July 11

On the way back I stopped at Ribas de Campos, where the remains of a beautiful and impressive Romanesque church, Santa Eufemia de Cozuelos, are preserved. The church was dedicated in 1173 and is a perfect example of a Romanesque church with a polygonal plan and a large nave with a semicircular apse. The church was built by the same workshop as that at Rebolledo de la Torre, and the sculptures are similar, with the same attention to detail and the same use of the same materials.

Above: View of Gama from the castle.

I was excited to discover engravings on some of the stones, which would have been used as building blocks for the church. The engravings are of animals, similar to those of Piasca and Rebolledo. I photographed the exterior sculpture of the church, which is in poor condition and partially restored. The rich sculptural decoration is executed in fine stone, and it was thrilling to have the opportunity to examine it closely.

July 10

Having heard that recent restoration work at Santa Maria de Piasca involved the removal of some of the sculptures, I was eager to visit the church and see the recently removed stones. It was thrilling to have the opportunity to examine it closely. The sculptures are of high quality, and the attention to detail is remarkable. The richly sculpted figures are of the apostles and putting the finishing touches to the carving of the tablecloth! An amazing and unusual example of a signed self portrait from the 12th century!

Above left: Santa Maria de Piasca. Above right: Detail of sculpture removed from cornice of apse

The church was completed by Juan de Piasca in 1186. The richly sculpted figures are of the apostles and putting the finishing touches to the carving of the tablecloth! An amazing and unusual example of a signed self portrait from the 12th century!

July 9

I had seen photos of the exterior of the church at Rebolledo de la Torre, which first inspired me to study this region. I was eager to visit the church and see it for myself. The church was dedicated in 1172, has sculpture clearly signed, and is an excellent example of a Romanesque church.

Above: Revilla de Santullan, detail of portal with apostles at the Last Supper and self portrait from the 12th century!

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July 8

I had the opportunity to visit and photograph the Sagrado Corazón de Jesús church in Montoto, which was dedicated in 1154. It was a beautiful evening and I followed a winding track between dramatic limestone cliffs and a rich variety of wildflowers in the churchyard.

Below: Las Henestrosas de las Quintanillas. He agreed to meet me and open the church there too, so I got to see both sets of inscriptions and animals, similar to those of Piasca and Rebolledo. I photographed the exterior sculpture of the church, which is in poor condition and partially restored. The rich sculptural decoration is executed in fine stone, and it was thrilling to have the opportunity to examine it closely.

July 7

I had breakfast outside in the early morning sunshine and then drove through beautiful scenery to Aguilar, which is nestled in a remote valley on the northern slope of the Cantabrian mountains. While only 25 miles as the crow flies, it is almost 50 miles by a tortuous road over the mountain pass of Piedrasluengas, and in a very different geological region, where the dark, coarse grained local stone is not suitable for carving. The stone used is a light, fine grained local stone from the same quarries as that used for the sculptures at Aguilar, probably carved of stone from the same quarries.

Above: Santa Eufemia de Cozuelos.

In the evening in a lively discussion while consuming plenty of cheese and wine, Juan offered to help me find the key to photograph there in the afternoon, and returned to Santa Eufemia de Cozuelos, where we all spent the evening.

Today I visited two churches within easy range (under 15 miles) of Aguilar. Having spent the evening in a lively discussion while consuming plenty of cheese and wine, Juan offered to help me find the key to photograph there in the afternoon, and returned to Santa Eufemia de Cozuelos, where we all spent the evening.

July 6

I had breakfast outside in the early morning sunshine and then drove through beautiful scenery to Aguilar, which is nestled in a remote valley on the northern slope of the Cantabrian mountains. While only 25 miles as the crow flies, it is almost 50 miles by a tortuous road over the mountain pass of Piedrasluengas, and in a very different geological region, where the dark, coarse grained local stone is not suitable for carving. The stone used is a light, fine grained local stone from the same quarries as that used for the sculptures at Aguilar, probably carved of stone from the same quarries.

Above: View of Gama from the castle.

At around 11:00, I turned off the main road and headed back to the village, where I was pleased to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture. I was excited to discover that there was a small museum of Romanesque sculpture.