Alqueria and the Arts

The income from the export of Remitroot, in all its forms provides the bulk of the finance which keeps Alqueria ticking over. More or less everyone takes part in the production, sales and shipping. Some are involved in more imaginative ways such as Pepe Lopéz better known as El Hígado de Cuero who is a self appointed taster for Remitroot Whisky and wine. Now and again the Village coffers demand more cash and a creative approach to Village finances is called for. One method of bringing in cash was simply to do more work but this was rejected out of hand.

The solution arrived at by the Government of Alqueria was to approach the International Arts Council for a huge grant. Accorded to the application, Alqueria is a hotbed of culture with aspiring writers, painters and sculptors waiting for nothing more than hard cash to realise their full potential. In fact the only talent in the Village is the talent for total inertia. But the application had all the correct boxes ticked and the cheque duly arrived, it was cashed and spent in the same afternoon.

The International Arts Council, very unreasonably in the eyes of the Alquerian Government sent a delegation of five 'experts' to the Village to see how their money was being spent. This could have been a bit of a problem for those who completed the application but being experts in this sort of deception an exhibition was duly organised to showcase the very best of Alquerian art.

Held, as most events are in Alqueria in the bar of the La Casa Devante the exhibition was advertised as the greatest artistic event of the century. It was thought that the hype might muddy the waters as far as quality is concerned and hopefully cloud the judgement of the visiting critics. The three 'exhibits' were a literary piece, a sculpture in granite and a water colour. The literary piece was plagiarised from a work by Ivan Bogeroff, a little known Siberian Haiku Poet. The work was translated from the original Siberian Turkic into Alquerian Spanish by Nester Clacketo who has no knowledge of the former language. The sculpture resembled the corner stone of the

Bar La Golondrina Verde, which coincidently went missing just before the exhibition opened. The water colour looked like the bottom of an aviary, which it was.

The Arts Council weren't fooled and asked for their money back. What offended them the most was the claim that the literary work and the sculpture could be likened to the works of Hemingway and Henry Moore. But as the organisers pointed out, Henry Moore was lousy writer and Hemingway couldn't sculpt to save his life.