

16-03-2013

Belloc

We would like to draw our readers' attention to the Hilaire Belloc Blog which can be found at <http://thehilairebellocblog.blogspot.co.uk>

To whet our reader's appetite for things Bellocian (which may be found on the above site) we have posted two articles by Professor Robert Hickson who is a great Belloc fan. These will be also be posted in our Contributor's Archive in due course:

[The Missioner](#): (←Click on title for article)

'One hundred years ago, shortly before the manifold devastation of World War I, Hilaire Belloc wrote "The Missioner" about the gradual implantation of the Faith in Norway in the Viking days. He also composed at that time a complementary and more extended essay, *Esto Perpetua* (1906), about the historical implantation of Rome in North Africa after the Punic Wars, and the later rootedness of the Christian Faith in those lands before it was lost to the sudden, combative, and permeating Mohammedans.

In this centenary commemoration of Belloc's Nordic essay and *Esto Perpetua* – his longer study and historically informed travel-book containing cultural and religious reflections on the former Roman Province of North Africa in the Maghreb – we shall also come to see the vivid insights of a young man in his mid-thirties.'

[Hilaire Belloc's view of a Pilgrimage](#) (←Click on title for article)

'When Hilaire Belloc was a rumbustious young man in his mid-thirties, and only a few years after he had completed his journey afoot to Rome, he wrote an essay entitled "The Idea of a Pilgrimage," which first appeared in his memorable 1906 collection of essays *Hills and the Sea*.² In this essay are some insights—even about "the heart of a child"—which will be, I believe, still a fortifying inspiration for us today, and a deep moral nourishment.'

We have a Pope - Pope Francis I

The election of any pope often results in speculation regarding his policies and the possible direction of his pontificate. We have seen much of such speculation in the past few days - indeed, we have engaged in some private speculation ourselves. The picture in these very early days is full of contradictions and even some ungracious opinions. We do not therefore wish to engage publicly in such speculation and await the more concrete decisions of the new Pontiff before making any comment - other than to reiterate our hope that he be a holy, strong and orthodox Pontiff who will restore order in the Church, and seek to re-establish all things in Christ. May God bless him and guide him.