

# BULLETIN



## THE CONFRATERNITY OF SAINT JAMES

**February  
1990**

**N. 34**

*President:*  
H.E. The Spanish Ambassador



## The End of a Decade

In the Compostelan calendar 1989 will stand out as a year of joy and faith, but also, in its latter part, as a time of sadness.

The visit of the Pope to Santiago in mid-August attracted an unprecedented number of young people, from all over Europe and beyond. They came for a variety of reasons and left with their faith renewed and a determination on the part of many to travel the pilgrim road again. All along the way, from Roncesvalles westwards, monasteries, churches, towns and villages made an enormous effort to establish extra accommodation, facilities and contacts for the pilgrims, which will endure well into the next century. And in a modest way, the initiation of the Confraternity's appeal to provide an acceptable hostel in Rabanal del Camino in the Montes de León is part of the same Europe-wide movement of renewal.

The time of sadness came later in the year, culminating in mid-December, when we heard of the untimely death of Padre Elias Valiña Sampedro, who had been the priest at the tiny mountain village of El Cebrero for over thirty years. The first Spanish Coordinator for the Camino, editor of the Boletín del Camino de Santiago - forerunner of the admirable publication Peregrino - and principal author of the walker's friend, the Guía del Peregrino, Elias Valiña inspired the devotion of countless pilgrims who enjoyed hospitality in the family-run hostel. He has left to us all, both at El Cebrero and in his work, a legacy on which we must strive to build in the years to come.

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CONFRATERNITY AND SISTER ORGANISATIONS' EVENTS - 1990

Saturday February 24th - Bristol Day

The Bristol group has arranged a varied selection of activities in aid of the Rabanal Appeal Fund and invites you to join them at:

5 Westfield Park, (off Whiteladies Road)  
Bristol.

Timetable: 10.00 - coffee  
10.45 - The Cult of St James in England - an illustrated talk by Phinella Henderson  
12.00 - Introduction to Poole - Joanne Land  
12.30 - drinks, lunch (bring packed lunch)  
1.00 - Viaje a Jakobsland, a new Spanish video, lent by John Durant  
2.15 - visits to Lord Mayor's Chapel and Bristol Cathedral (on foot)  
4.45 - tea in Bristol.

Cost: £2-00 (members), £2-50 (non-members)  
£3-00 (families, couples - all members)

Refreshments: tea, coffee and home-made soup will be available, but you are asked to bring your own sandwiches.

If you intend to come please complete the form at the back of the Bulletin and enclose an s.a.e if you would like a sketch-map showing Westfield Park.

Travel: members travelling by train from London are advised to catch the 8.30 from Paddington, which arrives at 10.02.

PILGRIM HOSPITALITY - THURS. 15 MARCH

Would any London members willing to offer beds or floor-space accommodation and breakfast to 2 French conference visitors for the night of Thursday 15 March please contact Pat Quaife on (01)-883 4893. Visitors will probably have sleeping bags or sheets with them. All offers of help gratefully received.

March 15 to 18 1990

Pilgrims from the British Isles to  
Santiago de Compostela  
in the Middle Ages

Conference at Hengrave Hall, Suffolk

The conference is now fully booked with a waiting-list of applicants. However there are a small number of vacancies for members for the pre-conference events in London on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th March.

- 1) Thursday March 15th, 7.00pm, Bar Hall, Westminster Cathedral  
Conference Centre, Victoria

St James in London - an illustrated talk by Marion Marples and Pat Quaife. Entrance: £2-00

- 2) Friday March 16th - St James in London - a guided visit  
Meeting point: St James, Spanish Place, 22 George Street, London W.1. Time: 10.00 am. (Nearest tube stations: Bond Street or Baker Street.) Using public transport we shall go on to St James Garlickhythe, All Hallows by the Tower, crypt of St James in the Wall (All Hallows Steyning) and finish at St James Prebend Street, N.1. Lunch: at Café Pasta and Parveen (Italian and Indian restaurants) Theverton Street, N.1.

Cost: £5, including coffee and fares, not including lunch.

If you would like to take part in one or both events please telephone Marion Marples as soon as you can on (01)-633 0603. If you are already registered for the conference you will be receiving details of all events separately.

**Madame Gabrielle Warcollier**

On Thursday March 15th, at 5.30pm, there will be a Memorial Mass in Westminster Cathedral for Madame Warcollier, who died in October 1989. Her daughter, Mademoiselle Jeannine Warcollier, will be present, accompanied by other members of the Société des Amis de St Jacques de Compostelle.

Sunday 15 April - Bredereth Sen Jago Visit to St James's Well at Bellasize (near Lostwithiel), Cornwall

The visit also includes the site of a St James's Chapel and a nearby church. Meet around 11am. For further details please contact Hilary Shaw, The Old Kiln, Port Navas, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR 11 5RJ, tel.: (0326 40562).

29 April to 1 May - 40th Birthday Celebrations of the Société des Amis de St Jacques de Compostelle - in Paris

Events include a tour of 'Paris Jacquaire' and the departure from the Tour St Jacques of a 40th anniversary pilgrim group who will be walking, cycling and riding to Santiago de Compostela. Members interested in taking part are asked to contact Pat Quaife in the first instance at 57 Leopold Road, London N2 8BG, tel.: (01)-883 4893.

Saturday 5 May - Bredereth Sen Jago pilgrimage in the Mount's Bay area, using pilgrim paths. May 5th is the founding day of the Council of Europe and there will also be a service for peace in Europe. More details from Hilary Shaw (address etc. above).

May 12 to May 13th - Practical Pilgrim Weekend at Poole, Dorset to include morning pilgrim advice session for those considering walking or cycling to Santiago in 1990, followed by a cruise on Poole Harbour, in the wake of medieval pilgrims who set off from here. Overnight accommodation and a Sunday walk will also be arranged. Further details in the April Bulletin.

Wednesday 16 May - Research Working Party meeting at Birmingham University for county coordinators, from 12.45 to 4.30 approx. Details to follow to coordinators.

Wednesday 25 July - St James's Day - a late afternoon picnic in St James's Park, London SW1 and mass at St James, Spanish Place.

5-7 October - International Meeting in Speyer, Germany, organised by the Sankt-Jakobusbrüderschaft, Dusseldorf e.V. to celebrate the town's 2000th anniversary. Events include an opening ceremony and reception in Speyer's Town Hall, a symposium on the Way of St James, a tour of Speyer (in different languages), and the opening of an exhibition on the pilgrimage. The conference fee is 50 DM (around £17) but not including accommodation or meals. For further details (in German) please send an sae to Marion Marples at 45 Dolben Street, London SE1 0UQ.

19-21 October - Confraternity Weekend visiting churches and sites of pilgrim interest, possibly in Cornwall.

NB This list is not a full list of 1990 Confraternity events. Other events being planned include a concert in June, lectures in September and November and a lecture-recital by Mary Remnant in aid of the Rabanal Appeal Fund.

#### OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Friends of Reading Abbey - late February is the time to visit Reading, despite the closure of the Museum and Art Gallery for refurbishment, for lectures on Reading Abbey and Malmesbury respectively. On Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm Dr Brian Kemp will be speaking on Reading Abbey and the Medieval Town (telephone the University of Reading Extra-Mural Office on (0734)-318852) for details. And on Friday 23 February the Friends' own Spring Meeting takes place in the Abbey Gateway at 7.30pm when Friends' member, Dr Nigel Berry, will give an illustrated lecture on Malmesbury Abbey, Wiltshire (visited by the Confraternity in April).

Saturday 17 March - members not attending our own Hengrave Hall Conference may be interested in a WEA (West Mercia District) Medieval History Day School in Shrewsbury being held on 17 March. The title is Piety, Prestige and Propaganda: Symbolism in Medieval Buildings (tutor: John Hunt; ref: 12H03(C)). Start: 11 am. Fees: £6-50, £4-50 (retired), £2-50 (unemployed), closing date March 1st 1990. Applications to and further information from: John Hunt, WEA Office, Cartwright House, Broad Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent, Staffs. ST1 4EU, tel.: (0782)-214187.

Saturday 19 May is the date of another WEA (West Mercia) Day School on The Medieval Landscape being held in Hanley, Stoke on Trent. Closing date: May 7th, fees and applications/information as above.

May 21 to May 27 - Medieval Normandy - a WEA Study Tour to introduce the history, archaeology and architecture of medieval Normandy, based in Rouen and Caen. Full details and itinerary from WEA, Cartwright House, Broad Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent, Staffs ST1 4EU, tel.: (0782)-214187.

September 11 - 20 - **Saints and Sacred Places** - a Study Tour to the Poitou-Charentes Region of France, organised by the University of Bristol's Dept for Continuing Education. Tutor: Cathy Oakes. Cost: £600 (single room), £510 per person (double room), to include tuition, travel by ferry and coach, entry to sites, dinner, bed and breakfast in hotels. Tour will be based in Poitiers and Saintes. Details and application form from Mr M.D. Costen, Dept for Continuing Education, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1HR.

Associated with the Study Tour is a day school on **Saints and Sacred Places** on Saturday 8th September 1990, to which all are welcome. No fee for Study Tour participants; £10 for others with booking in advance from Mr Costen (see above).

### A Credulous Englishman

A guide book to the principal churches of Rome, compiled around 1470 by William Brewyn, a credulous Englishman who lived for many years in Rome, gives much curious information intended to be useful to pilgrims to the Holy City and practical advice on the journey thither. In his catalogue of relics kept there (some of them highly dubious), Brewyn made two references to relics of St James, of an unusual nature:

- in the Church of St Pudentiana 'some of the ribs of St James the Apostle;
- and in the Church of St Bartholomew on the island in the Tiber, 'the chin of St James the Greater, the Apostle'.

The translator of the book notes that 'until about the middle of the ninth century the Roman Church was opposed to the division of the bodies of Saints and their distribution to various churches.' A similar attitude prevails today, but not so in the fifteenth century.

This book \* is now rare.

George F. Tull

\* A XVth Century Guide-Book to the Principal Churches of Rome, translated from the Latin by C. Eveleigh Woodruff. The Marshall Press, 1933.



ELIAS VALIÑA SAMPEDRO - EL PADRE DEL CAMINO

Writing of Elias Valina soon after his death on 11 December 1989, a Spanish journalist referred to him as 'el padre del camino'. This is not a title Elias would have sought - he was a singularly modest man, for all his accomplishments - but in retrospect it seems appropriate in both its meanings.

For 30 years Elias was priest of the Galician mountain village of El Cebrero, one of the most ancient, remote and beautiful halts on the Camino de Santiago. The village, with its 9th century church and its 'pallozas' or stone and thatch houses, lay derelict when Elias arrived in 1959. Largely through his efforts, the church and the adjoining 'hospederia' were rebuilt to minister to modern pilgrims, many members of the Confraternity among them. Those who ever passed through El Cebrero and met Elias can testify that his presence there - his willingness to share his knowledge of the camino and his great interest in the experience of pilgrimage - made this tiny windswept 'pueblo' the most memorable stage on the way to Santiago.

But Elias was 'padre' in another sense - that of historian, revitaliser and protector of the camino. He was the man who did most to revive and create interest in the camino in our day. Following a doctoral thesis on its legal history, he published in 1971 the first of his guides to the route. This became the kernel of the later guidebooks commissioned from him by the Secretaría de Turismo in 1982 and 1985. The latter is the large red book that many of us know so well, and is still by far the best guide to the way to Compostela in any language. In the course of preparing the 1985 edition, Elias devised - and painted! - the system of yellow arrows that marks the camino from the French frontier to the Plaza del Obradoiro. As first organiser of a number of the Spanish provincial 'asociaciones del camino' he got under way the cleaning, reclamation and marking with kilometre stones of lengthy section of the route. The modest but valuable Boletín del Camino (forerunner of the present Peregrino) was also Elias's initiative, as was the international conference held in Jaca in September 1987. All of this, and his many journeys along the camino, were carried out alongside his parish duties and his work as author or coordinator of several other immense scholarly projects. His Inventario historico-artístico de Lugo y su provincia, ran to six volumes, and his Catálogo de los archivos parroquiales de la provincia de Lugo to 953 pages!

Elias's energy and dedication will by now be evident. What may be less so are the qualities that won him his many friends: humour, boundless enthusiasm, generosity and patience. The last was particularly apparent during his long and debilitating illness. The affection of friends, fellow clerics and local people was shown in the steady flow of visitors to El Cebrero even in the worst of weathers. Illness did not stop Elias from welcoming them as openly as he always had. Nor did it stop him, when they had gone, from thinking and writing about the camino. Only death could do that.

Laurie Dennett

Elias Valiña Sampedro - born Lier, Sarria, 2 February 1929  
died Lugo, 11 December 1989

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## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Over 100 members and friends attended the seventh Annual General Meeting of the Confraternity on 20 January 1990.

After the chairman's report (see below) and a report from Walter Ivens on the progress on the Hostel Project (see Appeal Newsletter), a new committee was elected. Members of the committee for 1990 are: Stephen Badger, Rosemary Clarke, Laurie Dennett, William Griffiths, George McHardy, Marion Marples, Susan Morgan, Pat Quaife and Mary Remnant. (Officers for the year are elected at the first meeting of the committee.)

After tea and the opportunity to look at the Hostel Project display, buy publications and mugs and tee-shirts in aid of the Appeal, we sat down to an excellent lecture by Professor Derek Lomax of Birmingham University on 'The Order of St James'.\* Professor Lomax gave us a detailed history of the Order, formed initially to fight the Moslems in Spain and only accidentally named after St James. We were surprised to learn that in the 12th century, when the Pope was promoting celibacy among the clergy and religious, married lay brothers were being encouraged to join the Order. To bring the story completely up to date we heard that the father of King Juan Carlos may be attempting to revive the Order in modern Spain.

Turning to the Order's links with the pilgrimage to Santiago, we soon realised that such links were non-existent - the Order generally existed in centres far from the Camino and no documents mention knights protecting pilgrims on the Road. However, their contribution was to maintain pilgrim hostels, notably at San Marcos at Leon, and members of the Order undoubtedly went on pilgrimage to Santiago.

After the lecture a magnificent spread of food was laid out, contributed by members and organised by Mary Ivens and her team of helpers. Wine flowed and there were

\* It is hoped that we shall soon be able to add Professor Lomax's lecture to the Confraternity publications list.

plenty of opportunities for members hoping to go to Santiago this year to meet and compare notes and dates.

The evening closed very enjoyably with Alf Peacock, Ted Harper, Marion Marples, Binnie Mobsby, Mary Remnant and John Hatfield showing slides of St James in Germany, Oxford, Burgos and a bicycle in various stages of dis-assembly and packaging.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 1989

Pat Quaife

A week ago the Confraternity reached another milestone - its seventh birthday. Seven is a number to conjure with - the most frequent of the mystical numbers, the seven days of Creation to name but one, and of course St James is among the seven Champions of Christendom, the patron saints of the Christian nations. And now we are seven. What are the implications of this for a Confraternity that has well over 500 members, around 540 to be precise?

I hope very much that one major implication is that the organisation we have seen grow so quickly now has its own momentum, its path to follow and is not dependent on any one individual or group of individuals for its survival. This is exemplified by the number of members who are taking part in Confraternity affairs, not only Committee members, each of whom has a specific task, but those who are county coordinators for our major research project, those who contribute to the Pilgrim Guides and to the Bulletin, and not least all those who have spent time and energy raising and collecting money for the Rabanal Hostel appeal.

Birthdays, new years and particularly new decades are a time of looking forward as well as back at past achievements. Just as the pilgrim roads to Santiago stretch into the distance I would like to think of the Confraternity and all its sister societies in Europe stretching out into the future and in their varied ways helping future pilgrims to make the journey that is so much part

of our European Christian and cultural tradition. But just as the traditions and centuries of faith inherent in the pilgrimage to Santiago are part of the 'here and now', so in a sense the future is also now. What we all do in 1990 will shape the years and the journeys to come, whether we're talking about restoring buildings on the route, increasing the general stock of knowledge of the pilgrimage or simply sharing experiences, hopes and fears about our own journeys.

But my main purpose is to report to you on 1989 - our seventh year of existence, and I would like to highlight some aspects of the Confraternity year.

First of all it was a pleasure to welcome as Vice-Presidents our two former chairmen, Rob Neillands and James Maples. We do not therefore lose their wit and wisdom but feel we can call on them for advice from time to time.

A feature of 1989 that contributed to the variety of activities has been events organised by the Bristol group, an informal grouping of members who live in the west country. Thanks to them we enjoyed a day visit to Malmesbury in April, and more recently in November a visit to Sherborne, the latter in the company of Alberto Moran from the El Bierzo association, who had come over to attend the reception at the Spanish Embassy. One great advantage of Bristol is its location, with good rail links that bring it within reach of members who might not normally travel to London. So we are most grateful to Susan Morgan, Geraldine Thomson-Glover and John and Shirley Snell for thier work. Susan combines her Bristol group activities with dealing with ties and sweatshirts, a necessary and much appreciated task.

Another west country initiative, the first of many we hope, was Joanne Land's booklet on a possible medieval pilgrim route from Droitwich to the port of Bristol. This was published in November and launched at a meeting of the Research Working Party. It is hoped that the booklet will stimulate members to walk and cycle this route in summer.

Even further west, the Cornish Bredereth Sen Jago, an institutional member of the Confraternity, but with aims very close to our own, has also been extremely active under the leadership of Hilary Shaw. They have enjoyed a programme of talks, research, music and local pilgrimages, including one to St Michael's Mount. These are regularly listed and reported on in the Bulletin and Confraternity members are always welcome to attend.

Closer to home we have not been idle either. No-one who was at the Oxford Practical Pilgrim weekend in early May will forget the beauty of Worcester College grounds, where, thanks to James Maple, we were able to base ourselves for the morning, nor the beautiful romanesque church of St Mary, Iffley, where we were greeted in blazing English sunshine by the late late Rector sporting a large straw boater.

The next Confraternity destination was Burgos, where Marion Marples organised a week-long visit in October. This was not an easy trip to arrange as we do not have the contacts there that we do in Santiago with our good friend, Señor Ballesteros. I am told however that the visit was much enjoyed especially for the opportunity of visiting Santo Domingo de Silos and other pilgrimage towns and villages lying east and west on the route from Burgos.

In 1988 the Committee spent a good deal of time debating 'the future of the Confraternity'. We no longer do so in a formal way because that exercise threw up a number of ideas and projects that are being actively pursued.

The Research Working Party, which meets twice a year at Birmingham University under the chairmanship of Professor Lomax, has made progress in 1989 with its task of collecting information from a variety of sources on the pilgrimage from Britain and the cult of St James the Great. This is largely being carried out on a county basis and a number of county studies are nearing completion. It is intended that county booklets will be produced giving full details of all churches dedicated to St James and

of possible routes through the county to ports of embarkation for France and Spain. We also hope to put the information on to a computer data base this year, using a classification system similar to that used by the French. We are fortunate in having not only Professor Lomax, but also his colleague from Birmingham, Dr David Mackenzie and from Nottingham, Professor Brian Tate. May I here put in a plea for more potential county coordinators to come forward. So far we have covered about half the counties of England and Wales (Scotland is being covered by Ian Tweedie) and still need people, preferably living in the county in question for Somerset, Devon, Sussex, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Lancashire and several others. Please contact Marion Marples if you think you might be able to help.

The Rabanal Hostel Appeal has been a very important part of the Confraternity's activities in 1989. An energetic Appeal Sub-Committee, inspired by Walter Ivens and chaired by James Maple, has been hard at work, and we were privileged to be offered a special Rabanal Appeal reception by our President, H.E. The Spanish Ambassador, in early November.

Important as the Appeal is, I think it has to be seen in the context of our work as a whole and as a logical and practical extension of our advice-giving function. A great deal of advice has been given by Marion Marples and others to members, non-members and organisations planning a pilgrimage. The 1989 Pilgrim Guide to Spain was well received and has now sold out. Updating sheets were provided for the Le Puy and Paris route guides and we should all be grateful to those who took the trouble to write in with their experiences and suggestions for improvement.

Many members made use of the Guides this year on their pilgrimages: people walked, people cycled and for the first time two members, Robin and Louella Hanbury-Tenison, went on horseback. A number met up in Santiago on July 25th, although I am not aware of anyone who was there for Pope John Paul II's historic visit in August.

You will have seen from the Bulletins how the Confraternity Library has continued to grow. Stephen Badger has been assiduous in seeking out material, both published and unpublished, including members' own accounts of their pilgrimages. We are increasingly collecting items in French and Spanish as well as in English, which seems entirely appropriate. Donations to the library's stock are always welcome and we must thank Constance Storrs and James Hogarth in particular for their gifts in 1989.

Two members, Bert Slader and Hal Bishop, published books specifically on the pilgrim route. Bert Slader's Pilgrims' Footsteps is a personal account of his walk across Spain, while Hal Bishop's The Way of Saint James is a detailed guide to the GR65 footpath from Le Puy to Roncesvalles. And a 79 year-old member of the Bredereth Sen Jago, Ada Alvey, published her first book in 1989: In Search of St James: Cornwall to Compostela.

European conferences were held in far-flung locations this year; at León in early July on the theme Monastic Hospitality on the Pilgrim Roads to Santiago, and at Viterbo near Rome in September on The Traces of the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrimage in European Culture. The Confraternity was represented at both and Professor Derek Lomax addressed the Viterbo conference on 'The Order of Santiago and the Pilgrimage to St James'. This year, of course, we have our own conference at Hengrave Hall in Suffolk to look forward to.

It is always tempting to focus on the exciting events of the year. But most of these would not have happened without the painstaking work that quietly goes on behind the scenes throughout the year. The devolution of tasks to members of the Committee and indeed to others continued successfully. In addition to the crucial roles of Secretary and Treasurer, fulfilled by Marion Marples and Stephen Badger, different members have been responsible for membership, covenants, publications, ties and sweat-shirts, the library, the slide library, the mailing list, the Bulletin, pilgrim records, the album and bibliography.

In addition members have served on the Appeal Sub-committee, the Research Working Party and the Hengrave Hall Sub-Committee; there have even been some sub/sub committees on particular issues.

Three members of the 1989 committee are standing down and not offering themselves for re-election. Amanda Bath has been Publications Officer for three years and has sent out many hundreds of Confraternity packages; she will be spending much of 1990 in America. Anthony Brunning, with his computer skills, has been in charge of the mailing-list for two years which has enormously eased the burden of dispatching over 500 envelopes six times a year; he will be living and working in Rome from the middle of the year. Jonathan Ingham, who has been a tower of strength on the Appeal Sub-Committee, has just moved to France, not far of course, from the pilgrim route. I would like to thank all three on behalf of us all and wish them well in their new countries in 1990.

Finally I must thank all those who have worked so hard and so cheerfully in 1989. A membership of over 500 plus hundreds more enquirers does make very real demands on our resources and on the Secretary in particular.

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#### MAILING-LIST COORDINATOR

Anthony Brunning has run the computerised mailing list for over two years but, in view of his impending departure for Rome, a successor is now needed. The basic tasks involve keeping the list up to date (data supplied by the Membership Secretary) and running off 6 sets of around 500 labels a year. The present list is maintained on an IBM compatible computer. If you own a computer and think you might be able to undertake this vital job, please contact Anthony Brunning on (01)-733 2732.



## THE SHERBORNE WEEKEND

by

Jocelyn M. Rix

About thirty Confraternity members, including Bert Slader from Northern Ireland and our special guest Alberto Morán from Ponferrada, visited Sherborne in Dorset on November 11th 1989. After coffee we congregated in the nearby abbey church, dedicated to St Mary the Virgin, and were given an excellent guided tour by Mr Gerald Pitman, an extremely knowledgeable local historian.



Sherborne Abbey from the south-west; the building on the left was the 15th century Guest Hall and is now the library of Sherborne School.

Mr Pitman told us that in Saxon times it had been a cathedral from where Stephen Harding went on to found the Cistercian order. In 1075 the Normans moved the see to Old Sarum. In the 15th century Abbot Peter Ramsam was the driving force behind the transformation of the Norman building into the Perpendicular style, using stone of a rich golden colour from Ham Hill, a quarry in Somerset. The choir was pulled own and the new one, displaying

the first great fan vault, erected, supported by flying buttresses. The piers of the nave were encased in new stone and the roof replaced with fan vaulting. It is studded with bosses, beautifully carved. One shows an owl, symbolizing the Jews, being mobbed by five other birds, while others feature dogs, monkeys and a mermaid complete with comb. Another bears the initials H. and E. commemorating the marriage in 1486 of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. Light floods in through large windows in the east and west ends and the tower above the crossing houses the heaviest ring of eight bells in the world.

### Dissolution and Decline

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 the Benedictine monks were pensioned off at £6 per annum and the townspeople bought the abbey for £300, the equivalent of £350,000 today, and an outstanding achievement.

After centuries of decline a great deal of restoration took place in the latter half of the 19th century. After World War II a Saxon doorway at the west end, which had been bricked up, was re-opened as thanksgiving for the abbey having survived the war undamaged, despite bombs having fallen nearby. More recently another big programme of cleaning and re-leading was undertaken and the organ in the north transept rebuilt.

### St James in Sherborne Abbey

Of special interest to Confraternity members was the wooden statue of St James in the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre. Bought in Paris after World War II, it stands about 3 feet high, close to the entrance on the left of the altar and was carved in Spain about 1500. Sadly, both hands and part of the left foot are missing but the head is very fine, crowned by a hat bearing a scallop shell and the features of the face calm and regular. Here, the more august members of the group were photographed by the local press.

Outside once more, stylized scallop shells were spotted in fine 18th century wrought-iron gates guarding the south porch and at the south-east side of the abbey.



Spanish statue of St James in the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, with (left to right): James Hatts, Marion Marples, Shirley Snell, John Snell, Alberto Moran, Pat Quaife. Photo: Len Copland News Services

## Town and Triptych

After lunch Mr Pitman guided us around Sherborne, which is an attractive market town of about 1000 inhabitants. It is <sup>an</sup> ancient centre of learning, Sherborne School having been re-founded here in 1560, its originally monastic buildings adjoining the north side of the abbey. A total of no fewer than ten schools means that the town, which used to be famous for its silk weaving, is full of young people.

Two buildings were of special interest to us. Close to the abbey in Trendle is the fine 15th century almshouse of St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist, still in use, its licence dated 11 July 1437. In what is now the dining-room we were shown a fine northern French or Flemish triptych of the late 15th century. The central compartment shows the raising of Lazarus, with other miracles depicted on the left and right wings. Each of the side panels also has a subsidiary miracle in an upper corner. On the back of the folding panels appears St James together with St Peter, St Thomas and St Paul. The saints were visible when the triptych was closed at certain times in the ecclesiastical calendar. A second St James in Sherborne was a great surprise to everyone except Mr Pitman and we were delighted to see the triptych in its original setting.\*

We then walked to the top of Cheap Street to see the Julian, a half-timbered building of the early 16th century. Once a pilgrim hospice, recently a library, it is now a high-class fabric and tapestry shop, so there is a link, albeit tenuous, threading back to medieval times.



\* For further details of the Sherborne triptych see The Raising of Lazarus: a French Primitive in Sherborne (Dorset) by Christa Grössinger, an illustrated 11-page off-print from the Journal of the British Archaeological Association, vol.CXXXII, 1979.



# Confraternity of Saint James

Founded in 1983  
to promote the pilgrim routes to Santiago de Compostela

**PRESIDENT: HIS EXCELLENCY THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR**

**WALKING AND STUDY TOURS ON THE ROUTES TO  
SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA 1990**

Alternative Travel Group, 1-3 George Street, Oxford, OX1 2AZ. (0865)-251195/6

### Camino de Santiago

12 days walking most interesting parts of the Camino/ 5 days coach to cover route from St Jean Pied-de-Port. Walk last 50km to Santiago. Stay in Hotel Reyes Cathólicos. Good hotels and food, luggage carried in advance.

### Departures:

1 Jun - 17 Jun	13 Jul- 29 Jul	24 Aug- 9 Sep
15 Jun- 1 Jul	27 Jul- 12 Aug	7 Sep-23 Sep
22 Jun- 8 Jul	3 Aug- 19 Aug	28 Sep-14 Oct
6 Jul- 22 Jul	17 Aug- 2 Sep	

Cost: £1495 (incl full board, coach travel etc, holiday insurance)

+ £142 - £167 air fare (may increase by about 7%)

£220 single room supplement

Flight: London to Bilbao, return Santiago to London.

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Sharon Tours, ATS World Travel, 106 Seymour Place, London W1H 5DG. 01 724 8206  
or 01 724 5533

A Catholic inspired tour company specialising in pilgrimages.  
Coach based tour along the Camino from Santo Domingo de la Calzada (1night),  
Burgos (2), León (1), Lugo (1), Santiago (2).

### Departures:

Jul 19-26 (for Feast of St James) Sep 27- Oct 4 (autumn pilgrimage)

Cost: £545 £525

Single room supplement: £10 per night

Price includes  $\frac{1}{2}$  board, tours etc

Flight: London to Bilbao, return Santiago to London.

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WaymarkHolidays, 295 Lillie Road, London SW6 7LL. 01 385 5015/3502

### Camino de Santiago

Grade 2 ( approx 5 hrs walking daily) from Ponferrada 200km to Santiago with occasional bus rides. Luggage sent ahead. 2 nights at Santiago.

### Departures:

<u>Cost:</u>			
May 13 - May 27	£470	Sep 2 - Sep 16	£510
May 20 - Jun 3	£510	Sep 9 - Sep 23	£510
May 27 - Jun 10	£510	Sep 16- Sep 30	£490

14 nights,  $\frac{1}{2}$  board, NO single rooms

Flight: London to Santiago return

Waymark (Cont'd)

Pilgrim's Way

Grade 2 walk from Le Puy to Conques. Luggage sent ahead. Picturesque villages and dramatic scenery.

Departures:

May 26 - Jun 9	£498	Sep 2 - Sep 16	£540
Jun 9 - Jun 23	£498	Sep 9 - Sep 23	£535
Aug 17 - Aug 31	£540		

14 nights,  $\frac{1}{2}$  board, NO single rooms

Flight: London to Montpellier return

\*\*\*\*\*

A.C.E. (Association for Cultural Exchange) Babraham, Cambridge, CB2 4AP  
0223 835055

The Road to Compostela

A tiring coach tour with much walking required. Coach to Roncesvalles, visit to Leyre, Puente la Reina, via San Millan de Cogolla to Burgos (3 nights), Leon (1), Oviedo (2), Ribades (10, Santiago (2 in Hotel Reyes Catholicos).  
Leader: Christie Arno.

Departure: May 31 - Jun 14

Cost: £885  $\frac{1}{2}$  board in good hotels. Single room supplement £160

Flight: London - Bilbao, ret. from Santiago

\*\*\*\*\*

Inter-Church Travel, Saga Building, Middelburg Square, Folkestone, CT20 1BL  
0303 857535

The Pilgrimage Route to Santiago de Compostela

Coach to Burgos (2), León (4), Lugo (1), Santiago (3). July tour includes festivities, May and Sept trip extended to Finisterre and La Coruña.

Departures:

May 9 £579

Jul 18 £649

Sep 19 £629

8 nights,  $\frac{1}{2}$  board, single room supplement £96

Flight: London - Bilbao, Santiago - London

\*\*\*\*\*

Prospect, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 4PH Tel 01 742 2323, 995 2163/2151

The Way to Santiago

Small groups with a strong interest on the visual arts. Coach from Bilbao (1), Logroño (1), via Suso & San Millan de Cogolla to Burgos (2), trip to Santo Domingo de Silos, León (2), Lugo (1), Santiago (3).

Departures:

Jun 7 17 £1250

Jul 19 - 29 £1150

Sep 13 - 23 £1250

10 nights,  $\frac{1}{2}$  board, single room supplement £160

El Trancantabrico, c/o Marsan's, 65 Wigmore Street, London W1 Tel. 01 224 0504

Luxury train ride, 1000km, main meals at Paradors, coach to many places along the Camino to pick up train further on. Visits to Sahagun, Fromista, Carrion de los Condes, Villalcazar de Sirga etc.

Departures: (1990)

From Leon : June 2, 16, 30  
July 14, 28  
Aug 11, 25  
Sept 8, 22

From Santiago: Jun 9, 23  
Jul 7, 21  
Aug 4, 18  
Sep 1, 15, 29

7 nights full board and trips

Price:(1989) 110,000 ptas in twin cabin, 23,000 ptas single cabin supplement  
(c. £590) (£122)

No flight included

\*\*\*\*\*

Hotel Treks, Sherpa Expeditions, 131a Heston Road, Hounslow, Mddx, TW5 ORD  
01 569 4101

The Original Pilgrim Trail

Moderately strenuous walking holiday either Go-as-you-please or Escorted, from Le Puy to Conques. Luggage is taken ahead on both kinds of holiday, and full route details given.

Go-as-you-please

Departure: any date from May to Oct

Price: 6 days £225, 13 days £395 (5 nights/12 nights ½ board)

Escorted:

Departures: 9 Jun, 23 Jun - 6 day tours  
1 Sept - 6 or 13 day tours

Price: 6 days £262, 13 days £440

5 nights or 12 nights, full board, picnic lunches. Meet at Le Puy, end at Aumont, travel to and from these places not included but can be arranged.

\*\*\*\*\*

SAGA (European Coach Tours):freephone 0800 300 456 for brochure and booking.

Galicia and the Costa Verde:

Circular coach tour from Oporto, Braga, La Toja, La Coruña, Santiago (2 nights), Pontevedra, Oporto or vice versa.

Departures:

Apr 4, 11, Oct 17	£499	May 23, Sep 26	£539
Apr 18, 25, Oct 10	£519	May 30, Jun 6, 13, Sep 12	£559
May 2, Oct 3	£529	Sep 5	£569
May 9, 16, Sep 26	£539		

Includes flights, coach travel, ½ board, insurance, 14 nights

Single room supplement £56

Flight: Gatwick-Oporto return

\*\*\*\*\*

Brittany Ferries: Portsmouth (0705) 751708 or Plymouth (0752) 269926

Motoring holidays, staying mainly in Paradors.

Spain's Hidden Treasures:

7 nights in Spain at Oviedo, Santiago (2 nts at Reyes Catholicós), León (2nts at San Marcos, Burgos and Santander.

Departures: Any date between Feb and Dec

Price: £369 -£620 per person depending on season

The Pilgrim's Way:

14 nights in Spain from San Sebastian to Santiago and back to Santander via north coast.

Departures: Any date between Feb and Dec

Price: £609 - £780 per person depending on season

Prices include return ferry to Spain (2 nts on board) with car, 7 or 14 nts B & B in twin or double rooms.

Minimum party: 2 adults and car

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## The Wessex Ridgeway

On Sunday seven of us set off to walk part of the Wessex Ridgeway, led by Stephen Badger. As on Saturday, despite a terrible forecast, the weather was wonderful - sunny and not too cold. We went south-west from Shillingstone, beginning with a steep ascent through gluey clay, but that was really the worst we experienced underfoot. It was Remembrance Sunday so at 11am we observed two minutes' silence high up on a 'green road' with hazy views to left and right. At midday we saw two figures, one little and one large, making strenuous efforts to catch us up, who turned out to be Phyllis Broyd and Anthony Brunning. The highlight of the walk for me was our arrival at a magnificent hill fort, winter sun casting emphatic shadows. We negotiated its ditches and embankments and dropped down the steep slope, I the while hearing Anthony's tale of joining Laurie Dennett for her final day's walk and triumphal entry into Rome.

At Lower Ansty we were glad to stop for a rest and lunch at The Fox, having covered about seven miles. Feeling stronger, five of us set off to cover the remaining five miles. A magical moment at the Dorset Gap where five ancient trackways converge and the Visitors' Book kept in a box there was duly signed. Finally downhill to Alton Pancras just as the light was fading.

Thank you very much Susan Morgan, John and Shirley Snell and Stephen Badger for organising a most enjoyable weekend.

\* \* \* \* \*

## IRISH LINKS WITH ST JAMES OF COMPOSTELA

Canon M. Keane is the Parish Priest of St James, Killorglin, County Kerry, which celebrated its centenary in September 1989. He has now kindly sent, via Confraternity member Miss Aileen O'Sullivan, some fascinating details about Ireland and Santiago de Compostela.

In the late 16th century Dominie O'Colan (Collins), who was either a Jesuit or Carmelite lay brother, was received into his order in Compostela. He was later captured by the English on Dursey Island, County Cork, and dragged by horses' tails to Cork City where in 1602 he was hanged and disembowelled.

The famous battle of Kinsale, which saw the Spanish sending men and arms to help the Irish, also took place in the early 1600s. After their defeat the Irish princes had to flee abroad, and it was at this time that one of the Great and Royals of Ireland, Red Hugh O'Donnell, made a visit to Compostela. The defeat at Kinsale marked the end of the Irish royal line, but certain French, Spanish and Italian families have descendants from the Irish Princes and Kings alive today.

On a more peaceful note, the Irish College in Compostela was founded in 1605 with an endowment from King Philip III. In 1709 however it was closed when it was amalgamated with the College at Salamanca.

Irish chieftains also made pilgrimages to Santiago and Roger Stalley of Trinity College Dublin has drawn attention\* to a 'spectacular late Gothic tomb, erected about 1500, in the Franciscan friary of Kilconnell.'... prominent among the carved decoration is the figure of St James. Nobody knows which Irish chieftain was buried here, but the presence of the carving suggests that, at some point in his life he had, like thousands of others, made the journey to Santiago.'

\*Roger Stalley, 'Sailing to Santiago from Northern Europe', in A Future for Our Past, no.32, 1988, pp.10-11.

# CONFRATERNITY VISIT TO BURGOS, OCTOBER 1989

by Marion Marples

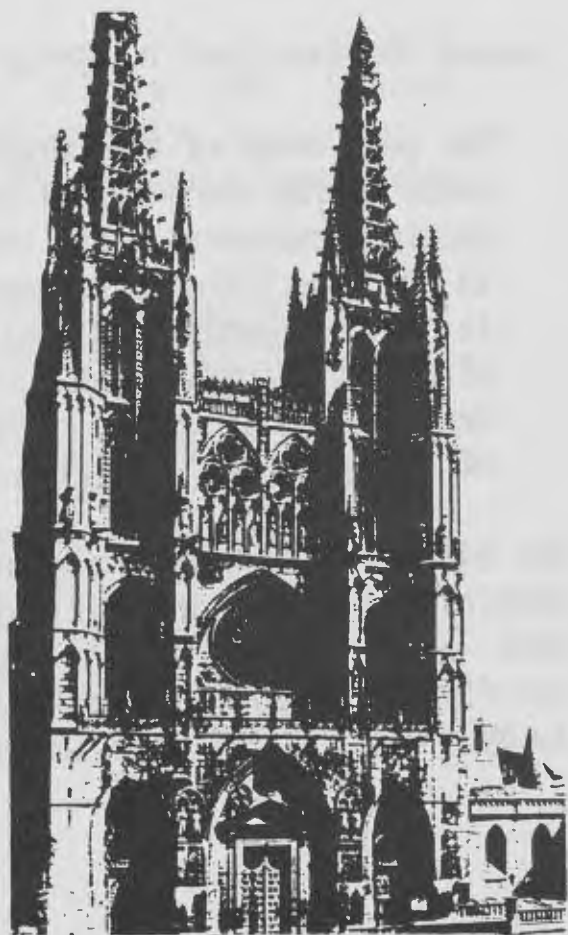
with contributions from Teddy Lister, Lorna Newton,  
Tony and Diana Bambridge, Binnie Mobsby, Yvonne  
Norris and Hazel Allport

As twelve brave pilgrims assembled at Heathrow on one of the windiest afternoons of last October, full of trepidation and excitement about the coming week, their leader wondered nervously whether she would even remember which ladies were Hazel and which one Yvonne. Who would be able to speak Spanish to make up for her total lack? Would the arrangement made by the travel agents, Marsans, materialise, most especially the coach to meet us at Bilbao airport at 9.30pm to take us on to Burgos?

We reached Bilbao safely and breathed sighs of relief at the sight of a huge luxury coach to transport us to Burgos. I made my first faltering attempts at Spanish as the mono-lingual driver threaded his way through the late evening traffic.

We spent two days in Burgos, looking at the castle, cathedral (right) and pilgrim route past the church of San Lesmes and hospital of San Juan. A visit to the Cartuja de Miraflores necessitated a pleasant autumnal riverside walk with a steep climb to the monastery - 3 or 5 kilometres depending on which book you read. But to <sup>my</sup>amazement and relief we all <sup>^</sup>made it there and back.

On the Tuesday I had my next anxious moment: would the mini-bus arrive to take us on our excursions? It did, but was so large it blocked the street by the hotel!



That day we headed south to Santo Domingo de Silos, which was a marvellous experience for everyone. Teddy Lister describes this part of the day.

We set forth in our 'minibus' on a morning of brilliant sunshine, first calling at the early 17th century town of Lerma, where we spent half-an-hour before proceeding to Covarrubias. Here a disappointment awaited us: the Collegiate Church, with its tombs (including those of Fernan Gonzalez, the founder of Castille, and his wife) and its cloister and museum, was closed. However we explored the streets of the attractive old town and I was struck by its cleanness and its air of modest prosperity.

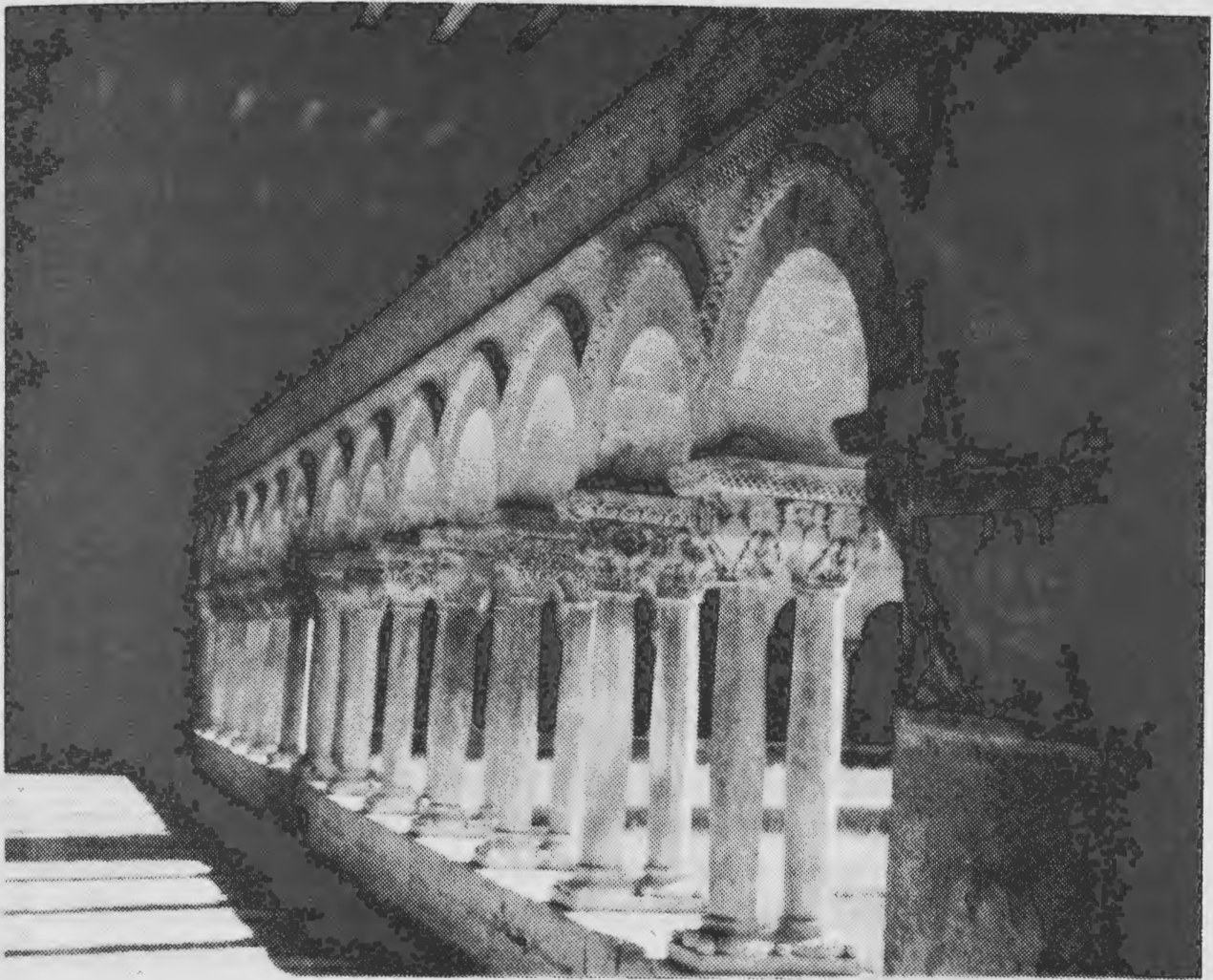
And so to Santo Domingo de Silos, about 12 miles to the south, whose medieval cloister was all I had hoped and more. The carvings on the pillars were superb. The saint's tomb is in the north gallery, with his effigy recumbent in front of it.

We also visited the pharmacy and the comparatively modern church. The latter dating only from 1756-1816 is in the Baroque style, plainly furnished and gives an impression of grandeur. But it is the 12th century cloister which stays in the memory.

Lorna Newton had a special interest in the church.

The peak event of the Burgos trip for me was hearing Gregorian chant sung by the monks of Santo Domingo de Silos. This Benedictine community, using the chant ever since its restoration in the late 19th century and following the teaching of Solemnes, is now the Spanish national centre for the chant. A day visit of course affords no chance of attending a major office. However the little Office of Sext is sung at 13.45. Cassettes of the community's singing are on sale in the monastery shop.

At Silos I particularly enjoyed 'holding the fort' at the entrance while the friendly monk on duty disappeared to the 'servicios', and climbing the hill above the monastery to find a 'Way of the Cross', a chapel and statue of Our Lady, with local and Council of Europe flags fluttering.



Cloister at Santo Domingo de Silos

Our second excursion took us 'back' along the Camino to San Juan de Ortega where we were warmly welcomed by Padre Jose Maria Alonso. Tony and Diana Bambridge write:

For us the highlight was probably the morning we visited San Juan de Ortega and saw the old pilgrim church and the hostel which is still in use, where we met the parish priest and heard about the modern pilgrims coming to the hostel, and where we sang 'Ad Honorem Regis Summi'. To crown everything, when we were on the Camino driving east we all saluted a real live pilgrim - a bearded giant, solitary with a St James-style hat and long staff. He returned our salute with both arms raised high and grinning broadly as our ways crossed.

We headed east again to Santo Domingo de la Calzada to see the cathedral and the parador and then on to San Millan de la Cogolla. This proved the greatest test for the driver, and we narrowly avoided removing quite a few balconies. We finally made it to the lower monastery of Yuso and decided we could not possibly ask Don Eugenio to drive any further. We we had an unexpected half-hour climb up a steep road, through fields and woods to Suso monastery. **Binnie Mobsby** writes;

The highlight of my tour was the monastery of Suso situated at the top of the cornfield up the hillside, banked by trees on either side in brilliant gold and green autumn tints, shining in the clear autumn sunshine.

Inside the monastery the tomb of the 6th century San Millan de la Cogolla lies in a cave cut out of the living rock, the carved figures on it shining from the loving touch of countless hands. All around, the 10th century Visigoth horseshoe arches, a Roman carved Corinthian capital brought from who knows where. On one side of a column, the 6-pointed Star of David, on another the 5-pointed Muslim star. From the portico of the church, with its 10th century patterned floor of small, smooth stones, the monastery of Yuso can be seen lying at the bottom of the hillside.

The last expedition was westwards towards Santiago. We drove on the newly resurfaced N120. We had an exciting diversion (all the signposts had been removed) to the marvellous church ~~at~~ Sasamon, at the special request of Mary Remnant who was able to photograph the many musicians round the west door. We were shown the decaying but splendid cloister and thought it remarkable that such a huge congregation for a small village left the church after a mid-morning Thursday mass.

On to Castrogeriz where we had along walk to Nuestra Señora del Manzana and on to the ruins of the monastery of San Antomarching over the pilgrim road. We then had to wait 1½ hours for the church of San Martin in Fromista to open. Don Eugenio thought we were mad, but I noticed that he came in with us and took some photos too!

The last day in Burgos was very full, with an excellent guided tour of the Cathedral by an erudite guide who includes Latin among his spoken languages, and who was amazed and delighted by our collective general knowledge and interest in music, history, religion and politics. We were able to sing 'Regis Summi' again for him in the Cathedral.

After lunch we set off by town bus to the monastery of Las Huelgas. After a guided tour some of us eventually started to flag. The more intrepid set off to find the Hospital del Rey in the dusk and discovered the builders there. Its gables and arches were dramatic against the darkening sky. As we left we noticed signs to the 'Eremita San Amaro' and unable to resist we found the shrine of the pilgrim saint Amaro, filled with glowing candles and glorious peace and quiet. Hazel and Yvonne found the lady in charge who was just about to lock up but sold us booklets and cards. After closing her chapel she escorted us back across the by now dark park to the bus stop. Yvonne Norris learnt her entire life history. She writes:

I just loved our tours and it is amazing how kind and helpful all the people still are. The Common Market still has not really penetrated to the heart of the country - I mean the beating heart.

Any euphoria was brought to an end by rain and the need for an early night in order to be ready for the coach which arrived at 6am to take us back to Bilbao. Once safely back at the airport the leader was much less worried about her small flock, their identities certain and idiosyncracies well known.

All the arrangements had worked well and everyone had so much to remember, as expressed here by Hazel Allport.

The architecture of the churches and monasteries was magnificent, the scenery beautiful in its golden autumnal shades, and the weather perfect; but it is the people who bring a place to life. So I remember the young waitress who single-handed served our breakfast in the hotel where we appeared to be the only guests:

the man in the grocer's shop down the road where bought the bread and cheese for our packed lunches, who took the ham out of his bacon-slicer so that he could use it to slice the small piece of cheese I had bought for my sandwiches; the priest at San Juan de Ortega and the monks at Santo Domingo de Silos who guided us round their buildings, communicating their enthusiasm to us as they did so: as did the flirtatious man selling souvenirs in a little room behind the Condestable Chapel in Burgos cathedral, which, we were later surprised to find houses the famous painting of Mary Magdalen attributed to Leonardo da Vinci. It is unseen by the general public as it is on hinges and normally faces the wall. Everyone we met, in fact, was most courteous and helpful to us.

Everyone we met, in fact, was most courteous and helpful to us. Special mention must be made of our driver, Don Eugenio, who was from Madrid and knew the roads no better than we did, but who had to negotiate our enormous coach through and into some very out-of-the-way places, which he did with great patience and few words of complaint. And even the ubiquitous election posters stand out in my memory, especially that of the man whose proud but somewhat equivocal boast was that his party was 'Capaces de hacerlo'!

Our greatest privilege however was to meet Pablo Arribas Briones, the President of the Amigos de Santiago of Burgos, and his interpreter for the evening, Elba Torres. After the supper to which we had invited them, they invited us back to Elba's flat where Pablo told us how the medieval pilgrims would drink spirits to keep out the cold, setting them alight first to keep the witches away! This he proceeded to demonstrate by setting light to a bowl of his own special brew and making the sheets of blue flame rise and fall from his ladle. In the candlelight, with medieval music from the record-player in the background as we sat in a semi-circle round the table, an almost trance-like atmosphere was created, and one could well imagine the fears and hardships of those early pilgrims ... dispelled of course, as soon as the lights were switched on, the flames extinguished and the delicious liqueur sampled. It was accompanied by equally delicious petits fours which Pablo and Elba had bought in the restaurant where we had had supper. It was a great pleasure to meet them both and enjoy their hospitality and kindness, which were typical of everyone we met.



## THE STAFF OF ST ROCH

by

Jim Hall

St Roch has been a familiar figure along the roads to Rome and Compostella since the fifteenth century. In 1666 an Italian priest, Domenico Laffi, on his way to Compostella, stopped at Montpellier where, according to various early accounts, the saint was born. 'We went to the church of the Trinitarians,' Laffi wrote, 'where they keep a long stick which St Roch used as a pilgrim's staff. No one may touch it, except the clergy. They keep it in a box which is just the right length and well protected with locks. Being a priest I took it in my hands and felt how heavy it was. The brother who showed it to us told me it weighed twelve pounds. It has an iron ferrule at each end and is slightly crooked. A seraph has been engraved on a knot in the middle. No one knows what wood it is made of, though it has been seen by many thousands of people.'

That very staff exists today and is kept in the church of St Roch at Montpellier. There are well-attested documents in the church's archives proving that it was the same one that was shown to Laffi. But alas, it has now shrunk. During the French Revolution it was thrown on a bonfire and, though pious hands managed to snatch it from the flames, about two-thirds had been burned away. There is no longer any sign of the seraph, though the part that remains bears other curious, graffiti-like markings, apparently cut with the point of a sharp knife. Some are religious symbols, but there is also a row of small circles, each with a dot in the centre. They are said to have been carved by the saint on his pilgrimage to Rome and back, to record each year that elapsed after he departed from Montpellier. There are also a number of small holes near the end, apparently made by nails that would have held the ferrule in place. Did this relic really belong to St Roch? Indeed, who was St Roch

and when did he live?

There are numerous accounts of the saint's life, but they often contradict one another. However, there is some agreement nowadays that his earliest biographers who said he was born in Montpellier were right. It is likely that he belonged to a family named Rog who were well-to-do merchants, several holding high public office, though the use of his family name as a forename is not easily explained.

There are problems too about his dates. The only writer to mention them was an Italian, Francesco Diedo, whose account appeared in 1483. He said Roch was born in 1293 and died in 1327. These dates, though still accepted by some, seem far too early. Why, for instance, are there no records of the saint being invoked against the plagues which ravaged Europe in the fourteenth century? Even in Montpellier, which was badly hit in 1410, he seems to have been ignored. Moreover, his earliest effigies (which are often a clue to the beginnings of a cult) date from the late fourteenth or early fifteenth centuries. Then again, there is an episode mentioned by St Roch's very first biographer. He is anonymous, but may have been a certain Gothard Palastrelli, an Italian friend and disciple from Piacenza, where St Roch himself caught the plague. Writing some time before 1430, he tells us, without giving any dates, that the saint was received by the Pope in Rome. Yet the papacy was residing in Avignon until 1367. From these and other indications the inference is that St Roch's true dates were about 1350 to 1379/80.

It used to be claimed, especially by the French, that on his return from Rome St Roch managed to get as far as Montpellier, where he was imprisoned and died. Others believe he never reached France. According to Palastrelli he got no farther than Angera, a village on the shores of Lake Maggiore. A somewhat later tradition put his death at Voghera, which

is more likely as it is on the direct pilgrimage road from northern Italy to the Languedoc. If so, where does this leave his pilgrim's staff? Can the relic that was shown to Laffi be genuine?

There are some fairly persuasive reasons to think that it may be. Documents exist which show beyond doubt that it had been in the possession of a Montpellier family, the de la Croix, for a good many generations. That family, moreover, had been connected by marriage to a branch of the Rog family since the fourteenth century, in other words, within the lifetime of the saint. In 1636 Isabeau de la Croix, who then had custody of the staff, set up an official inquiry with the main object of proving she was related to the saint. In the course of it a ninety-year-old lawyer was found who certified that the staff had been in the family in his grandfather's day. That leaves a century or more unaccounted for, but it is a reasonable surmise, which contemporary documents tend to support, that the staff had been in the family's possession long enough previously to bridge the gap. (It still awaits carbon-dating.)

But is it likely that the saint kept his staff with him throughout his five years of imprisonment until his body was recognised after his death? Here we enter the realms of conjecture, except to say that the number of circles cut on the staff do not rule out the possibility.

In 1660, not long before Laffi's visit, Isabeau de la Croix, who was then elderly, entrusted the staff to the Trinitarians of Montpellier for safe keeping, with the instructions that it should never leave the city. It was kept in St Paul's, the church of the Order, in St Roch's chapel. In return, Isabeau was granted future burial in the same chapel. It was here that Laffi saw it. Following the destruction of the church a new one, dedicated to St Roch, was built in the mid-nineteenth century, immediately

adjoining it. The saint's few relics were transferred to it, where they still lie.

I am greatly indebted to M. Bernard Jamme for much information about the staff, most freely given, and for permission to examine it.

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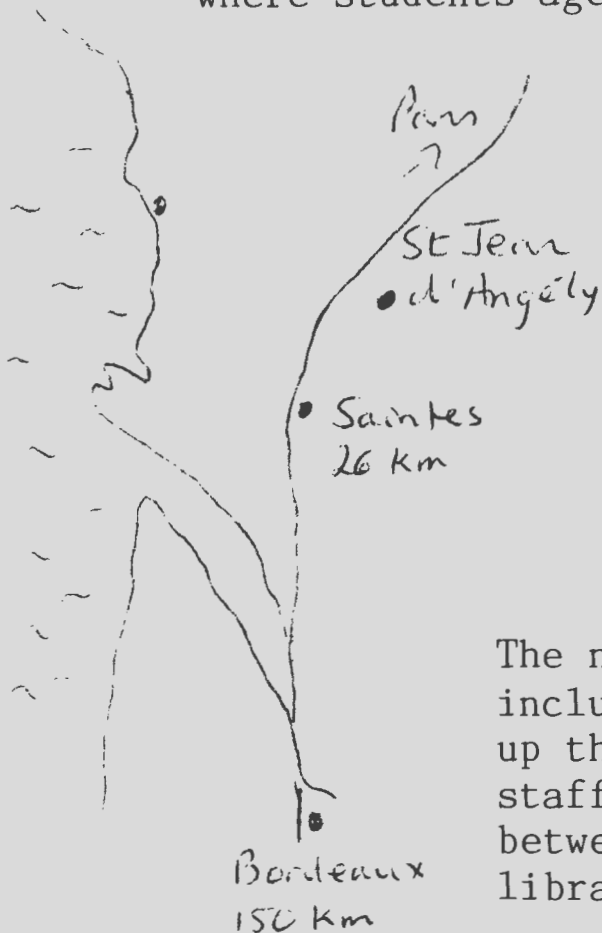
## THE ABBEY OF ST JEAN D'ANGÉLY

The town of St Jean d'Angély is well known as one of the main pilgrim stopping places on the Paris route to Santiago de Compostela. But in the 1990s, it will gradually become better known as the site of a unique European cultural centre. The ancient royal abbey of St Jean d'Angély has been transformed into the Centre de Culture Européenne, Saint Jacques de Compostelle, where students aged 14 to 18 from all countries of

Europe will be given the opportunity to share, along with their own teacher, a common educational experience. Up to 120 young people can be catered for in groups from two or three different countries at once, and they will work in small groups with others from different countries. They will be studying medieval European civilization in its widest sense, but with the pilgrim route as a unifying theme.

The new Centre is non-profit making and includes an Academic Committee which draws up the programmes and appoints the teaching staff. The students divide their time between formal classes, field trips, the library, art workshops etc.

The Director, M. Alain Ohnenwald, is anxious for English schools to visit the Abbey and take part in the sessions. He will be glad to supply further details to members who are teachers. His address: Centre de Culture Européenne, Abbaye Royale, 17415 St Jean d'Angély, France.



## BOOK REVIEW

**In Search of St James: Cornwall to Compostela The Story of a Pilgrimage**  
by *Ada Alvey* Dyllansow Truran 1989 £8.50 pp 70

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Ada Alvey, a teacher and world-wide traveller, of Cornish and Basque ancestry, has given in *In Search of St James: Cornwall to Compostela* an interesting account of places associated with St James in Cornwall and an engaging account of a pilgrimage to Compostela from Burgos.

The first 18 pages give an outline of the Santiago legend and mention of some famous pilgrims before giving information about and references to connections with St James in Cornwall. Many Irish pilgrims, she suggests, would cross Cornwall from Clovelly on their way to Mount Saint Michel and then on via Bordeaux, perhaps, or Bilbao, to Compostela. In crossing the peninsula pilgrims used ancient tracks marked by holy wells and Ogham stones. Locations of hospices and churches, statues and wells dedicated to St James are given. Some such as the Church of St James at Kilkhampton with its fine statue of St James and Llanherne Convent with its statue of St James on the wall above the entrance and scallop shell on the gate remain, but others like the chapel by the bridge at Tregony, where the fair was held on the feast of St James, have disappeared. Fowey was an important gathering place for pilgrims before setting sail for Spain or France. At 9 South Street, the author suggests, is a house which was formerly a pilgrim hostel or hospice. The section ends with a description of the difficulties mediaeval pilgrims encountered on the crossing.

Ada's pilgrimage was by coach from Burgos in July 1983 with Dean Gilbert Thurlow as leader. The account combines architectural description and some historical notes with personal impressions and reminiscence. The author describes the highlights of the way: Burgos and its fine cathedral and memories of El Cid, the splendid cloisters of San Domingo de Silos, Frómista, which the author notes was the birthplace of San Pedro González Telmo, patron saint of sailors, Sahagun with its Mudéjar bell-towers and on to León with its splendid cathedral stained glass and wall painted pantheon of San Isidoro. After Ponferrada the cloudy skies with 'a hint of rain and on one day in the mountains an absolute deluge' remind our pilgrim, as no doubt Cornish pilgrims of old, of home. A detour to Lugo, a town with Celtic foundations, enables a description of the Roman walls and then it is on to Santiago in time for the feast.

The account ends with a full description of the celebrations around St James Day - the fireworks and dancing of the Eve; the Mass, with King and Queen of Spain present, and Processions of the Feast.

*In Search of St James* contains several colour plates and over 50 interesting black and white photographs of places associated with St James in Cornwall, sites of interest on the pilgrimage route in Spain, of pilgrims on the way and of the celebration of the fiesta in Santiago. In addition a map shows the location of Cornish churches and wells dedicated to St James and the positions of Ogham stones and indicates the general directions of pilgrim routes across Cornwall. A second map gives the familiar route to Santiago from Bordeaux noting the principal towns on the way. There is also a short bibliography.

All in all Ada Alvey's book is a valuable addition to the record of associations with St James in Great Britain and provides an interesting personal account of a pilgrimage an event which, as for many others, had provided spiritual renewal.

Anthony Brunning.

## NOTES AND NEWS

Pierre d'Etoiles - the French film-maker, Gérard Raynal of Soleluna Films, spent over two years making Pierre d'Etoiles, in conjunction with French, Belgian and Galician TV companies. Its theme is Romanesque art on the pilgrim routes from Conques to Compostela through the four seasons of the year. Comment from Paris, where it was shown for the first time on February 6th, is very favourable. Monsieur Raynal is hoping to make the film, which lasts an hour, available to individuals on video-cassette, with commentary in French. The price is not yet known and will depend on demand. Members interested in principle in buying a video-cassette are asked to contact Pat Quaife on (01)-883 4893, or write to her at 57 Leopold Road, London N2 8BG) without commitment at this stage.

### Walking Companions

Two Confraternity members, Phil and Elaine McCullough from Mornington, near Melbourne in Australia, plan to walk from St Jean Pied de Port to Santiago in May/June this year. They would be interested to hear from others walking at the same time. If you would like to contact them write (airmail) very soon to them at 8 Prince Street, Mornington, Victoria 3931, Australia, or telephone them later in London between 28 March and 10 April on (01)-883 4893.

### Bibliography of Santiago Studies

*dp* Linda Davidson and Maryjane Dunn-Wood of the American Friends of the Road to Santiago are currently preparing an annotated bibliography of scholarship on all aspects of the pilgrimage to Santiago, tentatively to be published by Garland Publishing. They would welcome any information on recent articles or books, as well as items which are less well known, or extremely specialised, which might be missed in a general search. Off-prints of articles would be appreciated, but are not

necessary. All contributions will be acknowledged in the bibliography. Contact:

Linda Davidson, 2501 Kingstown Road,  
Kingston, RI 02881, USA or

Maryjane Dunn-Wood, 517 So. Happy Hollow,  
Omaha, Nebraska 68506, USA.

### A Mountain in Ulster

Bert Slader writes from Northern Ireland about its highest peak, Slieve Donard, which rises from the sea above Newcastle, County Down, not far from where he lives. It was apparently named after St Domengard and until 200 years ago there was a pilgrimage to its summit each July 25th to honour two saints, St Domen-gard and St James. Perhaps the practice should be resumed as a way of celebrating ST James's Day?

### Some Palaeographical Help

John Saunders of Leeds is trying to find a translation of the words on a plaque on the pilgrim hostel La Pellegrina in Garris, near Saint-Palais, close to where three of the routes across France meet. The words are:

G · D · P E T E G R  
E T G V E · D A R A  
M O M B E R 1 6 5 4

Please send possible solutions to John at:  
3 Sandhill Drive, Leeds, Yorkshire LS17 8DU.

### Pilgrim Guides 1990

The time is fast approaching when the Pilgrim Guide to Spain 1990 will be compiled and up-dating sheets prepared for the French guides. If you used the guides in 1989 and have some suggested amendments/additions please send them soon to Pat Quaipe at 57 Leopold Road, London N.2 8BG. Their accuracy for 1990 depends on you. Many thanks.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

- Council of Europe: The Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes; a Council of Europe Congress organised in co-operation with the Deutsches Komitee for Denkmalschutz and the Deutsche St-Jakobus Gesellschaft e.V., ... 29 September - 1 October 1989. Strasbourg 1989. (Architectural Heritage, Reports and Studies, no.16) 138pp, illus., maps, plans. (Full English translation of all papers given at the conference.)
- Gethyn-Jones, Eric: The Dymock School of Sculpture. Phillimore, 1979. 91pp, illus., (photos). (Description of one of the two 'Schools of Sculpture' in the southern part of Herefordshire, with 61 plates.)
- Diaz, José-Ignacio: Le Chemin de St Jacques; - un Chemin Intérieur, translated from Spanish by Dom. J.M.W. Mondelaers. 13pp, supplement to Le Pecten, no.14, decembre 1989. (Text of talk given at the pilgrim reunion held at Maastricht by the Dutch Genootschap van Sint Jacob in September 1989.)
- Grössinger, Christa: The Raising of Lazarus: a French Primitive in Sherborne (Dorset) 11pp, offprint from the Journal of the British Archaeological Association, vol. CXXXII, 1979. (Detailed description, with illustrations, of the 15th century triptych in the Almshouse of SS John, and analysis of its possible origins.)
- Harvey, John H.: 'Political and Cultural Exchanges Between England and the Iberian Peninsula in the Middle Ages' in: Studies in Honour of Ferran Valls I Taberner, Barcelona, 1989. 7pp.
- Michelin: Pyrénées Aquitaine. Paris, 1986. 185pp, illus., maps, plans. (Green guide to this region, in French)
- MOPU: El Camino de Santiago. Instituto Geographico Nacional, 1989. (A map of northern Spain to the scale 1:600,000 showing the Camino.)
- Schötborgh & Schlör: 'Der Portico de la Gloria' zu Santiago de Compostela. 2d ed., 1988. 15pp. (A descriptions of the sculpture in the Portico, in German)
- Stokstad, Marilyn: 'The Sanctuary of Saint James at the End of the 15th Century', offprint from Compostellanum, vol.XXXII, nos.3-4, pp.527-531. (Description of one panel of altarpiece of scenes from the life and legend of St James in the Indianapolis Museum of Art.)
- Billington, Rachel: 'Santiago's Golden Legend'. (Article from a supplement to the New York Times of 1 October 1989.)
- Gourdan-Polignan, M.C.: 'Cyclez pour nous à Compostelle', 1989 in unknown French cycling magazine. 10pp. (Account of a cycle pilgrimage by four Frenchmen in 1988.)

Personal Accounts Received

Accounts of their personal pilgrimages have been received from:

Diane McDonald, who walked from Leon in June 1989, and

Gerd Deutz of Aachen, who cycled from Aachen in August 1988.

Further accounts from members are always welcome.

A complete library list is available from the Librarian, Stephen Badger, 154 Burbage Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7AG, in return for a large SAE with 28p stamp.

\* \* \* \* \*



Cut  
here

BRISTOL DAY

Saturday 24 February 1990

Please return this form immediately to:

Susan Morgan,  
6 Chapel Green Lane,  
Redland,  
Bristol BS6

Tel.: (0272)-733853

\*I / We intend to come to the Bristol Day and would like/  
do not want\* home-made soup at lunch-time.

I / We will be arriving by car / train\*.

Name:

Address:

Tel. no.:

\* I enclose a first-class sae for sketch map of Bristol

\* Please delete what is not relevant







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## Committee

1989 Officers were:

Chairman: Patricia Quaife, 57 Leopold Road,  
London N.2 8BG. Tel.: (01)-883 4893

Secretary: Marion Marples, 45 Dolben Street,  
London SE1 OUQ. Tel.: (01)-633 0603

Treasurer: Stephen Badger, 154 Burbage Road,  
London SE21 7AG. Tel.: (01)-274 8126

Elected members (1990): the above, and  
Rosemary Clarke, Laurie Dennett,  
William Griffiths, George McHardy,  
Susan Morgan, Mary Remnant

Bulletin Editor: Pat Quaife

£1-00



# RABANAL HOSTEL APPEAL NEWS

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No. 3 February 1990

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AGM Report by Walter Ivens

## 1) U.K. News

Donations to the appeal started coming in around 20 September 1989, four months ago and at the time of the Spanish Embassy Reception (10 November) we had received £4500. At the time of the last Newsletter (early December) the figure was £7387 and at the end of the year was £8360.

Then came some good news when we were told that with our covenants we should be counting the full four years promised, not just the first year as we had been doing. In addition, we could also include the future tax return. Suppose, for example, you send in a £10 covenant for four years, instead of counting £10, we should count £40 plus a tax return of £10, ie a total of £50. As a result of this our total jumped to over £10,000, including future tax returns of nearly £800, which shows the value of covenanting.

But the best news is that the Trustees of the **Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation** have approved a grant of £10,000 to be paid as follows:

- £2500 when £10,000 has been raised;
- £2500 when £20,000 has been raised;
- £2500 when £30,000 has been raised; and
- £2500 when £40,000 has been raised.

So we can now claim the first £2500, which puts the total, as at 20 January 1990, to £12,770.

We have many people to thank:

- the Trustees of the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, not only for the present £2500 but also for the amounts promised when we achieve the future targets;
- the sponsorship efforts of Phinella Henderson and Ted Dickinson;
- direct donations received from some 225 people, both members and non-members.

## 2) Spanish News

The plans for converting the hostel that Padre Alberto Moran brought over in November were very impressive - a sort of ultimate in hostels. But the rough estimate given by the architect, based on a figurative price per square metre, came to £125,000, which is over three times the estimate we were given in May 1989. So we asked Alberto to think again to see if the El Bierzo Association could achieve a reasonable compromise, and particularly to obtain a more definite estimate for the first stage of the restoration, ie to have part of the hostel in running order for 1990.

Laurie Dennett, who returned from Spain in early January, was able to have two meetings with the El Bierzo Association at Ponferrada and Rabanal. The news she brought back was that El Bierzo strongly recommend that we consider the architect's plans as an eventual aim, and where we had been thinking of the restoration taking some two to three years, to extend this over a period of say 5 to 6 years, restoring in stages and more and more of the buildings as the demand by pilgrims for accommodation increases.

Laurie also brought back a rough estimate for the first stage of restoration, prepared by a local builder recommended by El Bierzo of £22,500, again considerably more than we had expected. It seems that the most ruined part of the house, in the front, has collapsed further, including the roof, and they must concentrate on restoring that part before it is too late.

### In Summary:

- we have a 1st stage estimate of £22,500, which needs to be verified, but is something to work on;
- we are all determined that work should start this spring so that part of the hostel is available for this year's pilgrims;
- work cannot start on the hostel until April, after the winter is over, and the builder thinks the 1st stage of the works will take some two months;
- we therefore want to set ourselves the target of £22,500, or preferably £25,000 by early summer, remembering that when we reach £20,000, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation will provide the next £2500.

## How to Achieve This Jointly

Thanks to Confraternity members news of the Hostel Appeal is spreading, and we must continue to spread the news in various ways. For instance:

- \* we have applied for a grant to EEC Tourism Year 1990;
- \* we will continue our approach to Charitable Trusts;
- \* we are in contact with European associations and with the American Friends of the Road to Santiago for help with donations;
- \* the El Bierzo Association has applied to the regional government of Castille and Leon for a grant of £20,000 to £25,000. We believe they stand a good chance although we cannot forecast how much they may receive.

## Fund Appeal Post-AGM

Since 20 January the total has increased to £13,800 (as at 9 February). This is partly thanks to the proceeds from the AGM which have been largely donated to the Appeal, but mainly thanks to the many donations made by members when renewing their annual subscription. These donations are most welcome, no matter the size, and may we remind members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions to bear this in mind.

## Networking

We have already seen that to raise more funds for the Appeal is both a short and a long-term exercise. We can try to set targets, but one of the exciting aspects is that we have no idea of what money may be coming in and from where. Each Confraternity member is potentially a source of unknown treasure, not only through direct donations, but also through your connections. Picture a communications web, radiating from each of you, in all directions. Like a spider's web it is amazing how far it can stretch. There is plenty of time to spread the web out further and further - the best spreading tool is the Appeal leaflet which is in ample supply. Please ask us, Walter and Mary Ivens, Flat D, 1 Airlie Gardens, London W8 7AJ, tel.: (01)-229 2624, for further copies when you need them.

A list of recent donors is on p.4.

DONORS - DECEMBER 1989 TO FEBRUARY 1990

We are grateful to the following members and friends for their recent donations:

Messrs L. Atkinson & Sons, Ronald R. Atkins, Mr and Mrs A.F.L. Adams

Mr and Mrs Barber, Miss M. Babington, Mr R. Bowden DAn, S.W. Brown

John Cowl, Mrs Cameron, Mr and Mrs G. Caddick, E.J. Cleary, Mollie Coviello, Mrs. E. Clare, P.H. Colesworthy, Rosemary Clarke

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