Finding aid for the Frances Terpak photographs of Romanesque architecture and sculpture in southern France and northern Spain, 1977-1989, undated

Finding aid prepared by Ann Harrison
Descriptive Summary

Title: Frances Terpak photographs of Romanesque architecture and sculpture in southern France and northern Spain

Date (inclusive): 1977-1989, undated

Number: 2010.P.1

Creator/Collector: Terpak, Frances, 1948-

Physical Description: 7.9 linear feet (18 boxes)

Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: Photographs and related research material documenting Romanesque sculpture and architecture in southern France and northern Spain comprise this collection. Frances Terpak photographed the majority of the images and compiled the other materials in the course of research for her dissertation, "The Romanesque Architecture and Sculpture of Saint Caprais in Agen" (Yale University, 1982), and for subsequent scholarly articles. Over 150 rolls of 35mm negatives shot by Terpak and over 2000 images printed from these negatives form the bulk of the collection. Also included are a small number of photographs acquired from institutional and commercial sources, including Bildarchiv Foto Marburg, Guntram Koch, Photo Zodiaque and Archivo Moreno. Related research materials, such as notes, keyed architectural plans, and shot lists, complement the photographs.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in English.

Biographical/Historical Note

Frances Terpak studied art history at the Pennsylvania State University (BA 1970, MA 1972). A student of Jan van der Meulen, she wrote her master's thesis on the iconography of the Incarnation portal on the west facade of Chartres Cathedral. Terpak continued her study of medieval art at Yale University, completing her dissertation, "The Romanesque Architecture and Sculpture of Saint Caprais in Agen," in 1982. During this period of her studies, Terpak also proved to be an extremely skilled photographer. Following in the scholar-photographer role of her mentor Meulen, Terpak understood precisely what an art historian needed to see in a documentary study photograph - the framing, shot angle, focus, depth of field and lighting - and unlike most art historians, she had the photographic skill to actually capture that image. After completing her degree, Terpak pursued this intersection of photography and the study of art history. In 1983, she joined the staff of the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities (now the Getty Research Institute), which was building one of the largest photographic archives for research in the fine arts in the United States. Terpak was brought in to oversee the expansion of its holdings into medieval art and architecture, and under her guidance this section grew to over a quarter million photographic prints. At the same time, she continued to publish and lecture on French Romanesque sculpture. Terpak is currently curator of photographs at the Getty Research Institute.

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Frances Terpak photographs of Romanesque architecture and sculpture in southern France and northern Spain, 1977-1989, undated, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 2010.P.1

Acquisition Information


Processing History

The collection was rehoused by the Registrar's office upon receipt. In 2015 Ann Harrison further processed the collection and created the finding aid.

Scope and Content of Collection
Photographs and related research material documenting Romanesque sculpture and architecture in southern France and northern Spain comprise this collection. Frances Terpak photographed the majority of the images and compiled the other materials in the course of research for her dissertation, "The Romanesque Architecture and Sculpture of Saint Caprais in Agen" (Yale University, 1982), and for subsequent scholarly articles. Over 150 rolls of 35mm negatives shot by Terpak and over 2000 images printed from these negatives form the bulk of the collection. Also included are a small number of photographs acquired from institutional and commercial sources, including Bildarchiv Foto Marburg, Guntram Koch, Photo Zodiaque and Archivo Moreno. Related research materials, such as notes, keyed architectural plans, and shot lists, complement the photographs.

The importance of this collection lies in the choice of sites documented. While some major monuments such as the cloister at Moissac are represented, the majority of the images depict Romanesque sites that are not well-known or published. Even for famous sites, however, this collection includes aspects of monuments that are not otherwise well-published, such as all the sculptural surfaces of the altar table at Saint Sernin, Toulouse. Many of the images are also keyed to plans of the structure locating the capital or other sculptural detail.

The bulk of the photographic prints in the collection are black-and-white in a 5 x 7 inch format and were printed from negatives made by Terpak. These prints, however, represent only a portion of Terpak's photographic documentation. French sites represented in the negatives, but not in the prints include: Angoulême, Arces-sur-Gironde, Beurlay, Blasimon, Bouglon-Vieux, Bouloc, Cahors, Cambes, Cessac, Colombiers, Doulezon, Espalion, Gourvillette, Goutz, Guîtres, Hautefage, Lacour, Lavaur, Lavergne, Le Dorat, Limoges, Listrac, Macqueville, Marcilhac, Marcoux, Monsempron-Libos, Montbron, Mouldars, Mourens, Oradour-Fanais, Pérignac, Pujols, Romestaing, Saint-André-de-Cubzac, Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire, Saint-Émilion, Saint-Jean-de Côle, Saint-Lizier, Saint-Martin-Curton, Saint-Martin-de-Beauville, Sainte-Colombe-en-Bruilhais, Sainte-Radegonde, Salabes, Sauveterre, Tarbes, and Villemartin. For Spain, negatives for the following sites are not printed: Frómista, Pineda de la Sierra, Rebolledo de la Torre, Santillana del Mar, Santa Cruz de la Séros, Silos, Colombres, the Archaeological Museum in Madrid and the Clatlan Museum in Barcelona.

Terpak photographed the majority of the sites in France in 1977 and 1978. The photographs of sites in Spain were taken in 1988, with the exception of the site of Loarre, which was shot in 1977.

### Arrangement
Arranged by type of material.

### Subjects - Topics
- Architecture, Medieval
- Architecture, Romanesque--France
- Architecture, Romanesque--Spain
- Sculpture, Medieval
- Sculpture, Romanesque--France
- Sculpture, Romanesque--Spain

### Genres and Forms of Material
- Gelatin silver prints--20th century
- Negatives (photographic)--20th century

### Photographic documentation of Romanesque architecture and sculpture, 1977-1989, undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prints</th>
<th>Sites in France</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1-4</td>
<td>Cathédrale de Saint-Caprais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 14, Folder 2</td>
<td>Standard black-and-white photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 14, Folder 1</td>
<td>Oversize black-and-white photograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 2</td>
<td>Key to sculpted elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 1-4</td>
<td>Color photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 5-6</td>
<td>Chapter house</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 1</td>
<td>Musée des Beaux-Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 2-3</td>
<td>Église Sainte-Foy and Église Notre-Dame du Bourg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aix-en-Provence, Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photographic documentation of Romanesque architecture and sculpture, 1977-1989, undated

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**Arles**

- Box 7, Folder 1-5  
  Eglise Saint-Trophime
- Box 7, Folder 6  
  Musee d'Arles antique

Scope and Content Note

Photographs by Guntram Koch; includes correspondence.

**Bordeaux**

- Box 6, Folder 4  
  Arnac Pompadour, Eglise Saint-Pierre et Saint-Pardoux
- Box 11, Folder 2  
  Aulnay, Eglise Saint-Pierre

**Sites in Spain**

- Box 10, Folder 9  
  Asturias, Iglesia de San Salvador de Valdediós
- Box 10, Folder 7  
  Jaca, Catedral de San Pedro Apóstol
- Box 10, Folder 1-5  
  Loarre, Castillo
- Box 10, Folder 8  
  Piasca, Iglesia de Santa María

Scope and Content Note

Includes correspondence.

**Santiago de Compostela**

- Box 10, Folder 6  
  Unidentified sites

Scope and Content Note

Negatives

**Notes and miscellaneous research materials, 1979-1988, undated**

- Box 11, Folder 8  
  Notebook, 1979-1980

Scope and Content Note

Includes shot lists and notes on sites.

**Groundplans, undated**

- Box 11, Folder 9-10  
  Index cards, undated
- Box 11, Folder 11  
  Miscellaneous notes and photocopies, undated
- Box 11, Folder 7  
  Photographs of manuscript illumination, sculpture and stained glass, undated

Images for publications, 1982-1988

- Box 12, Folder 1-3  
  "The Romanesque Architecture and Sculpture of Saint Caprais in Agen," 1982

Scope and Content Note

Incomplete set.

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