

Georgiana G. King's The Way of Saint James. A Pioneer Cultural Guide of a Pilgrimage Route

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Abstract : In 1920 Georgiana Goddard King, an Art Historian and Professor at Bryn Mawr College (PA, USA), published *The Way of Saint James* (New York: P.G. Putnam's Sons), one of the earliest modern guides of this pilgrimage route. In its three volumes, the author described the towns and villages crossed by the Camino, talking about the history, traditions, monuments, and the people that she had met during her own pilgrimage together with the photographer Edith H. Lowber. The two women walked the route from Toulouse to Santiago in several journeys that took place between 1911 and 1914, travelling with funds of the Hispanic Society of New York. The cultural interest that motivated the journey explains how King intertwines in her narration history, anthropology, geography, art history, and religion, giving; as a result, the book targeted intellectuals, curious travelers, and tourist rather than pilgrims in a moment in which the pilgrimage to Santiago had almost disappeared as a practice. *The Way of Saint James* is barely known nowadays, so the aim of this research is disseminate it, focusing on the modernity of its approach and pointing at the link that it has with Georgiana King's understanding of art as a product of the culture and civilization that produces it. In this paper, we will analyze *The Way of Saint James* in its historiographical context as it was written during the rise of the interest on Spain and its culture in the United States of America; paying special attention on the relationship of the author with the Hispanic Society and sir Archer Milton Huntington. On the other hand, we will look into Georgiana Goddard King's work as an scholar by analyzing her works and the personal papers (letters, notes, and manuscripts) that she left in Bryn Mawr College, where I have been researching with a Fulbright grant. As a result, we will understand the pioneer approach of this unique guide of the Way of Saint James as a reflection of Georgiana King's own modernity as an scholar. The wide cultural interests of King gave, as a result, a guide that offers a transversal knowledge of *The Way of Saint James*, together with King's impressions and experiences, in the same way of current guides but far from the 'objective' and formalist methodology followed by her colleagues. This kind of modernity was badly understood at her time and helped the oblivion of this book as well as her author.

Keywords : georgiana goddard king, the way of saint james, pilgrimage, cultural heritage, guide

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