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IASJ Newsletter

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From the Editor

One of the things many people do during vacations in Europe is to go for a walk in the country. You get up early in the morning, choose the right clothes and shoes, put some food and drinks in a bag and go. In the local newsstand the day before you have bought a map indicating the various routes. Every route is marked by signs. On stones, poles and trees in the fields there are signs like a yellow and blue stripe. When you think you are lost you look around and see another sign. When I go for such a walk I always find that after some time my head is empty. The only thing I can think of is to go on. I feel at one with nature and impressed by the greatness of it. When I return at the end of the day, the point of departure looks different. After the shower I realize it is me that has changed and not the village I left in the morning. Many of the paths are part of a large system of routes. Most of the people walking on these paths do not realize that these routes are often over a thousand years old and that there is an end to all these routes. Quite a number of the paths lead to Santiago de Compostella in Spain.
With a little fantasy one can compare the IASJ with this system of paths. Being a member of the IASJ is like going for a walk. During the year as an IASJ Member you are not always aware of your membership of IASJ. It feels like walking out there in nature. You know that the path is leading to a goal but you are not constantly aware of it during every step. But it feels good out there and it is nice to know that others are walking the same path on a different place in a different time. It is also nice to know that all paths in the end come together in one place. At the end of the century all paths lead up to Santiago de Compostella in Spain to celebrate the last Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting of the century. A remarkable century that saw many new things among others the start of the new musical genre called jazz. What will contribute to the festivity in Santiago is the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the IASJ. Many of the founding members will be present but also a large number of students, teachers and representatives that joined only recently. The 10th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting in July 1999 in Santiago, Spain will be one during which the participants will look into the past to see how far the IASJ has come. It will also be the meeting to see which new paths there are to be taken in the future.

Walter Turkenburg
Editor