

Many of the handball games in Europe are considered as part of the culture of their country. In a previous Yearbook we published the Song of Fives from the English game and Ritchie Kavanagh, the folk singer, recorded 'The Handball Song' a few years ago. In this tradition, the Basques commission a poem for their Tournaments and for the World Pelota Games in San Francisco this year the following was composed (it rhymes better in Basque):

In 2007 we live happily here in America  
Handball with its common bond  
Has unified our seven provinces  
Basques you are the first  
To spread our game of handball

Our people dispersed throughout the world,  
Realise how much we owe you  
In Mexico and United States  
Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile  
Argentina and those absent

Handball has made us brothers  
Children of the Basques have come here  
Are strengthened by the game  
Leaving our blood so far away

God, we are indebted to you  
For this handball court around us  
It gives us identity and hope  
It is our hope and our church

Handball is how we find the way  
To make us known throughout the world  
Our identity continues to grow strong  
Long may our people play it

Handball is as sacred as prayer  
The court is silent as a church  
What is this call from God?  
It has arrived as a voice from afar

This message is for our people  
Handball is part of us  
Be faithful to the beloved pelota  
It will help us be what we are.