

ON THE PATH OF A POET

THE COLERIDGE WAY

Inmerso en el bello y verde paisaje de Somerset está *Coleridge Way*, una ruta que permite seguir, a pie o en bicicleta, los pasos de este gran poeta romántico inglés.

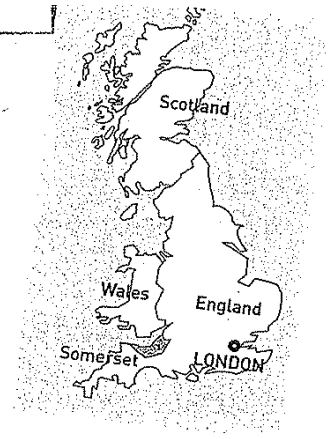
The Coleridge Way in Somerset gives visitors the chance to follow in the footsteps¹ of one of England's greatest poets: Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The footpath² takes walkers 60 kilome-

tres across the magnificent countryside that inspired the poet's greatest work.

THE RURAL LIFE

Coleridge came to Somerset in 1797 with his wife and newborn³ son. He

wanted to live a simple life, grow⁴ food⁵ for his family and write poetry. They lived in the village of Nether Stowey at the foot of the Quantock Hills. This cottage is now the starting point of the Coleridge Way, and the cottage itself is a museum dedicated to the poet. Coleridge loved walking through the countryside and the Coleridge Way, marked by special signs in the shape of a quill⁶, follows in his path.



WITH WORDSWORTH

In 1798, Wordsworth visited Coleridge. He decided to move to the nearby village of Alfoxton. This is the second village on the route⁷. Visitors can stay at the house Wordsworth rented⁸, which is now called the Alfoxton Park Hotel. Wordsworth and Coleridge wrote the first poems of their Lyrical Ballads here – poems that inspired the Romantic Movement in England. Coleridge's most famous contribution to the ballads, *The Rime of the*

GLOSSARY

- 1 TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS: seguir los pasos
- 2 FOOTPATH: sendero
- 3 NEWBORN: recién nacido
- 4 TO GROW: cultivar
- 5 FOOD: alimentos
- 6 QUILL: pluma de ave
- 7 ROUTE: recorrido
- 8 TO RENT: alquilar
- 9 UTOPIAN: utópico
- 10 TO FAIL: fallar
- 11 PAIN: dolor

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

Coleridge (right) was born in Ottery St Mary, Devon on October 21st 1772. He was the youngest son of the village vicar. After the death of his father, Coleridge went to London and studied at Christ's Hospital School. While studying at Cambridge University he met the radical poet Robert Southey. They planned to start a utopian⁹ community in the United States, but their plans failed¹⁰. Coleridge published his first collection, *Poems On Various Subjects*, in 1796. The following year he moved to Somerset, where he wrote *Lyrical Ballads* with William Wordsworth. They created a new poetic style which used everyday language and new ways of describing nature. They were interested in the philosopher Immanuel Kant and so went to Göttingen University, Germany in 1799. After 1808, Coleridge lived mostly in London. He was considered



the world's greatest expert on Shakespeare. In later life, he suffered from rheumatic pains¹¹ and was addicted to opium. He was a legend among the Romantics, but never left his house. He died in Highgate in 1834.