# Don Sageo

The title of 'Don' was given to Sageo by the Hill People in recognition of his education. He is the only Hill Person who can read to an adult level. He studied in London and graduated from the Busy Bee Day Nursery at the age of 21. On his return to Spain, he was head-hunted by the Oso Panda Playgroup in Almería. The learned man lives in a small property off the Calle Mirador. He lives quietly surrounded by his books, some even have words as well as pictures.

Don Sageo is a haunted man. His research into the Moorish roots of the village suggest that Abdul-el-Rufbum VI, the last Moorish ruler of the Sierra Alhamilla was buried in the area. According to Arabic scripts Abdul-el-Rufbum was interred below the foulest village in the Kingdom. Alqueria was once a hill town before being rebuilt in the valley below and it certainly qualifies as the foulest. This would put his last resting place in the confines of the village. The thought of discovering the whereabouts of the Emir's grave and of the entombed riches occupy his waking hours. At night however he dreams of being swept through the cosmos on a purple wildebeest while whistling the Happy Wanderer. His sanity is also in question.

The Don is now never seen without an old U.S. Army folding shovel which he keeps attached to his belt. For no apparent reason he will fall to his knees unfold the tool and start digging. Small holes have appeared all over Alqueria. He has been responsible for two sprained ankles, a dislocated hip and Delores del Viento's long coated Chihuahua disappeared without trace. The final straw came when he dug a hole through the floor of the church. The priest promptly disappeared through it and the congregation fell to their knees believing it to be divine intervention. The priest's private life was minutely studied to find the reason he descended rather than ascended. The latter being the Christian norm.

Don Sageo's shovel was banned from the village. He wandered through the old holiday camp to the east of the Río Verde digging small holes like an itinerant mole. It was on one such expedition when his persistence was rewarded.

Several Solidi came to light, shining in the moonlight. The more he dug the more coins he unearthed. Soon golden dishes, plates and pottery sherds appeared. Human remains of some antiquity followed. Finally a golden tube contained in an ornate inlaid silver box surfaced. The tube contained a parchment scroll which was sent to the *Universidad de Almería* for translation.

The parchment script was to have far reaching effects on Alqueria and its people.