

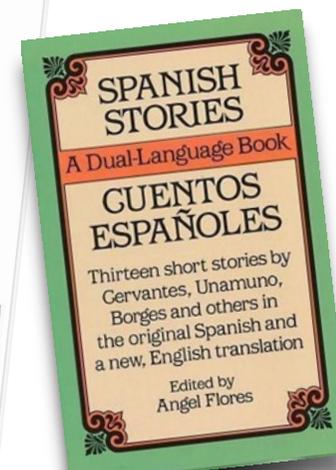
Weekly English Practice



9th April 2015

English Coaching Projects

weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com



CERVANTES' TOMB FOUND IN MADRID

Forensic scientists say they have found the tomb of Spain's much-loved giant of literature, Miguel de Cervantes, nearly 400 years after his death

coffin: a wooden box for containing a dead body

remains: parts of a person or thing found after a long time

wounds: injuries

burial site: the place where a body was put into the ground

niches: narrow holes or spaces

disturbed: interfered with

source: a place information comes from

burial: the act of putting a body into the ground

work out: identify, clarify, manage to know

ransom: money demanded to free someone

dubbed: given the name

widely: in many places, over a large area

They believe they have found the bones of Cervantes, his wife and others recorded as buried with him in Madrid's Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians. Separating and identifying his badly damaged bones from the other fragments will be difficult, researchers say. The Don Quixote author was buried in 1616 but his **coffin** was later lost.

When the convent was rebuilt late in the 17th Century, his **remains** were moved into the new building and it has taken

centuries to rediscover the tomb of the man known as Spain's "Prince of Letters".

"His end was that of a poor man. A war veteran with his battle **wounds**," said Pedro Corral, head of art, sport and tourism at Madrid city council.

The team of 30 researchers used infrared cameras, 3D scanners and ground-penetrating radar to pinpoint the **burial site**, in a forgotten crypt beneath the building.

Inside one of 33 **niches** found against the far wall, archaeologists discovered a number of adult bones matching a group of people with whom Cervantes had been buried, before their tombs were **disturbed** and moved into the crypt.

"The remains are in a bad state of conservation and do not allow us to do an individual identification of Miguel de Cervantes," said forensic scientist Almudena Garcia Rubio.

"But we are sure that what the historical **sources** say is the **burial** of Miguel de Cervantes and the other people buried with him is what we have found." Further analysis may allow the team to separate the bones of Cervantes from those of the others if they can use DNA analysis to **work out** which bones do not belong to the author. Investigator Luis Avial told a news conference on Tuesday that Cervantes would be reburied "with full honours" in the same convent after a new tomb had been built, according to his wishes.

"Cervantes asked to be buried there and there he should stay," said Luis Avial, geo-radar expert on the search team.

The convent's religious order helped pay for his **ransom** after he was captured by pirates and held prisoner for five years in Algiers.

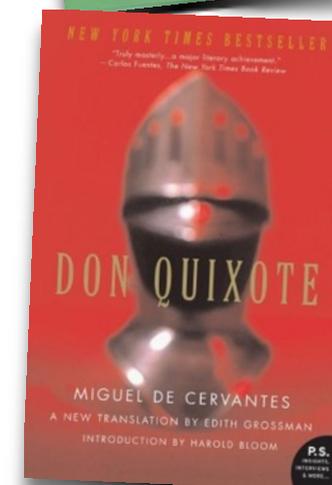
The crypt will be opened to the public next year for the first time in centuries to coincide with the 400th anniversary of Cervantes' death.

Mr Corral told the BBC that the project had not just been about finding the bones of the author but of honouring his memory and encouraging people to learn more about him.

Many people may be rediscovering Cervantes because of the search, he said.

Born near Madrid in 1547, Cervantes has been **dubbed** the father of the modern novel for The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha, published in two parts in 1605 and 1615.

The book is thought to be one of the most **widely** read and translated books in the world.



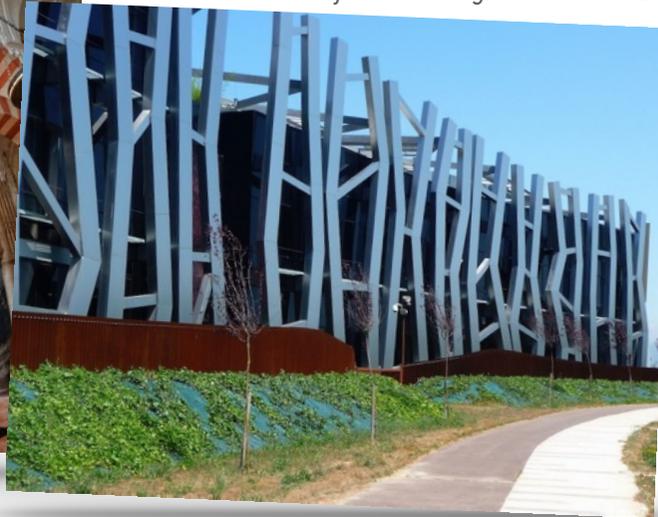
This story was adapted from:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31852032>



“iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express yourself better!



Cathedral-Mosque in Córdoba



Caja Vital building in Vitoria-Gasteiz

“Something to chat about” (See the article on page 1)

- Have you read anything by Cervantes? If so, what did you think of it? (If not, would you like to?)
- How do you feel about his tomb being discovered?
- Have you ever thought about becoming a writer?
- When was the last time you wrote a story? (What was it about?)
- Why do you think Cervantes is so admired?
- Do you think burial sites should be disturbed or left alone? Why (not)?
- How are forensic scientists able to identify the remains of bodies?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of working as an archaeologist?

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Look at these two photos.

Describe each building. Do you know what they are? Do you like them?

Compare them. **When** were they built? **How** are they used? Have they been used differently over time?

Imagine them in 200 years time. Do you think they will still be there? Will they still be used in the same way?

OLD or *New*?
Which is better?

OLD or *New*?
Which is better?

THANKS TO EVERYONE
WHO CAME TO OUR
PINTXO POTE
NIGHT IN MARCH!



We had a great evening practicing English while drinking and eating in a few bars around the Artium. We hope to repeat the experience soon! See you there :-)

Choose 3 authors from this list of Spanish novelists and talk about them and their novels. **Think about the times they lived in, what jobs they had and what influenced their writings.** What novels have you read and what did you think about them?

CARLOS RUIZ ZAFON

CAMILO JOSÉ CELA

IGNACIO ALDEGOA

JUAN RAMÓN JIMÉNEZ

ARTURO PEREZ-REVERTE

GABRIEL GARCÍA MARQUEZ