Southern France May 1933

Set off my bag "non accompagné" to Brive & took the train to Le Roque-Gourdonnex up the Cère. It rained most of the evening. The Church has 6 main altars of them 5 are wooden three of them have elaborate carved wooden reredoses. Stopped at the Bello Stelli and dear very good food.

Le Roque-Gourdonnex

25 Ascension Day. Went to Mass. It began with a litany letting fly the priest from the pulpit. The chairs stalls were occupied & boys & men looked like masons. A sermon in French I could not get at all. After the Sanctus during the consecration a boy prayed in French, I think it was a boy voice that said it. The Communion & general communion. I got off & crossed to the L. bank of the river & turned off I a Calvary indication which struck off the grey other left. I think it there must have been higher ones which the guide book refers to as leading to Sarlat when I missed it soon after the start. I got to a place where it was absolutely blocked with moss covered fallen timber & then very wet overgrown with bad nettles, I began to get so wet that I had to come down & followed the line. Are very big & dark tunnel. Cheltin from stations have robbed the water for some distance. Pretty narrow fine valley. I got to Sarlat at 10.30 & waited till 11.6 for the train. At the train I was joined by a Lord Sir Leo Lord & chief w. walks up his Belvedère. Had a lovely idea of going on to St Denis pres Martel & so to Turenne so I kept my seat. I had time for a good meal at St Denis & came to Turenne 12.50 to Turenne which I reached at 1.10. I had thought there was an auto at 1.15 but it was only fair days so I took a private auto to Collonges (20 fcs). It is a beautiful village all of red sandstone. The carvings in the Church had been injured & the tympanum & the whole of the W. wall of the S. aisle replaced. On the outer moulding of red sandstone there a certain fleur-de-lis. The bits corners of yellow

Collonges

sandstone. There is a curious ornament 7 cm. across 20 cm long & 5½ cm high. at the wider end. The relief figures are carved as a child stone. I waited for the sun as some of the heads & bits the sun came out. I crossed an auto at 4 to Turenne Gare, walked up to Turenne St. Kath. Waited an hour partly in rain talking to farmer & people & then walked up round it. Walked to the station had food at the "Gare" & got to Brive at 8 pm. I walked to "Industrie". Comfortable.

Turenne

26 Went to the Cathedral, the pillars of the aisle turned to the nave inwards, & filled with a big bronze cross. It was a fine but simple building, odd bits of the Romanesque, but it was too cut for photos. I caught the 1.57 train to Limoges at 3.20. I walked to the beaux arts - the Museum - left my bag & got an auto at 5.40 to Chalus where I reached at 7.10 a very jolly old country hotel. - Jan 12.30, I started at the Dr Cryptomes which seemed the best hotel tho it is not down in the guide Blue. (But train length 38 p.) Complete & good food.

Brive

Chalus

27 Had breakfast at 8 went out on a dull morning with the Camera but the sun came out. I got out of the "Dauphin" on the L. bank of the Tarnon, & saw of the castle on the other side, in besieging which Richard Cœur de Lion was wounded & died in 1199. I got an auto at the station at 10.30 which took me to Bussière Galant - station on the Limoges Périgueux line & caught a train at 11.6 got to Limoges at 11.47. (10 p. total) I went to the hotel had lunch & at 1.45 set off with the Camera. I walked across the river to get the view of the Cathedral but the big towers are no good. There are of the Cathedral. The North door & transept end is very fine in the flowery and Style. The tower is very beautiful. It stands apart from the Church & has had to be supported by a flying buttress on the N. side. The interior is very fine. I tried to get a photo of the "Jube" at the west end & the wonderful ivory lectern. I then saw St Michel & St Pierre & got back to the hotel & departed for the journey.

So the Blue Guide. Barry Gwen makes it the other way, that Richard was besieging the castle.

Limoges.