuitous route we had followed and the last stretch along the road. Cée once had hospices for pilgrims but is now only a nondescript modern town. We left it on the following morning to walk the remaining 14km to Finisterre, passing through its more appealing sister town of Corcubión, where orange trees and palms grow. The wind had died down as we strolled through pinewoods above the sea, occasionally descending to regrettably litter-strewn coves. It was the feast of Corpus Christi, and in the village of Sardiñeiro we stopped to watch a procession emerging from the church, preceded by deafening fire-crackers and accompanied by musicians playing solemnly on bagpipes.

By late afternoon we had reached the fishing village of Finisterre after a leisurely ramble. David and Elizabeth Jarrold, a Confraternity couple whom we had previously met at Vilar de Donas, unexpectedly pulled up in their campervan and we had a welcome cup of coffee with them. We were now heading for Cape Finisterre, and we passed the church of Santa Maria das Areas, solidly built to withstand the fiercest weather. The road ends at a

lighthouse where the land falls down steeply to the sea in a stony confusion of cliffs. Sue and I sat among the rocks for a while as the sun began to set. The sky and sea shimmered with almost unbearable brilliance, the boundary between them so indistinct that a new element seemed to have been created which travellers were invited to enter for another journey. We had reached the end of the way which we had followed from the Pyrenees. The pilgrimage was indeed over.

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Another Confraternity pilgrim who reached Finisterre in the summer of 1992 was Clare Venables, who walked from Le Puy, drawing and sketching as she went. She sent people a delightful card of a female pilgrim almost falling over the cliff at Finisterre, a card she had drawn herself. It was intended to use this card to illustrate Phinella's article but even after turning the house upsidedown the editor was unable to lay her hands on it. So instead we go straight (or more or less straight) home with Sue Morgan on a little-known Spanish train.

FEVE: One Way to Return

Susan Morgan

FEVE is one of northern Spain's well-kept secrets. Eventually it can be caught - twice a day even - although written information is scarce.

FEVE is an acronym for Ferrocarriles de Via Estrecha, the privately run, narrow-gauge railway along the north coast between El Ferrol and Bilbao, where it has a splendidly colourful tiled entrance to its new station. FEVE has no connection with the state-run RENFE railway, and Tourist Offices have no information on it at all apart from a photocopied timetable one can look at in Santiago.

But in June 1992 I managed to travel back on it and I can report that it is a most delightful way to return. If one has to resort to wheels after walking to Santiago (and Finisterre) the FEVE line is the nearest thing to a footpath, winding its way through villages, fields, woods and farms, up mountains and through tunnels and even going along beaches and past little harbours with enticing views out to sea. People get on and off continually at the many stops, some of them tiny halts in the midst of fields with not a dwelling in sight. As they alight and disappear one would like to follow them.

The trains I travelled on had only two coaches, but although not luxurious in any way there was plenty of leg-room and the windows were a good size. The seats are cleverly designed in that they can be made to face either way, so one can always face forwards. As we went over toe-tingling viaducts and got down to ever lower gear for some of the ascents, I was very impressed by the civil engineering skills that provide this life-line of daily travel in rural areas.

Having been advised to have a look at La Coruña, I caught a coach from Santiago at 1.30pm which took about one and three quarter hours. The bar/restaurant at La Coruña bus station is very good, by the way. From outside I caught the no.1 town bus to the end of its route at the edge of the old town. The stop is almost opposite the Tourist Office, near the Plaza Maria Pita, and not far from the romanesque church of Santiago as well as being near pensiones and shops. The famous Roman Torre de Hercules, about half an hour's walk away, was shrouded in polythene for major restoration.

The next morning started with a pleasant, one-hour bus journey to El Ferrol, where there is an excellent family-run bar/restaurant at the bus station. Two minutes walk away is the railway station, where FEVE and RENFE offices face each other across the booking hall. RENFE operates shop hours, ie closing from 2.00 to about 4.30pm. FEVE opens and sells tickets only a quarter of an hour before trains depart. As you can imagine there is much to-ing and fro-ing and asking of questions, not just by English travellers. I felt quite a sense of achievement in being one of the first to get my FEVE ticket for the 2.05 train, with a vast queue anxiously waiting at RENFE and was even advising one or two

Spaniards. FEVE also run special excursion trains in the summer, with full board and sleeping accommodation. These looked very stylish with their navy and cream livery, every coach having a regional name, compared with our basic little two carriages.

We left promptly at 2.05 for Oviedo and had a superb run through. There was much hay-harvesting, with whole families out in the fields until late in the evening, mostly using horses or donkeys for their laden carts. We had one long stop around 4.00 where the station had a small 'cantina' and most people got out to buy drinks as this was the only opportunity. So do take any food and drink you may need with you on all FEVE journeys. We arrived at Oviedo at 9.20 at a platform rather than a proper station, but only a few minutes walk from the cathedral and the centre of the town. I stayed at the Pensión Pomar in the calle Jovellanos, just up the hill and first turn right, opposite the five-star Gran Hotel España. It was 1500 pesetas, clean and friendly, although a bit noisy in the front. Another ten minutes or so further down there are more pensiones etc.

I spent the following morning in Oviedo, capital of the Asturias, visiting the interesting cathedral of San Salvador – a good leaflet is available – with several depictions of St James. I can also recommend the nearby Museo Arqueológico. Then a good lunch at El Cobalto restaurant opposite the Pensión Pomar before a quarter of an hour's walk to the FEVE station proper. This is called the Estación Económicos, from which trains leave for Santander and is near the RENFE station. At 3.35 our economical train departed for Santander, another rural treat, again along the coast at times and up through mountains with lots of interesting stops.

We arrived in Santander at 8.20pm, with FEVE, RENFE, the bus station and bars all adjacent, and pensiones a convenient few minutes away only. I had decided to catch the 8.00am FEVE train next morning to Bilbao, arriving at 11.00 in the tiled splendour of the refurbished station there, again with an excellent restaurant. RENFE is immediately to hand and the tiny office that serves as a bus station is just up the road. The last stage was a smooth, two and a half hour bus journey to Bayonne, via Biarritz, arriving at 3.30pm after a minimal stop at the French border. From Bayonne I had my return rail ticket to Paris.

Overall the travel cost was only about 400 pesetas more than I was quoted for the RENFE fare from Santiago, plus of course 1500 pesetas or so for each night's accommodation. But apart from cost, I felt very fortunate in being able to return at this pace, giving me valuable time and space to ponder over the pilgrimage I had undertaken.

One can, of course, do the FEVE journey in a shorter time by not having so many stops. There is now a great temptation to investigate further the northern pilgrim route or 'Camino del Norte', especially having glimpsed so many interesting places already.

Practical Details

There are two trains daily going from east to west, plus some other short trips along the eastern parts of the FEVE route. I kept hoping to pick up more leaflets – I only managed to obtain Oviedo to Santander – so did not note all the times. Any further information/leaflets would be most useful.

ABBREVIATED FEVE TIMETABLE

FEVE	El Ferrol	Oviedo (Calle Victo	or Chavarri
dep.	7.15	arr. 14.30	
	14.05	21.15	
	Oviedo	Santander	
	(Est. Economicos)		
	8.15	12.59	
	15.35	20.20	
	Santander	Bilbao	
	8.00	11.00	
	plus 2 others	January 1	
Coach	Bilbao	Bayonne	
	13.00	15.30	
FEVE	Santander	Oviedo	
	8.35	13.30	
	16.00	20.50	

The Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago

by Elías Valiña Sampedro Translated by Laurie Dennett

At last it's here! Three years after the author's untimely death in 1989, the new edition of his famous guide is with us. The 1985 edition, with its distinctive format and red cover, has become almost as much a badge of the pilgrim as the scallop shell itself. But much has changed on the camino since then, and this is reflected in the major changes which have been made in this edition.

So, what's new? The most obvious changes are the format (now just a little taller than A5), the cover (grey), and, of course, the language. It has been translated not only into English, but also into French, German and Galician. Inside the text has been much enlarged and brought up to date (well, to 1989, anyway!) and new maps provided.

The text is now divided into four sections: Introduction, the Guide proper (120 pages), Historical and Cultural Notes (80 pages), and Useful Information (44 pages); in all, 275 pages compared with the 175 of the earlier edition. The enlarged text now gives much greater detail of the way and things to see, as well as of accommodation and other useful information. However, despite the author's claims to the contrary, I feel that it might have been better to keep it all in sequence, as it was in the original. Nevertheless, the extra detail given is a great improvement. An interesting addition is the short collection of pilgrim songs at the end. It would be interesting to have a recording of these (hint for Mary Remnant!).

The maps are totally new. Gone are the long strip 'maps', with their frustratingly elastic scales and variable orientations, but wealth of useful information; to be replaced with ones smaller in both size and scale, and a consequent loss of detail. The other annoying things about

the maps are that they are frequently positioned several pages away from the corresponding text and the spelling of place names sometimes differs from that in the text. It would be useful, too, to have more indications of heights along the way itself.

The only other guide available at the moment is the Confraternity's, which, whilst it is a more modest publication, does have the advantage of giving distances in detail; a most important consideration for walkers. It also gives a some indications of the quality of accommodation. (Bernès' book is no longer generally available, though it may be found in bookshops that deal in publishers' remainders.)

Would I take the new guide with me on the Camino? The answer is an emphatic 'Yes'. There is no one publication that I know of that gives all the information a pilgrim is likely to need, but this guide gives most of it. Supplemented by better maps it will satisfy almost all needs. I would probably also take the Confraternity's booklet for the detailed information it gives on distances.

The problem of maps may well be solved shortly: I understand that Roger Lascelles Ltd. will be publishing D. Elías' own maps by the end of the year at a price of about £7. With the guide costing about £15, it may seem a lot; but put in the context of the total cost, it is by no means excessive if it enables you to get the best from your pilgrimage, which it should do.

I mentioned that the revisions were to 1989; new road works and other changes mean that there is a need for an annual supplement. Now that the guide, in its five languages, is truly European, is there a case for co-operation between the Confraternity and its sister organizations to produce one?

Barry Humpidge

The Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago by Elías Valiña Sampedro. Vigo, Editorial Galaxia, 1992. 275pp. ISBN 84-7154-794-5. £14-95. By post £15-95, £16-50 (abroad).

Walking to Santiago - Poems by Neil Curry. Enitharmon Press, £7-95. 66pp.

Reviewed by William Griffiths

The encounters of a Compostellan bibliophile, like those of a pilgrim, mingle delights and disappointments. At the time of writing, for instance, one may find the Abbé Bernès' 1986 Pilgrim Route to Compostela at a bargain price in Waterloo (see Notes and News for details). On the other hand The Way of St James might no longer be the classic work of T.A.Layton but that of a more recent writer who does not scruple to demand a 'compostela' at the end of a pilgrimage by motor car. The anthology entitled Santiago by Elizabeth Belloc (1948), eagerly ordered from a catalogue, turned out to be about the capital of Chile.

Neil Curry's latest offering does not disappoint. He made his pilgrimage in 1990 from Roncesvalles, and his reflections on the fall of Roland are counterpointed with lines of (ancient?) French. His poems speak of authentic pilgrimage, of weary bodies and joyful souls, as when he arrives in Santo Domingo de la Calzada on Easter Sunday:

A hard coming I've had of it, foot-sore, soaked and exhausted, like hundreds of thousands before me ...

I'll take the fish tonight. Someone put to death Last Friday is, I believe, alive again.

From Burgos to Palencia though, he seems to have taken a train, and had a bitter Adlestrop-like experience at a station called Torquemada. At Burgos he had encountered El Mio Cid, at Viana Cesare Borgia. Further on, outside Villafranca del Bierzo he asks for directions and finds that Irish answers are also prevalent among the peasantry of the Bierzo. For 'A Dish of Scallops' his poetry is concrete, verses printed in the form of a shell. I cannot ask the editor's word-processor to attempt that, so you'll really have to buy the book yourself (the Confraternity stocks it at £8–50 to include postage) or borrow it from the Library.

The first half of the volume consists of non-Compostellan but equally delightful poems: I especially liked 'New Maps for Old', the new having

No cherubs; no Here Be Dragons; No Galleons tilting in the Bay. And finally to the goal of Neil Curry's pilgrimage, 'At the Tomb of Saint James', where the author sums up in three short verses the underlying ambiguity there:

Now whether his body is in the tomb or not Is only a question of matter, So scarcely matters, and it is hard to say

Whether the absence of his presence Or the presence of his absence Is now the more palpable;

Or whether it is the gathering And gathered resonance of us all That echoes and creates.

Editor's Note: Neil Curry is a poet and teacher who lives in Cumbria. His first major collection of poems Ships in Bottles was also published by the Enitharmon Press and was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation for Winter 1988. His poem 'Pamplona' from Walking to Santiago was included in Bulletin No.35, July 1990.

SOME RECENT BOOKS

The Codex Calixtinus and the Shrine of St James edited by John Williams and Alison Stones is an important collection of sixteen scholarly papers given at the Pittsburgh Conference of the same name in 1988. Different aspects of all five books of the Codex Calixtinus are examined and contributors include Klaus Herbers on 'The Miracles of St James', Alison Stones on 'The Decoration and Illumination of the Codex Calixtinus at Santiago de Compostela' and Serafin Moralejo on 'The Codex Calixtinus as an Art Historical Source'. The publishers are Gunter Narr Publishers, P.O. Box 2567, D-7400 Tubingen, Germany, from whom the book can be ordered for 78 marks plus 2.40 marks for postage and packing. Payment can be made by eurocheque or by charging a credit card (VISA, Eurocard/Mastercard, American Express or Diners Club) quoting its number and expiry date. A copy of the book is in the Confraternity Library.

Guía Espiritual del Peregrino - Camino de Santiago de Compostela published by Central de Peregrinaciones Asis in 1992, in preparation for Holy Year, is an anthology of prayers, spiritual advice, psalms, readings and hymns that has been produced (in Spanish) by a trio of priests, including D. Jaime García Rodríguez, the Santiago Cathedral canon responsible for pilgrims. The contents follow the progress of a pilgrim through the day, and to the arrival at Santiago. The Guia is a neat, pocket-sized publication of 136 pages and not too heavy, even for those on foot. The Confraternity Library has a copy and we also have a few for sale, price £3 (see order form at end of Bulletin).

OTHER INTERESTING NEW LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

El Camino de Santiago y Europa (Encuentro de Universitarios Católicos Europeos), 1992. 76pp. (A short collection of papers mainly in Spanish)

Hartley, C. Gasquoine, The Story of Santiago de Compostela. Illustrated by Frank H. Mason. London, J.M. Dent, 1912. 324pp.

Huidobro y Serna, Luciano, Las Peregrinaciones Jacobeas. Madrid, Instituto de España, 1950. 3 vols, 2410pp.

Kendrick, T.D., Saint James in Spain. London, 1960. 217pp. (A hard-to-find classic, which is a welcome addition to the library)

Soria y Puig, Arturo, El Camino a Santiago. Vol. I, Vias, viajes y viajeros de antaño. Madrid, MOPT, 1991. 180pp, illus. (A well-illustrated and well-reviewed work)

Mimizan, des origines à 1900. [n.d.]. 166pp., illus. (An illustrated history of Mimizan on the coast of the Landes, south of Bordeaux, a port of call for English medieval pilgrims. Kindly donated by the curator of the Musée du Vieux-Bourg, Monsieur Serge Bouzou.)

A full catalogue of the library may be obtained from the Librarian, Stephen Badger, 154 Burbage Road, London SE21 7AG, on payment of £2.

In an earlier Bulletin we published a list of books required which drew a very good response. The main item still outstanding is James S. Stone's The Cult of Santiago: Traditions, Myths and Pilgrimages. London, Longmans, 1927. If any members ever comes across this book, do please acquire it for the library and claim reimbursement.

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ROUND-UP OF AUTUMN EVENTS

The Great Confraternity Quiz

The Confraternity has been nurturing the idea of a Quiz for some year so it was disappointing that September 19th 1992 saw one of our smallest attendances for some time. However, those who took part revealed unexpectedly great and esoteric knowledge of the pilgrimage and enjoyed pitting their wits against the combined talents and erudition of quiz-masters Peter Tomkins and Timothy Wotherspoon (also known as Confraternity bakers of bread for the AGM).

After an informal picnic lunch, four teams emerged, naming themselves Peregrino Podiensis, Los Jubilados (the retired), La Charentaise and Femina. Written questions alternated with a picture quiz and a map quiz, at the end of which scores were almost level. A quickfire question and answer session led to an exciting finish, with the Femina team of Judith Bennett, Marigold Fox and Audrey Schmitt coming from behind and winning the prizes of Rabanal mugs.

Our thanks go particularly to Peter and Timothy for their careful preparation of the quiz itself, the impartial way in which they conducted it and for physical sustenance in the form of their delicious corn and rye loaves.

CONFRATERNITY VISIT TO EL BIERZO

A whole Bulletin would be needed to do justice to the October visit to Ponferrada and Villafranca which 16 members took part in in mid-October.

October is not the best month for visiting monuments in Spain as many guardians and guides take their holidays then. But even when the dreaded sign 'Cerrado por vacaciones' was up we usually managed to obtain entry and see what we had come to see. Our only failure was the Templar castle at Ponferrada but as Alberto Morán comfortingly pointed out its exterior is in fact much more impressive than its interior. At the remote mountain village of Peñalba de Santiago, with its 10th century Mozarabic church, the father of the usual guide appeared to let us in and at the restored Benedictine monastery of Carracedo a smiling and knowledgeable lady was waiting for us, thanks to the letter sent in advance. No keys were needed to appreciate the strange beauty of Las Medulas, the exotic remains of the Roman gold mines, wealth from which financed the exploration and 'discovery' of the New World 500 years earlier. Our bus driver for two of the days, who appropriately was called Santiago, knew the area well and led most of the party on a beautiful 1½ mile walk from Peñalba to the cave where St Genadio withdrew in the mid 10th

century before becoming Bishop of Astorga. Other companions on two days were Paco, Treasurer of the El Bierzo association, who had helped Pat Quaife with preliminary investigations in April, and his wife Angela. They and Alberto Morán accepted invitations to the last supper in Villafranca, Alberto distinguishing himself by making a speech in English.

The party was lucky with the weather, missing the prevailing wind and rain of most of western Europe in October and enjoying sunshine and reasonable temperatures. The exception was our last day, when we travelled the pilgrim way from Villafranca to El Cebrero, with stops in Herrerías and Ruitelan. In the latter village, by dint of asking the right person, we were given the key to the tiny, hidden chapel of San Froilán which cannot be seen at all from the road. San Froilán was another early saint of El Bierzo, and spent much of his time in his hermitage chapel. We were intrigued to see that to the right of the altar was what looked like a cave, which San Froilan retired to at necessary intervals. Soon after this stop, the rain came down in earnest, increased in intensity, as did the mist, as we came into Galicia and on to the narrow (but being widened) road to Cebrero. Sadly, Cebrero was a sea of fog and mud and so those in the group who missed the usually wonderful views in 1992 will have to think about coming in 1993 when we will try Cebrero again. But the beauty of the church, the warm welcome at the Hostal San Giraldo de Aurillac from the Valiña family and the hot, filling lunch help ed us forget our initial disappointment. It seemed pointless going on to Triacastela as had been planned, so after lunch we turned back to El Bierzo and Villafranca and did our last bits of shopping and church viewing.

It was good to see Jesus Jato and his family at the Villafranca refuge and we thank them for their hospitality to us. We also enjoyed seeing a short video that he had made and hearing about his most recent walk to Santiago during which he must have broken many records.

And last but not least, Rabanal. Chonina put on a wonderful meal for the group, including the best 'sopa de marisco 'that some of us had ever had. A first visit for some people to the Refugio Gaucelmo, under the guidance of David and Diane Wesson, the autumn wardens, was another highlight of the afternoon. There was all too little time to admire the rebuilt barn and talk with Charo and Asumpta, our wonderful neighbours at Rabanal, before piling back in the mini-bus to go to see the early medieval forge at Compludo before darkness fell.

All in all a memorable six days in a virtually unknown part of Spain, El Bierzo, which we were pleased to have the chance to know.

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MEMBERS' PAGE

John Fletcher is making his pilgrimage on foot from Le Puy, walking a section of the Pilgrims' Way each year. He has reached Conques and intends between 28 May 1993 and 5 June 1993 to walk the section between Conques and Cahors. He is organising a group to accompany him on this next section. The group presently consists of 9 people (7 men, 2 women) and most of the group are unlikely to continue beyond Cahors.

John would very much welcome having some Confraternity members joining his group, hopefully to bring the group up to 12 or 14 people, and he hopes that the Confraternity members might be willing to be his companions in succeeding sections to Santiago.

The Conques-Cahors sections is being organised so that the group will stay in a hotel (generally of Logis de France standard) each night, with luggage being transferred by road each day from hotel to hotel so you will only have to carry your needs for the day in your rucksack. In addition to the hotels and the luggage transfer, included in the price are meals at the hotels, air flights (London-Toulouse), transport to and from the airport and travel insurance. The price is currently estimated at about £450 to £470.

John will happily discuss his plans and answer inquiries. His telephone number is (021)-455 8896 and there are facsimile and answering machine facilities.

Congratulations to ...

Johnny Mann of Warrington on reaching Santiago this autumn on foot after overcoming many obstacles. In 1990 an infected heel prevented his departure by bike and in 1991 snow and rain forced him to give up at Pamplona. In 1993, wiser and warier, he bought a new mountain bike. But the bike was destined not to go to Spain after all because a back problem allowed him to walk but not to ride. So after being a cyclist for 65 years he was given two days to become a walker. He took a few lifts on the way but was granted his 'compostela' at Santiago after explaining the problem. He asks himself 'Do I really qualify as a true pilgrim?' The answer must be a resounding 'yes'.

and congratulations also to Emma Poe of Loscombe, Dorset who survived the wettest spring in Spain for 40 years but counted the pilgrimage to be one of the most rewarding experiences of her life. She describes Rabanal as 'magical, I can't wait to return; we had a very friendly welcome at the refugio.

Many thanks to both Johnny Mann and Emma Poe for their notes for next year's Pilgrim Guide to Spain. (Any further contributions from 1992 pilgrims will be welcomed by Pat Quaife at 57 Leopold Road, London N2 8BG.)

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS - AUGUST TO OCTOBER 1992

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music, hiking

Medieval history, architec-

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pilgrimage

Wardens at Rabanal, 1992

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Pilgrim routes in France

History, theology, sacred art

Cathedral architecture

Liturgical chant, architecture

Medieval history, romanesque churches

Medieval history, France

Romanesque art, walking

Architecture, stone carving

Mr Christopher Rutter

Miss Evelyn Bennett

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES

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London NW3 4TU.

Miss Sarah Hamilton

12 Forest Lodge, Dartmouth Road, London SE23 3HY.

Medieval religious history

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Ms Elizabeth Woods

1 Kenilford Road. London SW12 9PR.

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Mr Joe Duffy

Mrs Margaret Duffy

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Mr Julian Francis Mrs Philippa Francis

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Dr David Wearing

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Caversham Park Village, Reading, Berks RG4 OSF. Tel.: (0734)-470970

Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies

Director: Dr Anne Curry

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10 Rosebay Close, Walnut Tree. Milton Keynes. Bucks MK7 7BL.

Mr Craig Hartley Mrs Julie Hartley Corner Cottage, 2 Fowlmere Road, Shepreta, Royston,

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Mr Alan Long Mrs Barbara Long 25 St James's Road. Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3NO. Tel.: (0732)-453522 Romanesque and Gothic architecture, photography, wine

Art and architecture; Spain

Mr Andrew Clayton

59 Priests Lane, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8BX. Tel.: (0277)-214577 Photography, mountain walking

Form 1) Walkers from Reading to Canterbury, 22-30 May 1993
Name (capitals)
Address
Please indicate below which days between 22 and 30 May you might be interested in walking:
Would you like to make up your own group or join another?
Please tick clearly the type of accommodation you would prefer (costs will of course vary accordingly):
a) luxury hotel b) bed and breakfast style c) basic (own sleeping bag) d) don't mind e) will come on daily basis/stay with friends
Any other comments? (If reply needed please enclose s.a.e)
NB: walkers do not need to complete form 3 for Canterbury accommodation.
Finally, please indicate in the box below how likely you are to come, using a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 indicating complete certainty.
Please return this form to Stephen Badger, 154 Burbage Road, London SE21 7AG, BEFORE Christmas. Many thanks.
(Form 2 for cyclists is overleaf, as is Form 3 for Canterbury accommodation for non-walkers and non-cyclists.)

Form 2) Cyclists from Winchester to Canterbury, 28 to 30 May
Name (capitals)
Address
Please tick clearly the type of accommodation you would prefer (costs will vary accordingly):
a) luxury hotel b) bed and breakfast style c)basic (own sleeping bag) d) don't mind e) will come on daily basis/stay with friends
If you have any comments or queries please put them on a separate sheet. Finally, please indicate in the box below how likely you are to come, using a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 indicating complete certainty.
Return this cyclists' form to Professor Terence Morris, 23 Eastgate Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8EB, before Christmas. Many thanks.
Form 3) Accommodation in Canterbury on Sunday 30 May 1993 for those not walking and not cycling
Name:
Address:
Please tick clearly the type of accommodation you would prefer (costs will vary accordingly):
a) luxury hotel b) bed and breakfast c) basic (own sleeping bag needed)
Will you be travelling by car or by train?
If you have any suggestions for accommodation of different kinds in Canterbury please let Marion Marples know.
Please return this form to Marion at 45 Dolben Street, London SE1 0UQ by Christmas. Tel.: (071)-633 0603

Form 4) Walking Pilgrimage La Coruña to Santiago 24-30/31 August 1993			
Name:			
Address			
•••••			
Travel: do you think you will travel by air on 24 August?			
If making your own travel arrangements where might you meet up with the group (see relevant Bulletin pages):			
Return travel (please tick): a) return by air on 30 August b) return by air on 31 August (NB single flights are prohibitively expensive) c) make own return arrangements			
Participation implies your need for accommodation, at a minimum, for the nights of 25, 26, 27 and 28 August. Air travellers will need accomm. on 24 and 29 August, possibly also 30 August. Please comment on separate sheet if these nights will not apply to you.			
Please indicate in the box below how likely you are to participate on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 implying complete certainty:			
Form 5 - Confraternity Visit to Spain 22 to 30 October 1993			
Name:			
Address:			
Please indicate in the box below how likely you are to come, using a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 indicating certainty. As places are limited a deposit of £50 will secure a place (refundable in case of need).			
This sheet should be returned to Pat Quaife, 57 Leopold Road, London N2 8BG as soon as possible. But if ordering books etc (see overleaf) send the sheet first to Marion Marples, 45 Dolben Street, London SE1 0UQ.			

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Name (capitals)	
Address	

Please send me the following ticked items, for which I enclose a cheque (made out to the Confraternity of St James) for £..... All prices include inland postage (overseas surface price in ()).

- 1) Elias Valiña, The Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago 1992. £15-95 (£16-50).
- 2) The Pilgrim's Guide, a 12th Century Guide for the Pilgrim to St James of Compostella, translated by James Hogarth. £5 (£5-75)
- 3) Neil Curry, Walking to Santiago: poems. 1992. £8-50 (£9)
- 4) Medieval World, issues 5 and 7; no.5 contains several articles on the pilgrimage to Santiago; no.7 concentrates on music (including medieval musical instruments) plus an article on Aimery Picaud. £2-50 (£2-75) per issue.
- 5) Guia Espiritual del Peregrino, Camino de Santiago 108pp in Spanish, plus pilgrim songs etc. £3 (£3-50).
- 6) Mixed-pack greetings cards, some Confraternity, some attractive Swiss ones, 10 per pack: £2-50 (£3).
- 7) Confraternity postcards (St James' statue) 50 for £7 (£8), 25 for £3-50 (£4), 10 for £1-50 (£1-85).
- 8) Confraternity bookplates (12th c. figure) 20 for £1 ((£1-45), 50 for £2 (£2-45), 100 for £4 (£4-50)

Please return this form, with your remittance, to Marion Marples, 45 Dolben Street, London SE1 0UQ. (If you have also completed the reverse, Marion will process your order and send the sheet on.)





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