



PAINTED EGGS

"Huevos Pintos"

One of the most popular Festivals in Easter is held in Pola de Siero a small town in the centre of Asturias. It is the Festival of Painted Eggs.

This festival, Huevos Pintos, was declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest in 1968 and is held every year on the Tuesday after Easter Sunday.

As Asturias is a mine region it is thought that this tradition was introduced in the 19th century by people from other European countries who had moved to Asturias to work in the mines. However, the custom of colouring and decorating eggs has roots in Spanish regions such as Catalonia, Valencia, the Basque Country and Andalucía as well.



Here in Asturias, this tradition is transmitted from parents to children.



Its origins are not very clear. Some people think it is related with religion, others think it has something to do with the concept of the renewal life each spring.

The Festival of Painted Eggs involves the exhibition and the sale of the painted eggs. Those eggs are also given as gifts to friends and

relatives.

The wonderful eggs, which are exhibited in stands around the Alfonso X park, are decorated by hand with all types of drawings, scenes, proverbs, names and dedications. It takes days to do this work.

Until the late 19th century, the eggs were cooked with kitchen soot from the old Asturian cookers where people only burnt oak wood or coal. That gave the shell a dark tone or colour, leading them to be called dark eggs. After the discovery of aniline, they were decorated with this quake-drying product using sharpened toothpicks or small feathers. Today, oil paints and watercolours with nibs and paintbrushes are used to decorate them.



Every Tuesday after Easter Sunday, people from the village wearing the traditional regional clothes, attend the blessing of the Dark Eggs in "Bable", the language of Asturias, as well as the parades of floats and performances by traditional groups which provide the beauty, sound, music rich colour surrounding this unusual festival of the Eggs in Pola de Siero.

At school we made this Easter tree with eggs painted by the children



People wearing the typical Asturian dress

