

the arms of St. James' Abbey, Reading : *azure, three scallop shells, or* ; "Here I know not what secret sympathy there is between St. James and shells, but sure I am that all pilgrims who visit St. James of Compostella in Spain (the paramount shrine of that saint,) returned thence *obsiti conchis*, all beshelled about on their clothes, as a religious donative there bestowed on them." On another occasion the old Church Historian suggests no unlikely origin for the escallop as the pilgrims' badge, noting in reference to the Dacres Arms: *gules, three scallop shells, argent* ; "which scallop shells (I mean the nethermost of them, because most concave and capacious), smooth within, and artificially plated without, was oftentimes cup and dish to the pilgrims in Palestine, and thereupon their arms often charged therewith." But though the scallop undoubtedly came to be adopted as the general badge of the palmer, its true heraldic symbolism is referred to St. James the Great ; whence its designation as St. James' cockle shell, *coquille de S. Jacques* and *Pecten Jacobæus* ; and its strict ecclesiastical significance was as the memorial of pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James of Compostella. Southey has translated from the *Anales de Galicia*, the ancient legend of the *Sanctoral Portugues*, relative to the origin of St. James' cognizance, and the miraculous conversion of a Paynim knight of Portugal to the Christian faith ; the truth of which legend is avouched by the Bulls of three successive Popes, which empower the Archbishops of Compostella to excommunicate all who sell the scallop shells to pilgrims except in the city of Santiago. A still more extraordinary and miraculous legend of "Saint Cock and the Holy Hen of Compostella," derived from the *Acta Sanctorum*, and other equally authentic sources, forms the subject of the metrical tale to which the poet Southey has appended the notes above referred to in vindication of Santiago of Galicia's exclusive right to the scallop badge.

The poor with scrip, the rich with purse,  
They took their chance for better or worse,  
From many a foreign land,  
With a scallop shell in the hat for badge,  
And a pilgrim's staff in hand.

For the scallop shows in a coat of arms,  
'That of the bearer's line,  
Some one in former days hath been  
To Santiago's shrine.

From the adoption of the cognizance of St. James of Compostella as the general badge of pilgrimage, the scallop not only took its place