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A visit to

The Romanesque Church
of Santa Maria de Cambre

Cambre (A Coruña, Galicia)

Pinocho's rhyming report

1

Pinocho is seated at his desk
Reading a scholarly research
On St. Mary de Cambre, a Church
Built in the style called Romanesque.

2

A Church whose stones and sculptures explain
The Christian progress of Christian Spain:
Stones and sculptures that taught the good Lord's Creed
To a populace that often couldn't read.

3

The Traba family, a local clan
Restless inquisitive and profound
Had St. Mary's romaneseque plan
Set in a former friary's hallowed ground.

4

Ninety-four are the capitals, but
All alike in size, finish and cut:
They show beasts wild and tame and leaves entwined
But pride of place is reserved for mankind.

5

There's a certain geometric scheme
In this capital's vegetal theme,
And the leaves have a distinctive trait
Being heavily chiseled, cold and straight.

6

Among the leaves a fair woman's face
Is looking down with a puzzling grimace.

7

The two zoomorphic capitals
In a span of the central nave
Along with the likeness of animals
Contain the head of a little knave.

8

Pinocho, the wooden puppet, has the cheek
De jugar escondite or hide and seek
Among the brutes gathered pell-mell
En el antiguo capitel.

9

A window arch shaped like a horseshoe
On the church facade that faces west
Is a detail of some interest
From the true art lover's point of view.

10

The Lamb of God and the Holy Rood
Stand for sacrifice and mansuetude
And are engraved on the main door to show
Jesus' triumph over the eternal foe

11

This monster stupid witless and wild
This cruel monster in all likelihood
Will break his fangs gnawing on a little child
As the cute little child is made of hard wood!

12

The baptismal font is medieval,
Not romanesque, and is coeval
With fonts similar and not rare
In Galicia, Burgos and elsewhere.

13

The Virgin Mary, delicate and fair,
Holds a Child Jesus with very long hair.
The Virgin has a motherly look
And her kid is holding a big book.

14

On the archivolt
There's a sorry sight
Two beasts out of breath
Fight with all their might
A fight to the death

15

A beardless angel with a halo
has permitted his hair to grow
And stands on the corbel holding a book
With an inexperienced callow look

16

This well-kept cup rimmed with a motif
Forming an elegant cloverleaf
And signs of the pristine green paint
Once contained the relics of some saint

17

Beneath the tympanum, on a frieze,
One of those Hispanic-Visigothic themes
Shows a long winding thick stalk full of racemes
With little birds pecking away at ease.

18

This capital adorned with leaves and grass
With such consummate artistry
Was designed with the rule and the compass
To overcome the rules of geometry.

18a

Daniel was falsely accused and then
Darius had him thrown into the lions' den
The beasts could have torn him to pieces but
God's angel came and kept their big mouths shut.

19

The Templars brought to this Spanish shrine
A hydria, a most revered hoard,
One of the hydriae where our Lord
Once had fresh water turned into good wine

20

This Holy Water stoup
One of three in a group
Positioned at the church door
Has had the plinth turned over

21

PETRUS EAN DEI MILES
The inscription, written in shorthand,
Remembers Petrus a dignitary
That lived and fought in the Holy Land
When he was in the holy military.

22

Pinocho is staring from the very core
Of the rose window over the main door.

23

An Ablution basin larger than tall,
Measuring about two meters across,
Is covered with small patches of moss
And once sat beyond the Church south wall.