



The first history of construction?

A Mémoire by Jean Rondelet

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Author: Middleton (Robin)

Abstract: In 1799 the Institute of France set as an essay, the history of construction from the earliest times. Jean Rondelet won the prize, in July 1808, with a 90 page essay, yet unpublished, that would seem to be the first attempt to write a history of construction. He investigated timber construction, stone building techniques, then building with bricks, sun-dried and kiln-dried, from Babylon onwards, through to the churches of Constantinople and Ravenna.

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