



ENDWORD:

Finally, a note about the cover painting of Diego Gelmírez by Bilbao artist, **Francis de Blas**, who has very kindly granted me permission to use it here. The wonderful irony of the painting is that the St James he is holding is Santiago Alfeo or James the Less, not Santiago “of Compostela” at all! You can see this head in the Pantheon of the Relics at the Museum of the

Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. It is not the bust above the altar, the one hugged by so many pilgrims over the centuries. This is not the St James of the Crypt. It was a gift to Gelmirez from Queen Urraca after one of their famous falling outs. She is suspected of stealing it from elsewhere—probably the bishop of Braga who brought the head from Jerusalem.

Diego Gelmírez—as always—has the last word . . .

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Cover Illustration—Front Cover and Back Cover Detail

Portrait: Diego Gelmírez, Bishop of Santiago,

Francis de Blas (2004)

Oil on canvas, 81 x 65cm

University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Imagined Portrait of Bishop Diego Gelmírez of Santiago.
Based on written and historical sources.