

The discipline of Toichology

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We need a term for the archaeology of standing stone structures. I have introduced the word "Toichology" to describe this work.

Analysis of above-ground structures has been called Archaeology, but the methods of the archaeologist have advanced to such a high degree in the layer by layer examination of below-ground evidence where the previous layer is removed and destroyed in uncovering the next, that a separate term is needed. In an existing building we cannot pull out walls or remove one part to get at another. The approach is different, and relies heavily on understanding building procedures and techniques.

A word was needed to encompass the techniques I set out in the Appendix of *The Template-makers of the Paris Basin*. My brother-in-law, Maurice Kelly, professor of Classics and Ancient History at Armidale University, suggested the word 'Toichology' from the Greek *toichos*, a standing wall.

Toichology is as exacting as archaeology, and the evidence is capable of being verified as in any observation-based discipline, such as geology, with which there are many methodological similarities. It is NOT, as Russell claimed, "nothing more nor less than connoisseurship dressed up in pseudo-scientific clothing". Connoisseurship is to do with style. Toichology, which is to do with the analysis of blocks of masonry, their sizes, the templates issued to determine their shapes and the location of the joints between them, has nothing whatsoever to do with style.

The major skill required (besides understanding the process and procedures of building), is an impeccable care in observation. Anyone who intends to deal with masonry and the masons who erected it has to understand the trade as well as the style.

Without understanding the church in three dimensions and being able, either on paper or in the mind, to visualize the building evolving in space and time, it is extremely difficult to comprehend the process of architectural construction. It would be useful if courses in stone-reading was included in the training of all architectural historians.

The articles on this site illustrate a range of information that can be gained from this technique, and in

Among the growing literature on this subject, in contrast to those that concentrate on style, I suggest, among many others:

Edson Armi, *Masons and sculptors in Romanesque Burgundy*, Philadelphia, 1983.

John Bilson, "Durham cathedral: the chronology of its vaults", *AJ*, lxxxix 1922, 101-160.

Caroline Bruzelius, "The construction of Notre-Dame in Paris", *AB*, lxxix 1987, 540-569.

Martin Davies, "The archaeology of standing structures", *The Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology*, v 1987, 54-64.

Stephen Gardner, "Two campaigns in Suger's western block at St.-Denis", *AB*, lxxvi 1984, 574-587.

John James, *The Template-makers of the Paris Basin*, Leura, 1989, especially the appendix on Cerseuil.

John James, *The contractors of Chartres*, Wyong, ii vols. 1979-81.

Dieter Kimpel, "La développement de la taille en série dans l'architecture médiévale et son rôle dans l'histoire économique", *BM*, cxxxv 1977, 195-222.

Stephen Murray, "The choir of the church of St.-Pierre, cathedral of Beauvais", *JSAH*, lxxii 1980, 533-551.

Stephen Murray, "The completion of the nave of Troyes cathedral", *JSAH*, xxxiv 1975, 121-139.