

## Codex Calixtinus of the University of Salamanca

The book of the Camino de Santiago or the Way of St James, as it is known in English. The first and most famous pilgrims' guide. Facsimile edition of the twin codex of the one stolen in 2011 –and fortunately recovered– from the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Also copied in Santiago de Compostela, traditionally known as the *Calixtinus of Salamanca* is one of the very rare complete copies of the *Liber Sancti Jacobi*.



There is no unanimity about either the author or the place of its original writing.

The skilful narrator –whose name has been hidden from us forever– was a special character of the 12th century, a notable traveller, a fervent devotee of the apostle, who wrote a lively and erudite account of St. James.

In its entirety, the codex is a motley compilation of texts by copyists and poets, musicians, storytellers and fabulators, and even theologians, written in the first half of the 12th century, preceded by a letter from Pope Callistus II (1119-1124), followed by five books:

- Book I. Book of Liturgies.
- Book II. Book of miracles.
- Book III. Book of the relocation of the body to Santiago.
- Book IV. Book of the conquests of Charlemagne.
- Book V. Book of the pilgrim's guide. This is the best known and most famous part.

The *Liber Sancti Jacobi* is not only a first-rate source for a better knowledge of the various –both Spanish and French– pilgrimage routes, but it also goes further and summarises traditions and promotes devotion to the apostle St. James. The *Calixtinus of Salamanca* that we offer presents several passages of even more correct reading than that of the Compostelan copy itself.

It is also of incomparable value for the understanding of the spectacular rise of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, which has only grown throughout the centuries.

Loaded with enigmas and mysteries, **this precious compilation is a truly unique work that reveals many of the keys to medieval history.**

