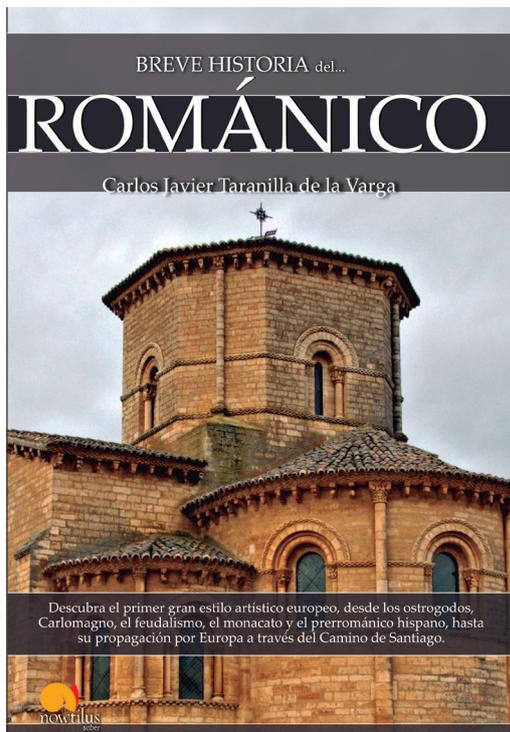


BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROMANESQUE

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Historical essay

Carlos Javier Taranilla de la Varga



Discover the first great European artistic style, from the Ostrogoths, Charlemagne, feudalism, monasticism and the Hispanic pre-Romanesque, up to its spread through Europe thanks to the Camino de Santiago. Enter the hidden world of the semicircular arch and the barrel vault, the symbolism of the images which are protagonists of a Christian style that unified all the Western art for several centuries.

Synopsis

Learn about the Romanesque art, the first pre-eminently Christian artistic style in which Roman, Germanic, Byzantine, Visigoth and Mozarabic art were grouped. Thanks to Brief History of the Romanesque, the reader will get to know the development of society, art and culture throughout the Middle Ages, a time controlled by superstition and terror about the end of the world, up until the year 1000. From the 11th century onwards there was a constructive fever that filled the west of Europe with temples and monasteries, coinciding with the phenomenon of pilgrimages and the beginning of the Crusades.

Discover from the hand of Carlos Javier Taranilla, its author, the symbolic world of the Romanesque iconography, religious and profane, as well as the development of science and culture and the first rise of urban and commercial life. All this written with an educational and entertaining style, plenty of rigor.

Biography

Carlos Javier Taranilla de la Varga, who was born in León, has a Masters Degree in Geography and History with a specialisation in Art History, from the University of Oviedo.

He got to meet the publishing world, where he has worked for quite some time, and for the last nearly thirty years has also worked as a secondary school teacher. He combines teaching with the writing of history and art books, with an entertaining and informative style, always including unpublished contents. As a consequence of this his works have good acceptance.

In addition to this work, he has also published a monograph on the Civil War:

The day on which Franco crossed the Manzanares (15 November 1936); a *Universal Dictionary of Art*; *The Paso Honroso of Don Suero of Quiñones* (adapted and annotated ed.); an essay about *Relics and their Reliquaries from Leon* as well as a *Brief History of Art* in this same collection.

He has presented his works in the main television and radio national media, as the TVE 2 through the programme *La aventura del saber*, Radio RNE 5 *Entre paréntesis*, *Kilómetros de radio*, *Ellas pueden*, Radio 1 RNE *La estación Azul*, the national press (e.g ABC), all local media and various magazines and specialized blogs.



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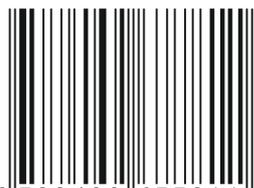
-With this Brief History the reader will learn about the Romanesque art and its origins as well as the historical, religious, and social events of its time: monasticism, feudalism, pilgrimages and the splendour of the Camino de Santiago, the onset of the Crusades, the cultural revival of the Empire of Charlemagne, etc.

-This Brief History also includes the first Christian artistic style, the Roman, Germanic, Byzantine, Gothic and the Moorish art in its many manifestations: architecture, sculpture, painting, ivory statue, metalwork, miniatures, enamels, fabrics... A work which will give the reader a fuller view of the Romanesque.

-The work contains a description of the routes of St. James (the French way, the routes of the North, the Via de la Plata), which were the main axis of communication during the middle ages. It finishes with a glossary that allows the reader the clarification of artistic concepts.

-This Brief History includes an annex dedicated to the Romanesque iconography (semicircular arch, half-barrel dome, etc.), in their religious and profane aspects, which served to convey the belief in an unreal world dominated by superstition and symbolism, as well as plans of different buildings and their floors.

-Carlos Javier Taranilla de la Varga is an author with a great knowledge of art. He has published in this same collection a generic monograph (*Brief History of Art*) and he has worked for more than three decades as a Professor of this discipline. He combines his teaching with the publication of books of History and Art (more than five).



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