

European
Thank you note
Oct. 6/55

180 E. State Street
Athens Ohio —
Thurs. Sept. 29-1955

Dear Gerda:

The dissertation goes to New York this coming week to be read. I hope that I will be finished in the Spring or next Fall — The title is — "The Church Architecture of Roussillon during the Romanesque Period."

I am enclosing a post card of the facade of the Cathedral in Perpignan — It is the only copy I have — would you return it when you are finished with it. I believe if you make an enlargement from it you can get some of the detail of the stonework.

The Cathedral has nothing to do with my dissertation as it is Gothic. The cathedral was left unfinished and the cobblestone facade is at the earliest XV century. I have found the use of stream boulders and cobble stones set in thick mortar used as early as the X century in Roussillon — (Dept. Pyrénées-Orientales) It is used consistently in the region to the present day. To be sure other methods are also employed as there is an abundance of good building stone. The use of cobble stones set in heavy mortar is a form of the old Roman — "opus spicatum" and the floor of the Roman bath at Arles-sur-Tech in Roussillon shows that it was used in this region.

over

I noticed in gathering material - that this technique of using field ~~holes~~ and cobblestones also appears in Burgundy in the late X or early XI century. See -

Virey, Jean - "Les églises romanes de l'ancien diocèse de Macon - Cluny et sa région."

Macon, Protat Frères, 1935.

The churches at Prayes near Macon mentioned in 940 (recently torn down 1908) and the church at Uchizy - where the entire structure seems to have been in "opus spicatum"

For the building techniques of Roussillon see the beginning of the article by Bontails -
Bontails, Jean A. "Notes sur l'art religieux du Roussillon" Bulletin archéologique du Comité des travaux historiques 1892-93

I hope this may be of some help -

Sincerely

Bill —

P.S. The reason for sending the card is that everything is in confusion in Photography at the moment - we are tiring at the seams - my big class jumped from ~~440~~ 460 to 610 - really crowded —