



Stone Vaults as Fire Protection?

The Case of Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire and the Fires of 1002 and 1026

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Abstract: The texts written at Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire (Fleury) teem with information on the construction undertakings of abbots Abbon (988-1004) and Gauzlin (1004-1030). After describing the devastating effects of the fires of 1002 and 1026, the authors inventory the building projects that followed, including a *gazofilatium*, or treasury. They all present the stone vaulting as the best protection against fire, but it is necessary to go beyond this prevailing belief to examine a more complex reality.

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