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SPAIN

Aug - Sept 1969

THE LANGTON

1969

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For Water Colors, etc.

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BLENDED 40 LB PAPER

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HOLIDAY 1969.

FRANCE - SPAIN.

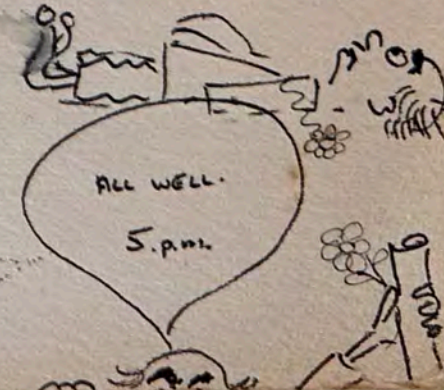
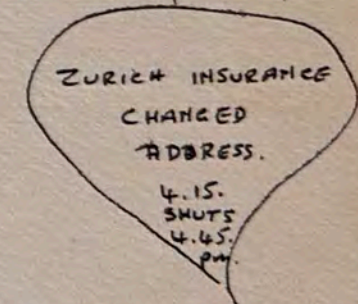
Wednesday August 20th

Spent until 10 pm last night preparing data for paper on pill, Nizky + Alison still packing, Nizky recording - Mrs Barron. Jill waking all afternoon at rooms. minute scramble for it. Zurich offices changed address. Nene made supper of veal cutlets + cabbage. Bed 1 pm.

Up at 5.30. Off by 7.15. Drove down to Southampton via Devizes + Salisbury, when we stopped for coffee + then made ourselves late. Arrived at boat at 10.15. found we had left key to open petrol tank. Man at barrier said boat was full + we might get on if lucky. Eventually got on last. Lovely day. Found table in bar to work on. Hovercraft - 2 afts, stiff breeze. Lunch in cafeteria - fish chips, ham + salad. Soup. Arrived 4 pm + off without incident. No customs. Drove down centre of Chubourg peninsula via St. Neve Eglise, St. Lo, (flags round ramparts), Tessy, Vire, Portain, Telleil, Gouvon to Mayenne. Camped there - very full. Supper of soup + cold chicken.

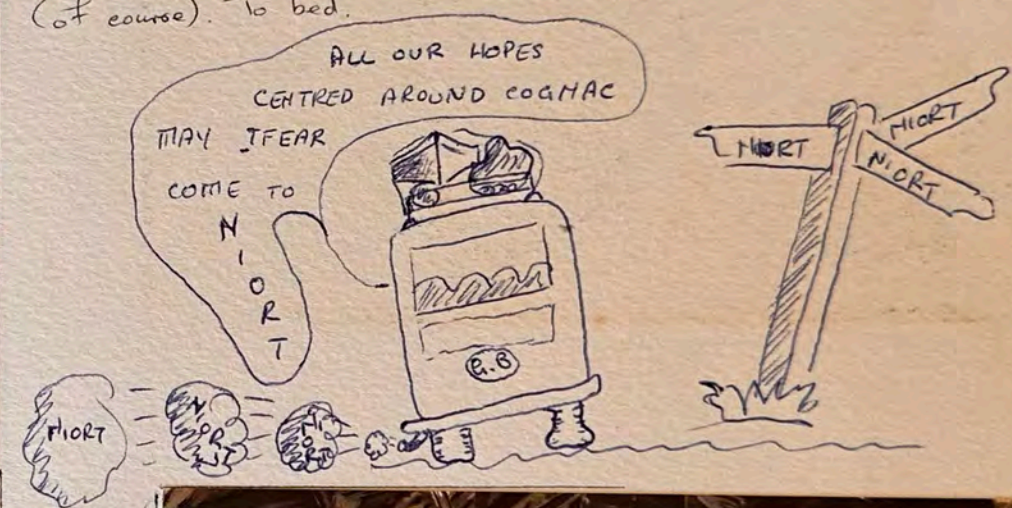
Thursday, Aug. 21st.

People already having swimming lessons at 7. am. (? Remedial) Michael fished for tiddlers. Lovely morning. Off by 10.30, towards Laval, Cossé le Vivier, Caen, Segre. Lovely undulating countryside. Bought lunch at Segre. Pate + fruit, then drove on to Loire at St. George + had lunch on an island just before Chalounes. River split into several arms. Hot sun.



Except for delivering Mrs Barron + waiting paper on The Pill of Jill

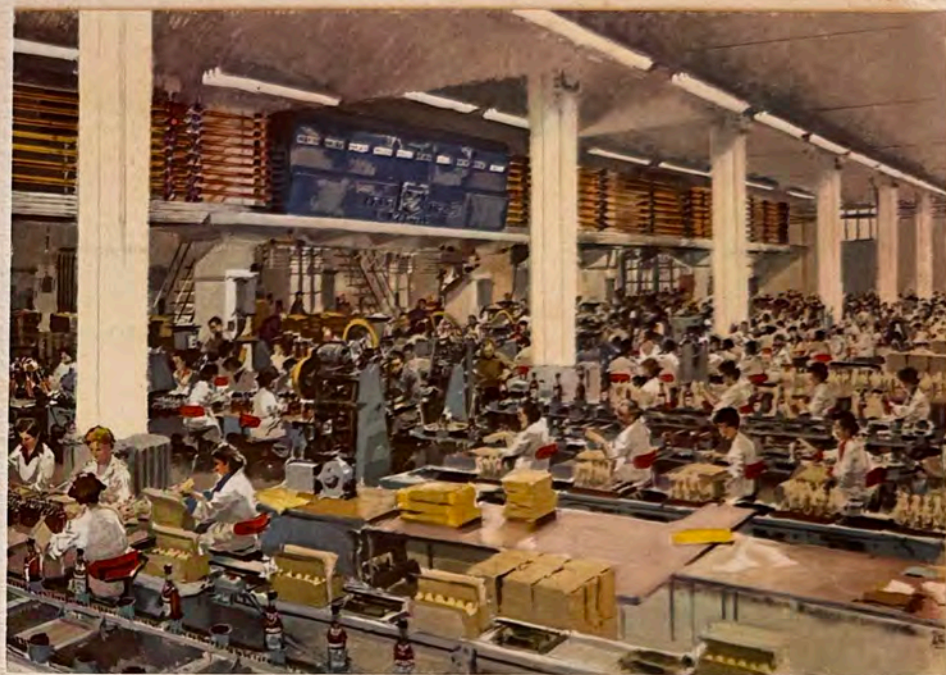
Vines of the Touraine region. Chémillé. Mauleon Bressuire. Tossed up whether to go to coast or to Cognac & decided to go there & have a good meal. Took the wrong turning in Niort & after about 1/2 an hour found we were moving fast in the direction of La Rochelle. It looked as if all our plans were about to come to Niort, but did a volte face and via St. Jean d'Angely. Surgenes were soon in the rolling vine filled countryside of Cognac. Campsite by river. Charente - very nice. - fairly full. mint underfoot. Quick change & went by 8.30 pm to restaurant recommended at the camp. A'L'Auberge. Menu at 12 NF. (19/-) Potage or Consomme. Filet or Coquilles of mixed fish. Kebabs of Liver, Tomato, Bacon, Cheese. Peaches, Coffee & Cognac (of course). To bed.



FRIDAY 22nd. August.

heavy morning. off by 9.30. All hands helpful for a change. Torpedoed our early start by sudden stop at the sight of the Martel Brandy Factory. Walked in and later rolled out. Beautiful reception hall. Dressers with pottery. Mode of distilling. Floors of wood & tiles. Taken round by brandy faced man. Slide show of the process in the reception vat room. Then to aging shed. Oak casks at least 7 yrs old before being used. The tannin gives the colour to the clear brandy already arriving from the distillery. Distilled wine of the St. Emilion grape double or treble distilled & blended by the tasters in the distillery. 4 regions. the Grande Champagne being the best. 3 Star. 5 yrs matured. V.S.O.P. Grand & Petite Champagne 10 yrs. Blue Cordon. 20 yrs.





Cordon Argent 30 yrs + Extra, at 60 yrs. - after this removed from casks & stored in carboys. 120° Proof goes to 40° Proof with age & colour deepens. Angelo breaths in maturing shed & black lichen over walls & roof tiles 'Pas des Anges'. Blended about once a year by head cellarman. Into Blending shed - huge vats. - no mechanisation except motor to stir the vats & forklift trucks. Trap door into vat which we saw being cleaned out. Tasted a 3½ yr. old xxx. brandy - felt quite drunk. Shown the small Pavilion where Charles Martel an Englishman from the Channel Islands first started in 1715. Now employs a 1000 people & is the largest of about 100 companies. Thence to bottling shed - very automated with computers, etc. bottle toppers - labellers to packaging room. & so out to alcohol free fresh air. Taken to bar for drink by waiter - presented with small bottle of xxx. brandy, key rings, postcards & so rolled out of the place.

From Cognac thru' the vineyards by side roads & a very short stretch of N 10. to Coutras. Crossed the Dordogne at Castillon. Bataille. After 3 unsuccessful attempts to find a lunch stop - stopped in a vineyard Entre-deux-Mers, on a hillside for pate. Vouvray wine. Cheese Blackberry pie Tomatoes. Sauveterre. & Crossed the Garonne at hangon. lovely countryside full of vineyards of Bordeaux region - near Sauternes. Wine tasting at roadside which we missed. Thence to Mont de Marsan through edge of forest of Landes - cleanings with groups & houses. & cages for storing maize.



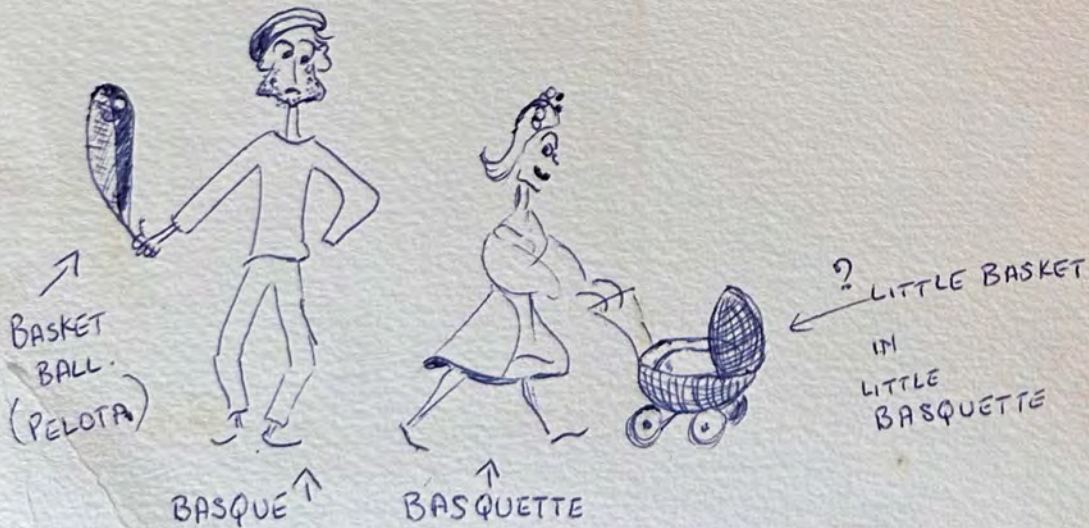
At Orthez stopped for icecream & shopping - thence by winding road with views of the Pyrenees. Sauveterre - a lovely village with a nice campsite by the river. St. Palais - very winding road to S. Joan Pied de-Port. Several campsites but found one big & not very full at 8.45 pm. by a rushing river. Jill cooked boiled ham carrots peas, potatoes, blackberry & apple pie. Cider from Normandy. - Ded. - Rained in the night at times heavily.



Saturday. August 23rd.

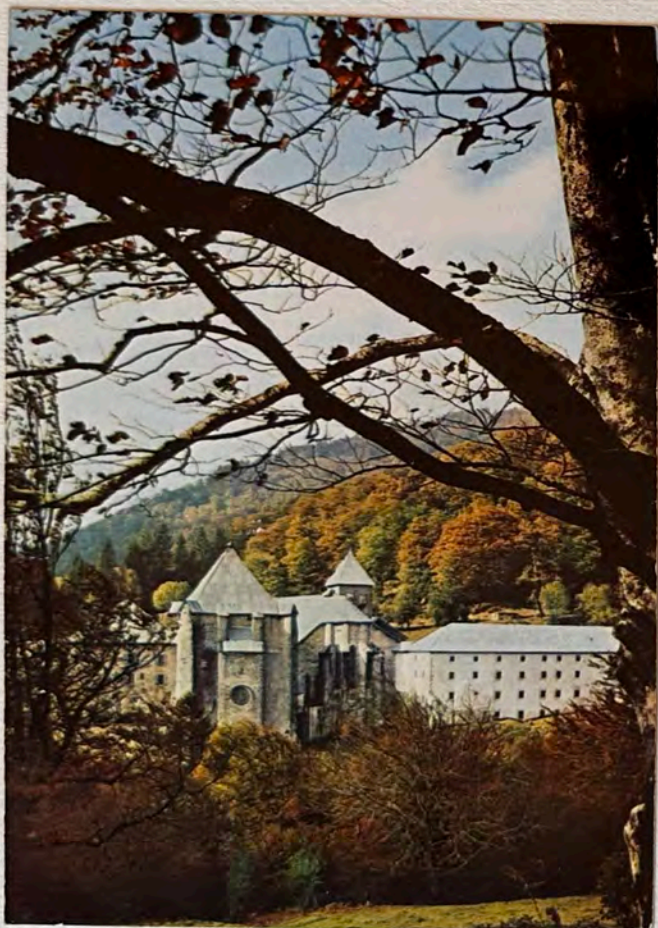
Fairful sunshine at first, then later rained heavily. Sat in van & read & did notes, while children read & played games. Early lunch then went in to town & looked round shops - Prosperous tourist village. Nice pots, Basque embroidery, basket work. Bought a ball & some flipflops & a record, & supper. People buying huge hams.

Ducks & ducks.



Drove out to valley of Nendive, towards forest of Iraty. Stopped half-way & walked up mountain for about 2k. Poured with rain. Got very wet. Beech woods. Sweet chestnut. Back to camp early. Made soup & veal steaks while playing Nah Jong. Red wine of Bern - Hot pepper. Early bed.
 P.S. Forgot seeing wedding procession with hobbling cars & a new broom being waved out of last car. Town crowded. Fete tomorrow.

Sunday August 24th. Clouds clearing to beautiful morning. Cleared camp by 10 am, after famous tent-moving act. Over pass of Roncesvalles. Very puncturing customs. On way over saw yellow wagtail & huthatch. Pass rather more exciting than we remembered. Stopped at monastery of Roncesvalles to look in church where there was a service going on. Beautiful silver altar.



Monastery of Roncesvalles
 Corrugated iron roof.

Gentle descent to plain of Berraquebe. Now on pilgrim's way to Santiago, & stayed on it all the way to Burgos. lunch stop in a layby - cold wind but bright sunshine. - limestone outcrop like burian country - a lepidopterists paradise - and good for butterfly catchers also - Pale blue & bright brown reverse, deep yellow, & a big brown & white with brown reverse. Good paté campagne cheese & vouvray wine.



High Altar at
 Roncesvalles.

PAMPLONA.



Many interesting villagers in gentle descent to Pamplona after passing over 3 small passes with beautiful views back to Pyrenees, forwards Roman bridge, several pilgrims hostellings. Short of Pamplona found excellent campsite on a hill overlooking a dried up river. (see opposite.) ^{Strong wind, had to peg down tent all round.} lovely sunshine, rained at 4pm - basked in sunshine then dressed up, drove into Pamplona - evening light - parked at Cathedral & looked inside. Beautiful marble tomb see below at King Cloister closed. Walked onto walls overlooking river & magnificent evening light on mountains.

Remembered it as ropewalk on previous visit - now no ropes being made. Sunday night so quite crowded. Cold wind, Town gateway fortified, guns on walls. Walked into town square looking for supper. No dancing as on previous visit. Restaurants



all closed so killed time with a drink in the main square. Delicious hot chocolate & coffee. At 8.30 pm. the restaurants all burst into life, we went to our original choice the Restaurant Iruma (in the 1961 Michelin xxx) Hatchet faced impatient waitress

Tomato Juice.)	Chicken Steaks with sweet peppers.)	Caramel Custards. The best ever.)	Red wine.
Coquilles of mixed fish.						Coffee
Hot D'Oeuvres.						All very tired as it was now 11.30 pm. Found camp had been filled up, but still not full

Micky had Minestrone as well!!!



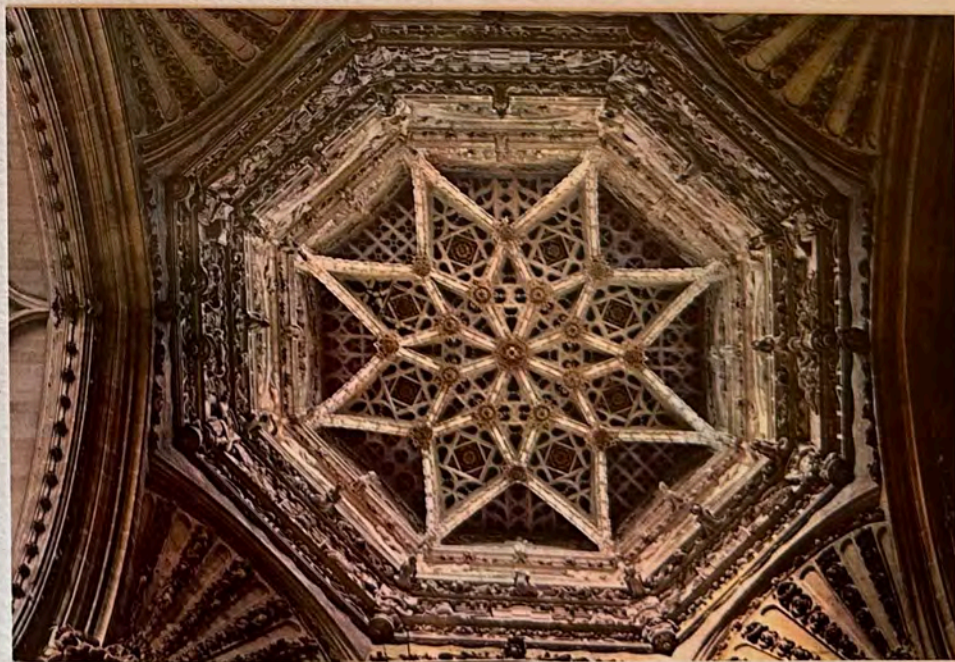
VIEW FROM
CAMPSITE.
PAMPLONA.



went via Logrona & Najera where he stopped to look inside church. Crypt built under cliff with hogtodyle dwellings. Ancient virgin which had been unearthed & formed foundation of monastery. Ten tombs of Kings of Navarre. guarded by statues of soldiers with clubs. Beautiful Moorish cloisters. Then on to Burgos on an elastic road which kept saying 40 Km to Burgos.

Arrived 8.15 pm. to find campsite small, grossly overcrowded. Unpleasant Frenchman in caravan who said I don't want you to camp here faces.

MONDAY. AUGUST. 25th. Beautiful morning. Into Pamplona by 10 a.m. Called at Poste Restante & Bank. Then packed in square by walls & walked back to Cathedral to look at cloisters & treasury. Stylized madonnas of 14th side by side with life like portrait statues of saints. Beautiful silver reliquary with angels sitting on a tomb (12th). Cloisters full of graves. Renaissance cloisters. Two stories. Left Pamplona after buying lunch in small store at 12.30. Drove out for about an hour before stopping in an olive grove. Glorious scenery in tones of orange, yellow & brown with blue hills. Through state forest.



BURGOS. THE LANTERN

THE CHARTERHOUSE OF SAINT MARY OF MIRAFLORES



The Carthusian friars of the monastery of Miraflores would have been pleased to accompany you personally in this visit.

The kind of life they have adopted, of prayer and work in the solitude and silence of their cells, does not permit them to satisfy this desire. But their presence is supplied by this pamphlet, which in a brief but complete way, will indicate you all that is worth to be seen in Miraflores. Meanwhile, the monks of the monastery pray God every day, that He may grant the peace to all men of good will.



Put up side tent & had a meal out of tins -
Consomme, stew, spaghetti & rice pudding, Michael. D. all night
Tuesday 26th Aug. Decamped by 9.30. Straight up to see

Monastery of Miraflores & went in as it opened. Garden
completely changed & spoilt. No flowers in it.
Statue of St. Bruno. Octagonal tomb by Gil de Siloe
of King Don Juan & Dona Isabel. Wonderful wooden
retable overlaid with gold. Fine tomb by Gil de Siloe of
Infante Don Alfonso. In a side chapel beautiful statue of St. Bruno.
Back in the cloister an old monk ticked of Alison Jill for having
their skirts too short. (or too long??) Down to Cathedral where kids
wandered round John got onto tour lasting an hour in French. & Jill
joined in from time to time in between taking Michael out for
repeated attacks of. D. Saw much more than
last time including the cloisters and the treasure
All the bishops of Burgos & some remarkable
gold & silver plate. The chest of El Cid. The tomb
of the High Constable. (marble from Atapuerca)
& the whole chapel designed in 1482-1494.

Wonderful choir stalls - stone lantern designed when
the architect was only 28 yrs old. The little treasure
included some beautiful small chalices and a painting
reputedly by Leonardo de Vinci of the Magdalene. (very
unlikely.) but some excellent triptychs. - Flemish including
one by Memling; Mickey liked the smell of incense.
Outside to walk around & shop. Very tempted by a
cake selling langouste but brought bread & a very dark
red but good salami. Statue of El Cid - (was with her)
lowly face shrouded walk by river - archway. cathedral
courtyard. & so out of the town. Soon in very bleak countryside like
Yorkshire moors with no foliage & hunting (for what?) on both sides of
road. Stopped at small village to buy bread & watching primitive corn grinding.



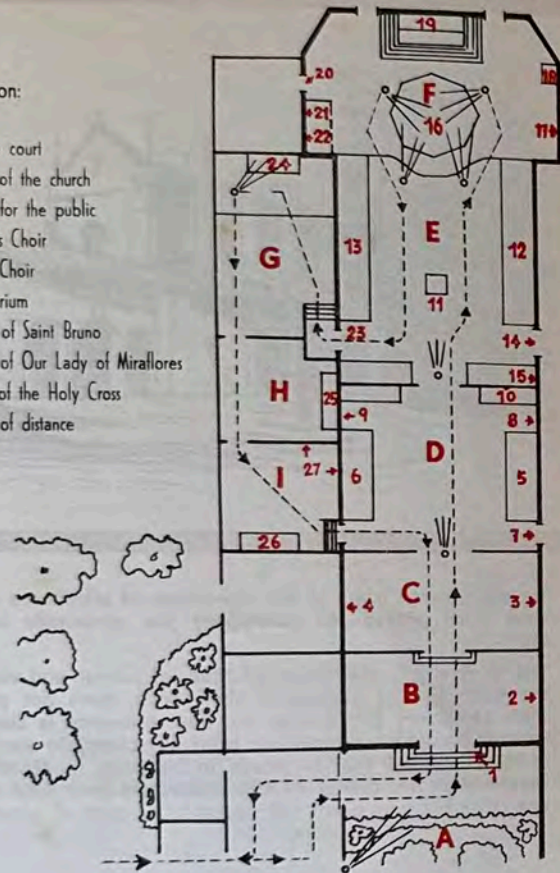
THANK GOD B'S
FOR MISS KATH
ET. MORPH.



I ALWAYS
THOUGHT IT
WAS
MISS BIZET.
IT'ORFF.

Explanation:

- A.-Entrance court
 B.-Portico of the church
 C.-Section for the public
 D.-Brother's Choir
 E.-Father's Choir
 F.-Presbyterium
 G.-Chapel of Saint Bruno
 H.-Chapel of Our Lady of Mirallores
 I.-Chapel of the Holy Cross
 !/-Point of distance



Founded in 1441 by the king Don Juan II, the work is nearly an exclusivity of his daughter, the eminent queen Isabel la Católica. Built in the years (1454-1499) with plans and direction of Juan de Colonia and his son Simón, it is of a Gothic style. In spite of the wars, invasions and disorders of the XIX century, many works of art have still been preserved.

A) Through the archs of the Entrance Gallery, which frame the little garden with the statue of Saint Bruno, we see the principal «façade» and entrance of the church¹. The doorway is framed by an ogival arch, on the panel of which is an image of the Virgin with her son dead in her arms. To the left of the arch is the royal crest of Castille, to the right, the crest of the «red sash» which belonged to the king Don Juan.

In the most elevated background is the frontispiece of the church, in whose triangular lintel, an angel supports the crest of the Catholic Kings, which is in some way a seal showing the epoch and origin of this monastery.

B) The **portico of the church**, with a pretty vaulted roof. On the right-hand wall² an inscription of scholared latin expresses the gratitude of the Carthusian friars, to the most distinguished benefactress of the Mansion, Doña Isabel la Católica, whose memory will be eternally blessed by the residents of the monastery.

C) We are now inside the church; the sight that meets the eye as seen from the entrance and the grate reserved for the public, is admirable. You will be surprised by the length and well proportioned height of the single nave, whose vaulted roofs have their intersection covered with gilded keystones, and by the beautiful cresting of small arches that ornate the vaulted roofs of the presbyterium. The fine glass-windows brought from Flanders in the year 1484, are worthy of attention.

On the side-walls can be seen two large paintings³⁻⁴ by Carducho, (1638) from the Carthusian monastery of El Paular.

D) **Brother's choir.** Section included between the grate and the two altars. Have a look at the beautiful stalls⁵⁻⁶ of «Renaissance» style, with chairs carved in the year 1558 by Simón de Bueras, disciple of Berruguete, maybe in accordance with drawings from Vigarni, the author of the Choir of the Burgos Cathedral and probably of the first two chairs on the right. You can also admire the small door⁷ of marvellously carved walnut.

At the end of the stalls, you can see on the right-hand wall the «Beheading of Saint John the Baptist»⁸ painting of the Castilian school; and on the left-hand wall a «Mary Magdalene» by Ribera⁹.

This section is ended by a wall which has two altars with gilded and carved retables, of composed order and over-elaborated. The painting on the right¹⁰ is a reproduction of the «Adoration of the three Wise Men», by Juan de Flandes (1499). Going through the door we arrive to the section.

E) **Father's choir.** The harmony of this Choir and the Presbyterium is admirable. You have to see the Chorister's desk¹¹, delicately carved, harmonizing with the beautiful stalls¹²⁻¹³ splendidly carved in dark walnut, sheltered by a rich flowered canopy and crowned by a light cresting. It was done by Martín Sánchez, from Valladolid, who finished this work, that includes forty seats, in the year 1489.

Every back of the stalls has a different pattern and its designs are geometrical. All the little ogival arches are joined to one another and form one single canopy, constituting a typical work, which the sight never gets tired of contemplating.

On each side of the communicating door, five modern chairs of a simple line, substitute the primitive ones, burnt during the War of Independence in the XIX century; the first one is generally occupied by the Father Prior.

At the angle that form the chairs with the wall on the right, there is an ogival door¹⁴, through which the monks come into the church; it is delicately decorated with carved branches of oak, symbol of strength; over the panel, sheltered by an arch, we can see a beautiful alabaster statue of gothic style, representing Our Lady with her Infant Child in her arms, that seem to accompany the monks in their prayers in the Choir.

Further in the angle is the ancient panel of the XV century¹⁵, used to indicate the Masses and it is the only relic left of the original monastery.

F) **Presbyterium or main chapel.** One step higher and some two meters more of width than the rest of the church, the Presbyterium is like a splendid Custody, in which Our Lord present in the Sacrament, finds Himself surrounded by a magnificent harmony of Acts of Faith and works of Art.

You can see on the fore-ground the splendid alabaster tomb¹⁶ of the King Don Juan and his wife Doña Isabel, parents of the Catholic Queen. Its author is Gil de Siloé. He took only four years in achieving this extraordinary work, ostentation of inspiration and skill, finished in the year 1498.

It is like a magnificent bridal-bed over which lie the statues of the Monarchs outlined by an eight-pointed star. As it is quite impossible to detail the huge quantities of allegoric figures, biblical characters, prophets and saints presided by the four Evangelists and surrounded by birds, heraldic crests framed with garlands and foliage, we only ask our visitors to concentrate their attention over the lying statues of the Monarchs.

Their heads resting on carved cushions, richly ornated, lie the royal consorts, their statues being separated by an elegant cresting. The natural aspect of their expressive faces and the inimitable execution of the whole work that seems to be modelled in wax and rich clothes, shows the Monarchs, not as dead but resting.


The king held in his right arm, now mutilated, the royal sceptre; with his left hand he gathers his beautiful robe; the splendid necklace, delicately chiselled, that the Monarch wears, is worth mentioning.

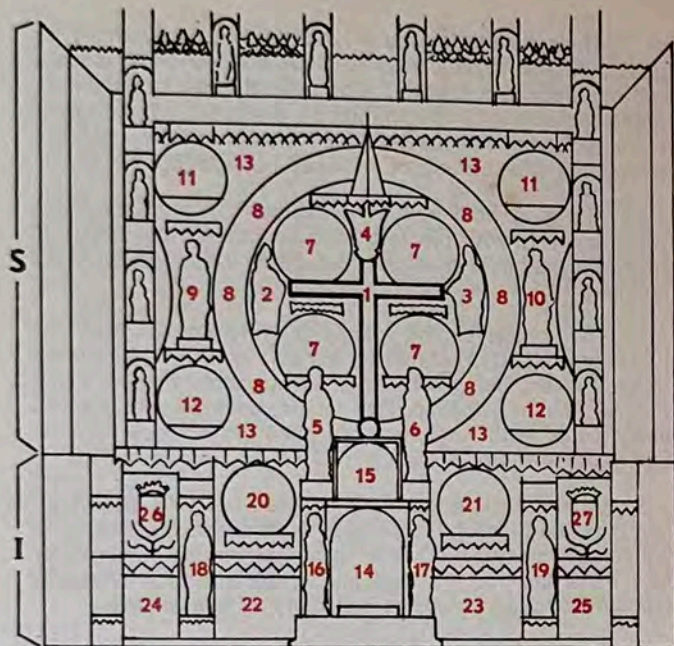
To the left of the king, not lying on her back, as he is, but slightly reclined on her left arm, lies the statue of the Queen, being dressed with the same elegance and richness as her spouse. Her hands, covered with gloves and ornated with rings, hold an open prayer-book over an embroidered cloth.

No detailed description, at least not this brief one, can give the idea of the perfect work and exuberant symbolism of this tomb, that as declared on the description of the portico, has no rival in the world, and it constitutes the principle ornament and glory of this church.

On the wall of the right you can see a triptych-calcary¹⁷, flemish painting, may be by Van der Weyden.

Afterwards we have the chair of the priest¹⁸, who celebrates the convent mass, which matches with the stalls.

All the front part of the Presbyterium is occupied by the retable¹⁹ which at first sight confuses by its mixed and great number of figures of all sizes that it holds. To appreciate them well it is advisable to be situated at the point  at the foot of the tomb of the Monarchs.



Built in wood by Gil de Siloé, who finished it in the year 1499, it has been gilded by Diego de la Cruz with part of the gold brought by Colón from América in his second voyage.

If we look at it attentively, we can see that it is divided into two horizontal parts, in which the subject of the Redemption of the human kind by Christ, is developed. Christ on the Cross is the centre of this retable and of the world, and this one will continue to turn on in confusion if he is not guided by the Cross that leads to Christ our Redeemer.

On the upper part 1, the figure of Christ, centre of the redemption of the human kind, is clearly detached. At the sides of the Cross, as if holding it, are the Father and the Holy Ghost 2-3. On top of the Cross, the pelican 4, symbol of the divine love. At the foot of the Cross 5, the Mother with the beloved disciple 6; in the circles of the angles 7, four events of the Passion. The whole surrounded by a great crown 8 of angels framing the Lord.

Saint Peter 9 and Saint Paul 10, pillars of the church, are framing the crown; over them 11, are the apostles evangelists, Saint Matthew and Saint John; under them, the evangelists non-apostles 12, Saint Lucas and Saint Mark. In the four triangular spaces 13, the four doctors of the occidental church, Agustín, Ambrose, Gregory and Jerome.

This upper part of the retable is closed along three of its sides by twelve statues of various Saints in small recesses in the wall.

On the lower part the centre is constituted by the tabernacle 14, over which we see a square recess 15 in the wall with high-relief that varies in accordance with the liturgy of the day. The tabernacle is framed by Saint John the Baptist 16 and Saint Mary Magdalene 17, protectors of the Carthusian Order; and on a same level further to the sides, Saint Catherine, name of the King's mother, and the Apostle Saint James 19, Patron Saint of Spain, leader of its Kings.

Between the statues 16-18, and 17-19, on a higher level, you can see two circles with the «Annunciation» 20 and the «Adoration of the Three Wise Men» 21; and below these evangelical events, two high-reliefs represent the Lord's last Supper 22 and the Prison of the Lord 23. At the same level, in a praying attitude we see the Monarchs Don Juan 24, guided by the apostle Saint James, and his wife Doña Isabel 25 also protected by her Patron Saint. Inscribed above the Monarchs are their respective crests, of Castille 26 and Castille-Portugal 27.

After having seen the Retale, we find on its left, a beautiful «Anunciación» 20, panel by Berruguete, of a remarkable perspective. Further on the left, there is a good reproduction of the original portrait of Isabel la Católica 21. And between this picture and the set of chairs, the magnificent alabaster tomb 22 of the Infante Don Alfonso, brother of the Catholic Queen, work of Gil de Siloé, is worth in every way to appear next to the tomb of the Kings.

You can also admire the figure in a praying attitude of Don Alfonso, in a recess in the wall, sheltered by an arch that tears the wall; and it is surrounded by the same exuberant decoration as that of the tomb of the Monarchs, parents of the Infante.

We go out of the church through an ogival door 23 of simple lines, on the panel of which, appears a beautiful ivory statue of the Immaculate Conception. Then we come to the chapel «G» where in its altar stands the famous statue of Saint Bruno 24, painted and carved in wood, extraordinarily expressive, original of Manuel Pereyra (XVII century). Its expression is so real, that it has been said of this sculpture, that it does not speak because he is a carthusian.

After that, we arrive to the chapel «H», of our Lady of Miraflores where the titular image of this monastery is venerated in its altar 25. This chapel is decorated with emblems and allegories of the Immaculate Conception.

In the chapel of the Holy Cross «I», close to the other, a processional cross 26 of the XVI century, occupies the principal place. Some Flemish paintings 27 of the XV century represent passages of the Invention of the Holy Cross.

After having filled our mind with so much beauty and become serene with the peace that we breathe in the Carthusian Monastery, we come back to the choir of the Brothers, «D», and after having a final look at the unforgettable scenery, we take the direction of the way out.



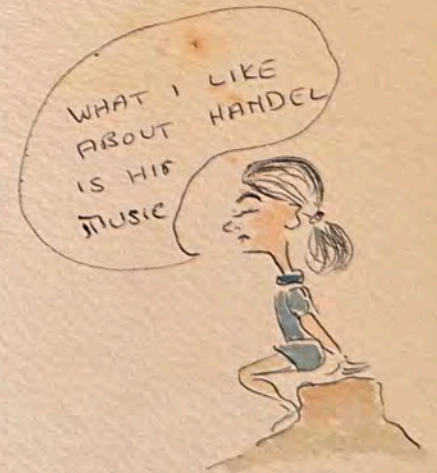
BURGOS.



High Altar of the High Constable's Chapel. Detail.



Flemish Triptych. XVth.





XIIIth DOORWAY INTO CLOISTER

On the way to the Fresno Pass found a south facing hillside in a walnut grove by sweetcorn, wild peppermint and a fresh water trough & hundred off. Salami cheese wine, melon, Starlings. Up again into a bleak plateau then a remarkable descent into the Rubron valley over the Ebro. Like a small grand Canyon or George de Verdun in France. Suddenly saw a cliff full of eagles, about 10 on a ledge half way up a precipitous cliff & soaring around. Came along the valley with cliffs getting increasingly high - small villages living on what? then climbed up the side of the gorge, onto the plateau & across the end of a large flat dull lake the Pantano del Ebro in worsening weather. Climbed up again to the top of the Escudo Pass crowned by an Italian war cemetery then a remarkable steep very long descent for about 19 kms. Cautious finding it difficult, at least one had gone over the edge & burnt itself out.

Stopped at Puente Viesgo to see pre-historic cave La Castilla. Magdalenian. Taken round by nice little guide in a bus & accompanied by Frenchman & his family who sounded like an expert on pre-historic art. Smelly wife.



VIRGIN & CHILD MEMLING. XVth

Drawings & engravings of buffalo, horse, deer, elephant & spots along the walls, calendar, ? traps. Sputtering acetylene lamp as lights had failed. Down again & on towards Santander, but turned off before reaching it towards Pomillas, where we found campfire after several false starts along beach etc. Site right on edge of sea & very nice. Dinner in camp restaurant. Paella, clams, veal escalope, ice & coffee.

35566

Drawings in cave of Puente Viejo.



Wednesday August 27th

Dull damp morning with fitful sunrise. After breakfast went to beach to investigate rockpools. Alison ill - lay in bed all day. John & I went to Santillana in afternoon. Lovely medieval village with great stone houses & cobbled streets. Beautiful church with lovely Romanesque cloisters. Cows & donkeys in street.

Saw stone statue in shop for 2900 p/s. Can we afford it (about £18)? Lots of tourist shops. Nice harnesses with bells & wooden staves. Back for late lunch. Afterwards walked to port (with colourful fishing boats). Into hills. Bought some meat & vegetables at a vegetable stall in the market square. Went back & cooked a veal ragout for supper. Early bed. Delicious Spanish champagne at 87 pesetas. (100 = 11s. 11d.)

Puente Viejo. El Castillo.

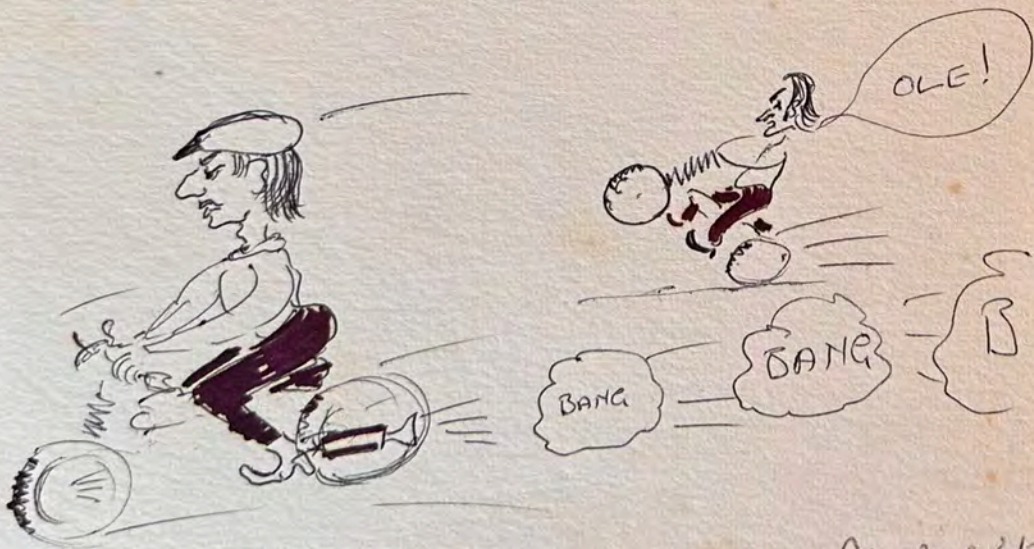


Thursday August 28th

Stalactites in Puente Viego cave.



Into village early to market to buy sardines. Fresh hot bread
Sunny morning. Kipp late & onto beach. Swimming in quite large
breakers. Michael, Alison, John got bowled right over. Few
seabirds but wagtails & one small dark brown bird with a
rufous rump. Catch for the morning was a number of
crabs - with which we had a crab race. Clock golf
& catching rubber ball which we then lost. Sunbathed
slept. The tide came in & so to lunch in sunshine.
Tilove rest & reading then drove to the harbour & into the
town square. We had a delicious lunch of prawns and fresh
sardines earlier. Now sat in the town square and had
cocacola and cafe au lait. Other tables full of teenage
Spaniards, with two noisy powerful motorbikes. Back to
camp having bought steaks and numerous tins of different
fish & shell fish to make a fish hors d'oeuvres. Bottle of Rioja.
Supper then bed.



Camping site
at Comillas.





ON THE WAY
TO BUREOS

FRIDAY 29th. AUGUST.

Packed up. Went into Comillas early to buy bread & milk. The market bigger than yesterday. Sudden heavy shower. Then sun came out over breakfast and down to the beach for a last look at rock pools. Then to Santillana. Showery weather, landscape almost like Austria. but typical Basque houses with enclosed or sometimes open balconies. The open balconies full of flowers. Horse drawn carts and oxen. Eucalyptus trees at times in forests. Sweetcorn and crew cut grass slopes. Many cows and fresh milk obviously a considered luxury



Drove to caves of Altamira. Raining.

Bus load of women & children - many tourists.

Caves quite large but the only paintings shown to us were in one large low cavern with the roof covered with animals - mostly bison standing & lying down. but also a very good deer, one horse and 2 bears. Discovered by Santuola in about 1875.

& disbelieved until about 1900. after his death. Obviously many more paintings. which we were not shown. Described as the Sistine Chapel of prehistoric art. Went to smaller cave containing stalactites, stalaquites. Too full of tourists. but the best paintings so far outside Lascaux.

Back to Santillana to lunch in Parador Gil Blas also full of tourists

Menu at 150 pesetas not bad but not outstanding.

Hors D'oeuvres	Donito	Escalope	Caramel
Vegetable Soup	in Tomato Sauce	Milanaise	Custard.
Tomato Juice	Chicken Fricassee		Ice Cream Tart.

(Michael Had Macaroni.
coffee & medicare wine



SPANISH PROPRIETOR



FRENCH ROMEO.

BISON. ALTIMIRA.



After lunch drove in to Santander to look round. Liked the fishing harbour. Then drove through Laredo to Castro Urdiales. Didn't like camp site at Castro. Too public, so went back to Camping Arenillas. Winding coastal road through countryside reminding us of North Portugal. High mountains coming down to sea. Sweet corn - green meadows + Alpine looking houses.

Camped in field by beach. On our own except for one more English ex, but main site quite crowded. Supper of soup + bread.

Saturday 30th August. Dull at first, then sun came out. Left children on beach + went in to Castro Urdiales to look round. Picturesque old fishing port. Synthetic Westminster chimneys. Important but crumbling church on edge of sea. Several dancing clubs, but otherwise rather dead except for very good market, where we shopped. Had good meat + vegetables. Coffee on foot, then back to camp. To beach for a swim before lunch. Quite hot. Big breakers.



Deer in ALTIMIRA.

Lunch, then read most of afternoon, lay on beach + camped. ~~Supper at camp restaurant. So pub.~~
Cooked delicious pork steaks, potatoes + cabbage.



COMILLAS.

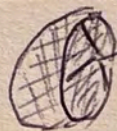
Beautiful fuzzy pink limestone outcrops like the Burren country in Ireland. Isolated town of young men of 30-? Drowned. Little hidden meadows, closely cropped.

Built fine sand castle watched by whole beach. Old fort. Built outer defences against incoming tide, but to no avail. None canoeing, then to supper at camp restaurant. Crowd rapidly dispersed at dusk.

Monday Sept. 12th. Dull & cloudy again.

John & Alison back to Santillana to buy stone statue, call at Post Restaurante. Bought statue but found Post shut till 3 so killed an hour by having very poor paella. Then found at 3 that post closed till 4 so came back in disgust.

Sunday August 31st. Hot. Swim before breakfast, by the time we'd had that the beach had filled up + cars, children dogs, balls, tents over cars, park-a-balls were all round us. Eagles on cliff above us. Walked across beach, wading through river mouth, to camping Orion. Not as nice as ours, Eucalyptus grove but dirty beach. Interesting rock pool + deep lagoon near camp with quite large fish. Men trying to catch them with circular nets. Others collecting



mussels off rocks. Walked back to the beach, had a canoe into little harbour + out again. Quite a heavy swell, wished we'd brought anchored line. Lunch, rested, then had a walk over headland.



COMILLAS.

Santillana del Mar.



Guernica a modern small town in plain surrounded by hills. Alpine pastures, lovely drive, lunch stop in a forest ride in a pine wood, dropped down to coast road along a cornice to St. Sebastian. Lovely small ports. By passed St. Seb. - took v. bad inland road to Trun. Stopped to shop. Busy frontier town. Bought food, doll for Alison - rocket transporter for Michael. Then on via coast through St. Jean de Luz, picturesque resort with huge outer harbour - smaller inner harbour, to camping Pavilion Royal near Bidart. Magnificent clean German-run site with hot showers etc. Camped on edge of sand dunes, Big breakers but not a very attractive beach. Steak & salad for supper.

Michael - had walk on beach. Tried to catch big fish but no luck. Nobby did computing problems. Started to rain ~~fr~~ on way back & rained hard for rest of day. lunch in tent then stayed reading for rest of afternoon. Michael went to sleep, others back at 4.30. Into car & washed, Michael did project. Supper in camp restaurant, preceded by Jerry's delicious dressed langoustine.

Tuesday, Sept. 2nd
Michael's birthday. Fiery Fred family with teenage daughter being wooed by handsome bearded Frenchman. Concorde model for present. Raining, but drizzling when we took camp down, off by 10.30. winding roads to Bilbao - a hideous industrial conurbation. stuck in traffic jam for 1 1/2 hours. Eventually out to auto minor road towards Guernica. Beautiful Alpine landscape with pines & chestnut woods.



Santillana del Mar.

Wed. Sept. 3rd.

Sunny morning. Off by 10.30
after hot showers, hair washing.
Into Biarritz - 2 huge casinos.
Quite attractive. Then to
Bayonne where we wasted
at least 1/2 hour looking
for parking space. Eventually
parked, left children in
car, & walked through
old town to cathedral.

Very dark interior & nothing
much of interest except
cloisters - very well
preserved Gothic, with
Sarcophagi round walls.

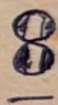
Ruined castle & fortifications.
Underground car park.

Drove on N10 for short while
then off onto minor road
near coast. Drove after while
through forests of the Landes.
Every now & then a small
clearing with land as farm
consisting of low chalet like
houses, grain stores & barns.
Honey stalls (stopped & bought
a jar), lakes, 2 or 3 large
villages with typical church.

CASTRO URDIALES,



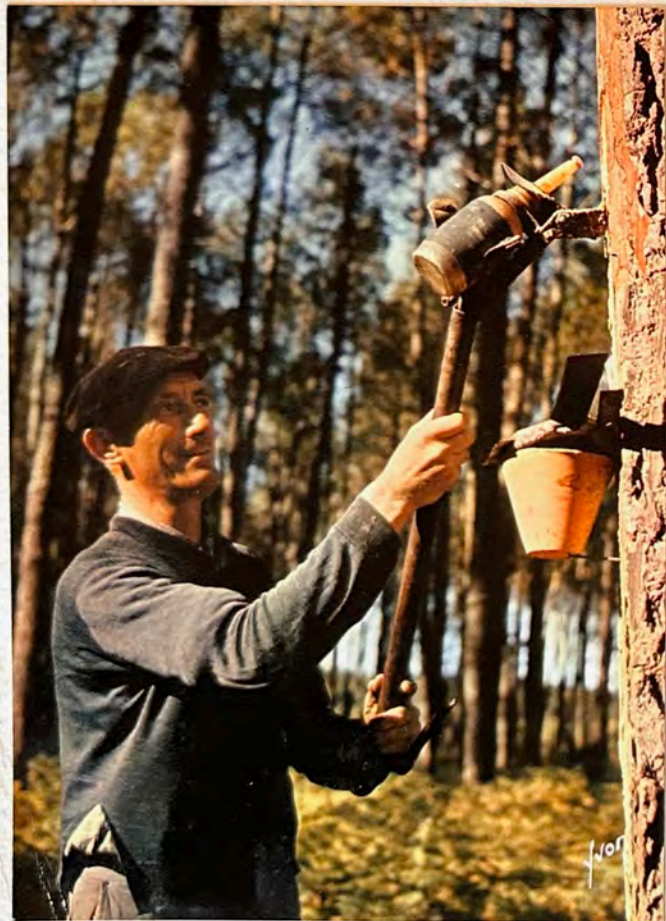
MICHAEL IS



An area of lumbering & fishing, & of forestry. Large saw mills.
Olive, a few vines. Pine woods with cups collecting resin.
Cork oaks. Stopped for lunch by lake near Léon. Saw
tree creeper, & green woodpecker. Pedalos on lake. Obviously
a popular holiday place, but flat & sandy round lake.
Went through Cap Breton which we didn't like. Lagoon harbour.
Whole coast consists of sand dunes with occasional plages.
Numerous camping sites. Drove into cloud & torrefactual rain which
lasted about 1/2 hour. Kept running into storm. Eventually
reached Archachon in fitful sunshine. Large oyster beds with shadows
looking like Cannery Row. Flat sandy estuary, with small harbour
Getting late, so drove fast to Bordeaux, stuck in another traffic
jam & missed motorway out of town. Found it after a while
& drove on it about 8 miles. Crossed Dordogne by a long bridge.
Getting dark. Landscape of Bordeaux wines with degustations.
Decided to stop for night in small hotel at Nizambeau - restaurant of the

Union, with chambers. 2 nice rooms in annexe
 but blocked too.
 Dinner at 8.30. Sully waitress. Repas a 15 F.
 (13 F = $\frac{1}{2}$)
 Soup (tomato soup), Poules a l'Americaine,
 Dindon had front with lemon,
 Yeal Ragout + Steaks. Chips.
 Home made Strawberry ices (delicious), + egg
 custards. No caramel. Coffee + cognac. Bed.
 Hard with bullet-like pillows.

THURSDAY 4th. SEPT.



Sunshine later becoming dull
 with storms but cleared up later to
 a fine evening. Started off with the
 cognac country still around us,
 quite attractive rolling landscape. Later
 after Scajon and towards Rochefort
 countryside very flat - really mud flats
 around the whole bay up to La
 Rochelle with sandy plage. Some fishing but rather a dull landscape. Saw
 one remarkable byzantine mosque or a church. La Rochelle a most
 attractive harbour and town. Unloading of crabs taking place on quay. Dainty
 lunch. Langoustines. 2 kilos + some beef heart for supper which the butchers
 made into Lucadelles. Arcaded pavements + fine mediaeval buildings. Further
 very dull drive up to Union over empty countryside like Sedgemoor but not
 so attractive some grazing + dikes + at Marans crossed the Sevre Nantaise
 canal. river over a wicker bridge with net fishing. After this better
 scenery + lunch stop in an autumnal cart track in rolling countryside after Mareuil.





D11, D11, to St. Fulgent. At Montaigne saw some nice garden statuary. Clisson Vallet and crossed the Loire looking silver and blue in hazy sunshine at Ancenis. lovely evening drive through Chateaubriant. Traffic jam in Rennes then fast road to St. Malo and arrived at Guinarais 8.45 pm. + parked camp on the sand cliff edge in a very high east wind by headlight. Supper of langoustines + fucadelles, and red wine of Mareuil. Tent invaded by sand in the night.



FRIDAY. 5th SEPT. Hot and sunny but windy. Up late. (reading Benbow.) Camp empty almost + some loos + shop/restaurant shut. Out to beach climbed up island looking in rockpools. Into St. Malo for lunch at Crepes. Galettes + Cidre. Quite expensive. the crepes being up to 6 or 7fr. each. Well satisfied - on to see the Aquarium. Several exciting things including a thing called Elephants Trunk and embuys dogfish in egease, some fine anemones and mudfish and a beautiful collection of fish from the Indian Ocean - coral reefs and anctic waters in a refrigerated tank. Rather soponic octopus, - a very blue lobster and a very yellow eel. Beautiful ceramic murals (see illus) but



LA ROCHELLE

Pyrenean landscape



the best were in yellow, orange brown olive green & vividian. Cafe right

ENGLISH
SPOKEN
FLUENTLY.

ICES
SANDWICHES

Back to camp having stopped in St. Malo. Climbed over the island - saw rock pippit, tern and kingfisher - fishing in rock pools. Michael fished, Alison collected shells - including cowrie shells, Hiday did project on computers.

Evening meal memorable - barbecue on beach. delicious fresh artichokes then barbecued mackerel, Muscadet wine. Coffee & cognac.

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER.

Delicious hot sunny morning. After breakfast & some packing up went on to beach - caught a spider crab with seaweed camouflage. Made boats out of wood & seagull feathers. Saw kingfisher again. Till near lvy tree. Alison read Georgette Heyer. Hiday did project. left reluctantly at 4.30pm. Sat in Pontorson at 5.30pm. eating bread & cheese and drinking cidre bouche. (what does that mean?) Via Arvanchees, la Haye, ~~Arvanchees~~ Coutances, Valognes. to Cherbourg. 8pm. Advised that no hope of getting on night boat so back into town to book rooms in Hotel Moderne. then out to dinner at Restaurant of the Theatre.



Basque Countryside

Soup.
Hos d'oerves

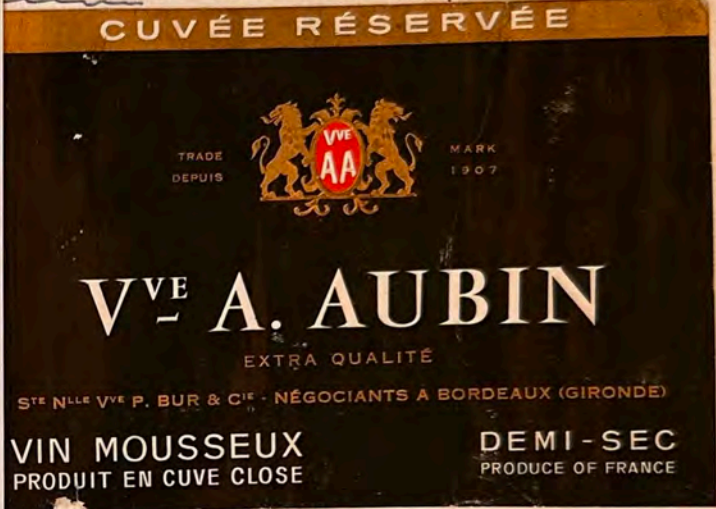
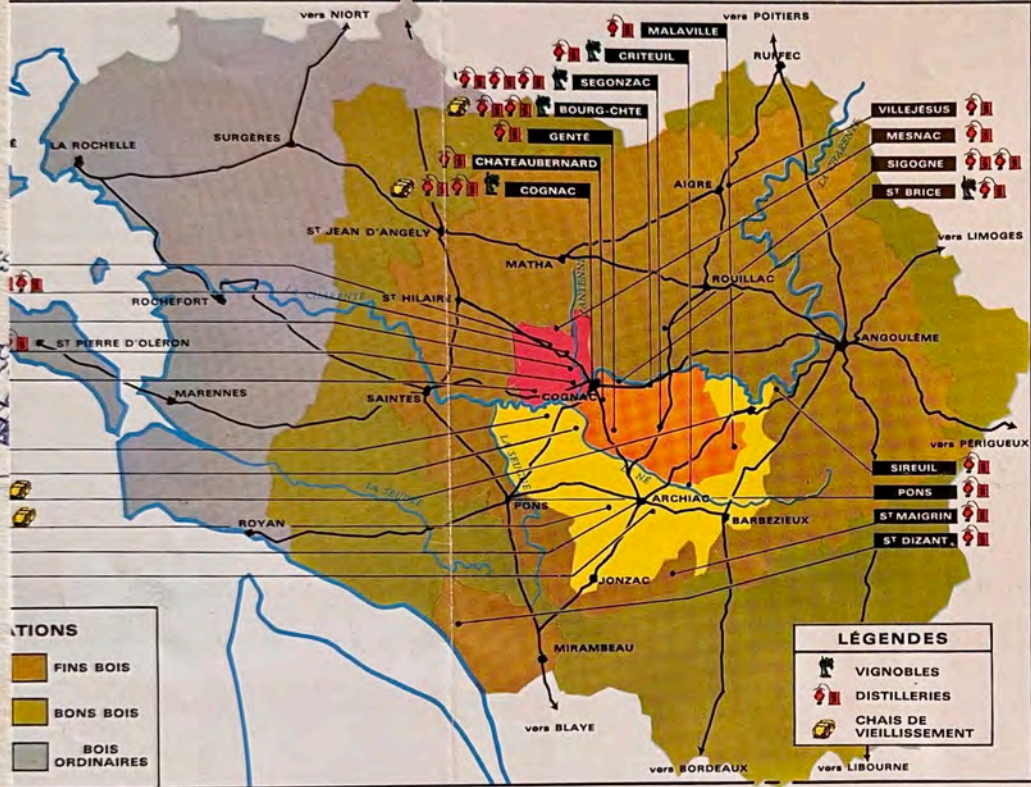
Cote de Veau
a la Creme

Cheese / Compote of fruit / Coffee

Back to the hardest bed & pillow in Cherbourg. in a rather
awful room.

7th. SEPT. Good café complet at 7.15 am. to boat at
8.10 am. - Only half full. -
depart at
9 am. Sunshine
slightly choppy
sea.

LES, DISTILLERIES, CHAIS de VIEILLISSEMENT MARTELL



PAYS DU COGNAC, pays de vallées verdoyantes, de vignobles étalant sur les coteaux leurs alignements réguliers, de petites villes calmes où, dans le silence des grands chais, vieillit l'eau-de-vie.

Les principaux crus entourent COGNAC, centre commercial de la région : Grande Champagne, Petite Champagne, Borderies et Fins Bois. LE COGNAC EST LE PRODUIT DE LA DISTILLATION DES VINS BLANCS DES CHARENTES.

Beaucoup de régions produisent des eaux-de-vie, mais seule la région délimitée des Charentes produit le COGNAC. En effet, nulle part ailleurs, ne se trouvent réunies, avec le même caractère, les conditions de sol et de climat.





La Maison MARTELL contrôle la production dès son origine. Elle sélectionne parmi les grands crus les vins de qualité qui seront distillés dans une des 53 distilleries qui travaillent pour elle.



Les vins, leur fermentation terminée, sont distillés selon la méthode traditionnelle réglementée de la distillation charentaise à « deux chauffes ». Le distillateur doit être un bon dégustateur afin de séparer les produits imparfaits qui apparaissent au début et en fin de distillation pour ne conserver que le cœur de la bonne chauffe qui sera le COGNAC.



Venant des différentes distilleries situées sur les lieux mêmes de la récolte, le COGNAC n'est encore qu'une eau-de-vie incolore et limpide. Elle pèse environ 70°, a un parfum pénétrant et subtil, et possède déjà les qualités intrinsèques du COGNAC.

Dans les chais de réception, les eaux-de-vie sont sélectionnées et contrôlées par la dégustation, pesées et définitivement réceptionnées dans de grands tonneaux selon le cru d'origine, avant d'être réparties dans des barriques pour le vieillissement.

Pour obtenir une qualité constante, il est nécessaire d'assembler dans des proportions judicieusement choisies, différents cognacs sélectionnés parmi les meilleurs; chacun apportant son caractère propre: puissance, finesse, moelleux, bouquet. Ainsi peut-on élaborer un COGNAC complet possédant un ensemble de qualités rarement réunies en un seul cru.



Le COGNAC ne peut vieillir que dans des fûts de chêne provenant des seules forêts de Tronçais ou du Limousin. La Maison MARTELL fabrique elle-même ses barriques car le bois, lui aussi, doit être vieilli avant d'être employé; c'est pourquoi elle entretient un stock important de bois choisi par ses soins, qu'elle n'utilise qu'après au moins sept années de séchage.



Depuis Louis XIV,
Cognac
MARTELL



*le plus demandé en France
et dans le Monde*

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33460.

Sauropen
Cappone



MARY MAGDALEN.
LEONARDO DA VINCI.



L'oiseau de Broceliande.
de DODIK. (Ceramiste).
La Gouesniere.
Ille-et-Vilaine.



EDDING	COOKING	FOOD	MISC	Document
Tent	2 Saucepans	Nescafe	Needle & cottons	Passports
rain sheets	Frying Pan	Teabags	Sewing	Money
letter	Kettle	Chocolate	Hose pipe	Tickets
Ropes	Cutlery	Drinking choc.	Writing things	Insurance
ambly	Washing matts	6 tins milk	Books	Green Card
Plies	Corkscrew	Eat.	Taps	Registration book
rise	Bottle opener	Butter	Drawing books	Licences
implants	Frying pan	Margarine	M's project	
flaws	Bucket	Sugar	Clothes line	
sleeping bags	Plastic bags	Cereals	+ prep	
Blankets	Drying cloths	Salt & Pepper	Soap	
Towels 8	Map	Japanese	Paint	
Chairs	Scooter	Tomato sauce	Campers	
Plastic sheet	Dish cloth	Orange juice	Binoculars	Drugs
Cords	Dustpan	6 pkts soup	Games	Drawing
Scrapers	+ Bristle	6 tins soup	Torches	Cordless
Mat	Matches	Tins meat	Batteries	Arctic
Foil	Door	Tins fish	Lamps	Lunch can
Rucksack	Fairy liquid	Biscuits	Shoe cleaning	Aspirin
Trash bag	Fly spray	Marmalade	Dixey	Sulphate
Wine glasses	Toilet paper	Jam		Sulphate
	Rubber gloves	Honey		Thick Silt et 700
	Teapot	Eggs		Arice
	Dogs	Margarine		Antiseptic cream
	Extra bowls	Bacon		Betacorel
	+ plates	Cakes		Wustar X
	Apron	Peanut butter		Exos
	Paper hanks	Aspartic		Eodre
	Thimbles	Apples		Elastic plants X
				Seaborn cream
				Hand Cream
				Namur

~~Apron~~
~~Hat~~
~~Wool~~
~~Shave~~
~~Trousers~~
~~Shirts~~
~~Shorts 2~~
~~Suit~~
~~Ties~~
~~Washing~~
~~Winks~~
~~Soaps~~
~~Shoes 2~~

Bx's
 Shirts
 Swimming suit
 Mac
 Dresses 3
 Susp. belt
 Stocking
 Shirts 2
 Bedrolls
 Shoes
 Sandals
 Flipflops
 Flipflops

Taps
 Soaps
 Shoes
 G. buy shoes
 Swimming
 Trunk
 Toys
 Rubber bands
 Gyn. shoes
 Cap
 Elephant
Books

Swimming suit
 Mac
 Slings 3
 Soaps
 Rubber bands
 Gyn. shoes
 Cap
 Elephant
Books

JILL	NICKY	MICHAEL	ALISON	TEN BEDDING	COOKING	FOOD	MISCELL	DOCUMENTS
Head	Shaving	Washing	Washing	Tent	2 Saucepans	Nescafe	Needle & cottons	Passports
washing	washing	Thru's	Thru's	Teat	Frying Pan	Teabags	Sewing	Money
Washers	Pyjamas	Pajamas	Nighties	Grained sheets	Kettle	Chocolate	Hose pipe	Tickets
Pants	Pants	Pants	Pants	Mallet	Cutting	Drinking choc.	Writing things	Insurance
Vest	Shirts 4	Shirts 4	Shirts 3	Ropes	6 Pins with	Books	Taps	Green Card
Blouses 3	Shorts 4	Jumpers 3	Jumpers 3	Hammer	Carton	Drawing books	My's project	Registration book
Jumpers 3	Pullers 2	Pullers 2	Shorts	Pliers	Bottle opener	Margarine	Clothes line	Licences
Shawl	Trousers	Shorts	Shorts	Wire	Ty opener	Sugar	Prep	
Sunhat	Jeans	Shoes	Shoes	Camp plate	Bucket	Cereals	Soap	
Gloves	Raincoat	Shoes	Shoes	Pillows	Plastic bag	Salt & Pepper	Paint	
Jeans	Ties	Cygn shoes	Swimsuit	Sleep bags	Drying cloth	Tomato sauce	Cameras	
Shirts	Shoes	Swimsuit	Swimsuit	Blankets	Map	Orange juice	Binoculars	
Shirts	Shoes	Shoes 3	Shoes 3	Towels 8	Scooter	6 phls soup	Games	Drugs
Swimsuit	Swimming	Shoes	Shoes	Chairs	Dustpan	6 Fins soup	Tortois	Drawings
M/c	Thimble	Rubber bands	Rubber bands	Plastic sheet	+ Brush	Tins meat	Batteries	Codex
Dresses 3	Toys	Shoes	Shoes	Sheet	Matches	Tins fish	Lamps	Actual
Susp belt	Bucket	Spade	Spade	Cord	Dart	Biscuits	Shoe cleaning	Lunch can
Shirts	Fishing	Wells	Wells	Scraper	Fairy liquid	Marmalade	Dixy	Aspirin
Shirts 2	Caps	Elephant	Elephant	Mat	Toilet paper	Jam		Sulphuric acid
Shirts	Backs	Backs	Backs	Foot	Rubber gloves	Honey		Sulphuric acid
Shirts	Shoes	Shoes	Shoes	Rucksack	Teapot	Eggs		Risk list et q
Shirts	Socks	Socks	Socks	Trachbag	Trays	Margarine	Corn oil	Antiseptic cream
Shirts	Flipflops	Flipflops	Flipflops	Wing glasses	Exten bowls	Bacon	Marmos	Betacorel
Shirts	Flippers	Flippers	Flippers		Plates	Cakes	Tomatoes	Mustard
					Apron	Peas	Apple pie	Eggs
					Paper hanks	Peas	Cooked chicken	Elastic pants
					Thimble	Peas	Bread	Sunburn cream
						Peas	Peas	Hand cream
							Peas	Peas