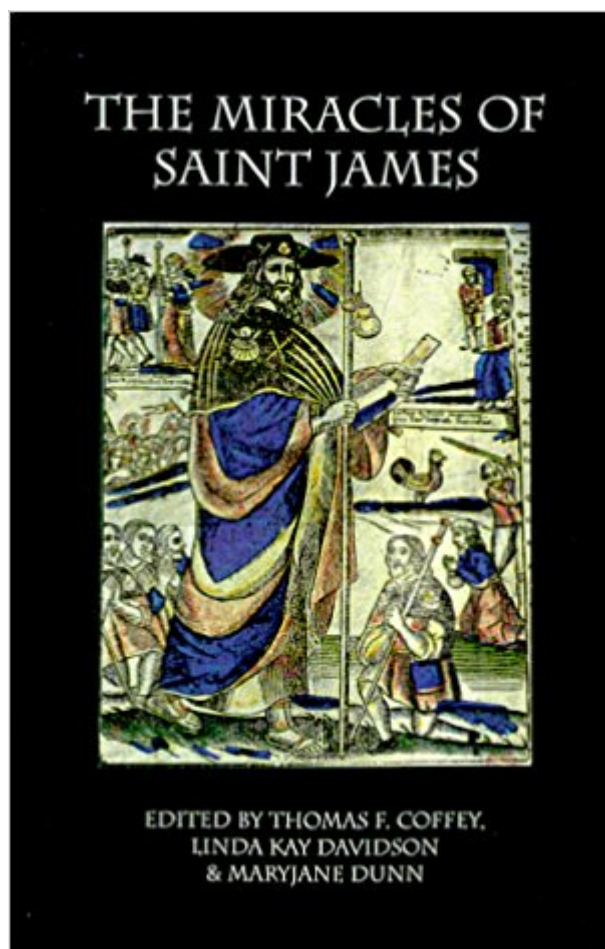


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The Miracles Of Saint James



Synopsis

This book offers the complete text of Book II of the Codex Calixtinus, the twenty-two miracles associated with St. James, including the famous miracle of the hanged boy, who revives when his father returns from his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The introduction analyzes the types, places, and recipients of the miracles and discusses the appearances of St. James himself in these stories. This volume also presents the chapter 17 of Book I, the Veneranda dies sermon. This is a contemporary description of the necessity, the ways and means, and the dangers of making the Compostela pilgrimage. The author's diatribes against the abuses common on the route give the twentieth-century reader a fascinating view of life on pilgrimage. Introduction, notes, illustrations, bibliography, index.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Latin

In the year of Our Lord one thousand one hundred one, a certain sailor named Frisonus piloted a ship traveling over the sea and filled with pilgrims wishing to go to the Lord's sepulcher in the area of Jerusalem in order to pray there. At a certain point a Saracen named Avitus Maimon, wishing to take all the pilgrims away with him into the land of the Moabites, approached Frisonus' ship for the purpose of doing combat. When the two boats - that of the Saracens and that of the Christians - came together and fought fiercely, Frisonus, outfitted with his metal breastplate and his helmet and his shield, fell between the two ships into the depths of the sea. When, through the mercy of God,

he regained some strength, he began to call on Saint James within his heart, saying these words, "Great and most glorious James, the indescribably pious apostle, whose altar I once kissed with my unworthy mouth, deign to free me together with all these Christians who are committed to you".

This is a nice reference book in English to the miracles of St. James. Lots of good notes and references to related works provide the scholar with other sources to explore. While this is a scholarly work, the stories can be enjoyed for their own sake. I only have one fault with this work in that it caused some confusion with the statement that the manuscript has been cut down at least once or twice and that one of those cuts occurred in the 17th century perhaps as a result of King Philip's ambassador, Ambrosio de Morales' comments. "When Morales viewed the Codex Calixtinus, he reacted with such disgust at Book IV's contents that he convinced the archive to rip the Turpin story out of the Codex Calixtinus." It didn't happen with Morales since Morales died in 1591 and the Book was ripped out around 1619. Perhaps Morales was a catalyst in getting the debates going on this Book, but it was not ripped out on his authority. The authors have an endnote on this referring to Manuel C. Diaz y Diaz's work, El Codice Calixtino in which he states that the removal of Book IV probably happened between 1610 and 1619 which also shows that Morales could not have been the one to have it removed. In spite of this confusion, the book is a well needed resource for scholars. I would recommend the book to anyone doing research on the Codex and for anyone interested in the Middle Ages.

This book is a superb background to the spiritual and religious background to the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. It contains portions of the Codex Calixtinus in English. All Pilgrims going or having gone on "The Way" will enjoy the stories and the history, as will anyone who has an interest in Saint James the Greater.

I thought it was pretty good while we were writing it, and over the years its scholarship seems to have held up, and is still a valuable tool for research scholars as well as persons with deeper interest in Saint James (Santiago) and the Camino to Santiago de Compostela.

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