

Abbot Suger And Saint Denis

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suger abbot of the french abbey of saint denis lived from 1081 to 1151 this book of essays about his life and achievements grew out of a symposium sponsored by the international center of medieval art and by columbia university for the symposium twenty three medieval scholars from all parts of the world representing a wide range of humanistic disciplines were brought together to discuss the varied nature of suger s activities suger has been best known for his contributions as a patron of art and architecture as the essays in this volume devoted to suger s political activities and historical writings demonstrate he was in addition to being a brilliantly innovative patron of architecture an important architect of the french state only by bringing together differing

humanistic perspectives on suger and saint denis has it been possible to achieve for the first time a fully rounded appreciation of a man who was at the same time a patron of the arts and literature a politician who adroitly used his ecclesiastical position to enhance the growth and power of the monarchy and a churchman consistently devoted to the promotion of the cult of saint denis the patron saint of his abbey and of france from publisher s description

based on a fresh reading of primary sources lindy grant s comprehensive biography of abbot suger 1081 1151 provides a reassessment of a key figure of the twelfth century active in secular and religious affairs alike suger was regent of france and also abbot of one of the most important abbeys in europe during the time of the gregorian reforms but he is primarily remembered as a great artistic patron whose commissions included buildings in the new gothic style lindy grant reviews him in all these roles and offers a corrective to the current tendency to exaggerate his role as architect of both french royal power and the new gothic form

translated with introduction and notes by richard cusimano and eric whitmore suger the twelfth century abbot of saint denis has not received the respect and attention that he deserves bernard of clairvaux and peter the venerable have garnered more attention and students of medieval history know their names well in one respect however suger has earned due praise for his architectural innovations to the church of saint denis made it truly one of the most beautiful churches in europe students of history and architecture know suger best for his work on saint denis the burial site of medieval french kings queens and nobility the abbot enlarged decorated improved and redesigned the building so beautifully that it is safe to say that he became the foremost church architect of twelfth century france the man however was so much more than an architect he served as a counselor and member of the courts of king louis vi and vii who sent him across europe on diplomatic missions he represented those kings at the papal curia and imperial diets he was also a close friends and confidante of king henry i of england whom he often visited on behalf of french royal interests never shy suger seems almost obsessed that his works and deeds not be forgotten he acquired numerous properties and estates for his abbey as well as improved the ones it already possessed he built new buildings barns walls for villages and increased the return of grain from all the abbey s lands readers interested in the medieval agricultural system and way of life will also enjoy these texts suger s texts also provide a wealth of information about the events of his era as well as a large amount of biographical material on his accomplishments this translation of his writings intends to enhance his reputation and make his name better known by students at all levels and among those interested in medieval topics

this volume offers unparalleled coverage of all aspects of art and architecture from medieval western europe from the 6th century to the early 16th century drawing upon the expansive scholarship in the celebrated grove dictionary of art and adding hundreds of new entries it offers students researchers and the general public a reliable up to date and convenient resource covering this field of major importance in the development of western history and international art and architecture

this revised edition incorporates the additions and corrections recorded by erwin panofsky until the time of his death in 1968 gerda panofsky soergel has updated the commentary in the light of new material and the bibliography that she has prepared reflects the scholarship on st denis in the last three decades she has obtained some additional and more recent photographs and the illustrations include a new ground plan and a new section of the chevet of the abbey church both drawn under the supervision of sumner mcknight crosby

paris the powers that shaped the medieval city considers the various forces royal monastic and secular that shaped the art architecture and topography of paris between c 1100 and c 1500 a period in which paris became one of the foremost metropolises in the west the individual contributions written by an international group of scholars cover the subject from many different angles they encompass wide ranging case studies that address architecture manuscript illumination and stained glass as well as questions of liturgy religion and social life topics include the early medieval churches that preceded the current cathedral church of notre dame and cultural production in the paris area in the late 12th and early 13th centuries as well as paris s chapels and bridges there is new evidence for the source of the c 1240 design for a celebrated window in the sainte chapelle an evaluation of the liturgical arrangements in the new shrine choir of saint denis built 1140 44 and a valuable assessment of the properties held by the cistercian order in paris in the middle ages also the book investigates the relationships between manuscript illuminators in the 14th century and representations of paris in manuscripts and other media up to the late 15th century paris the powers that shaped the medieval city updates and enlarges our knowledge of this key city in the middle ages

the touchstones of gothic monumental art in france the abbey church of saint denis and the cathedrals of chartres reims and bourges form the core of this collection the essays reflect the impact of anne prache s career as a scholar of wide ranging interests and as a builder of bridges between french and american academic communities the authors include scholars in france and the united states both academics and museum professionals while the book s thematic matrix divided into architecture stained glass and sculpture reflects the multiple media explored by prache during her career

capturing the drama of the council depicting the colorful characters involved and their clashes with one another this book also offers a new set of interpretive categories for understanding the council s dynamics categories that move beyond the tired progressive and conservative labels

developments in medieval science that elevated sight above the other senses found religious expression in the christian emphasis on miracles relics and elaborate structures in his incisive survey of gothic art and architecture roland recht argues that this preoccupation with vision as a key to religious knowledge profoundly affected a broad range of late medieval works in addition to the great cathedrals of france recht explores key religious buildings throughout europe to reveal how their grand designs supported this profusion of images that made visible the signs of scripture metalworkers for example fashioned intricate monstrances and reliquaries for the presentation of sacred articles and technical advances in stained glass production allowed for more expressive

renderings of holy objects sculptors meanwhile created increasingly naturalistic works and painters used multihued palettes to enhance their subjects lifelike qualities reimagining these works as a link between devotional practices in the late middle ages and contemporaneous theories that deemed vision the basis of empirical truth recht provides students and scholars with a new and powerful lens through which to view gothic art and architecture

professor lillich has studied medieval stained glass the major painting medium of the gothic era for forty years the articles in this volume discuss the development of stained glass in france from many perspectives such as the glaziers who produced it specific glazing techniques and formats of design evidence of the use of cartoons types and uses of grisaille and its stylistic development regional traditions in style iconography and hagiography as well as patrons and patronage often with a particular focus on specifically monastic characteristics requirements and achievements also considered are displaced panels those dispersed to museums as well as spolia reused in later glazing campaigns and the reasons for such recycling of particular interest is the development of stained glass in the late capetian period from the aftermath of the high gothic ensembles of chartres and bourges until the introduction of the revolutionizing technique of silver stain in the early fourteenth century areas of special importance are those that developed in parallel to the royal style associated with the ile de france the western french regions of normandy and aquitaine as well as to the east lorraine at the francophone border and the county of champagne

text and the accompanying illustrations offer an overview of medieval art and life

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