

# Basic Detail Report

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## Title

Double Capitals from Saint-Pons-de-Thomières; Scenes from the Life of Saint Pons: Proconsul ordering beheading of St. Pons / Beheading of St. Pons / Witnesses

## Date

mid-12th and early 13th century

## Dimensions

Plinth to keystone: 112 5/8 in. (286.1 cm); Plinth to spring of arch: 88 in. (223.5 cm); Between columns (on centers): 63 1/4 in. (160.7 cm)

## Medium

marble

## Classifications

Architectural Elements

## Credit Line

Purchased with funds from the Libbey Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey

## Object number

1929.207

## Published References

Sahuc, J., *L'Art Roman à Saint-Pons-de-Thomières*, Montpellier, 1908, pp. 70-76, 81, 83f., pls. F-H, K, L. (dates late 11th to late 12th centuries).

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Godwin, Blake-More, "The Completes Museum Building," *The Toledo museum of Art Museum News*, no. 64, January 1933, p. 52 (illustration).

Godwin, Blake-more, "Report of the Director for 1932," *The Toledo Museum of Art Museum News*, no. 70, June 1933, p. 885 (mention only).

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Riefstahl, Rudolf M., "Medieval Art," *Toledo Museum News*, New Series, vol. 7, no. 1, Spring 1964, inside of front cover, repr. in color, front and back covers. (also published as *Medieval Art* (handbook)).

Weinberger, Ricki D., "The Cloister," *Toledo Museum of Art Museum News*, vol. 21, no. 3, 1979, pp. 62-67, repr. figs. 11-22.

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Effros, Bonnie, "Art of the 'Dark Ages': Showing Merovingian artefacts in North American Public and Private Collections," *Journal of the History of Collections*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2005, p. 89, fig. 2.

Toledo Museum of Art, *Toledo Treasures*, Toledo, 1995, p. 56 repr. (col.).

The Toledo Museum of Art, *Toledo Museum of Art Masterworks*, Toledo, 2009, p. 104-105, repr. (col.).

Reich, Paula, *Toledo Museum of Art: Map and Guide*, London, Scala, 2009, p. 14, repr. (col.).

Barat, Baldiri, "Abadía de Saint-Pons de Thomières," *Monasterios*, 2011, repr. (col.), [Link to resource](#)

Curran, Kathleen, *The Invention of the American Art Museum: From Craft to Kulturgeschichte, 1870-1930*, Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute, 2016, p. 221-222, repr. p. 222, fig. 118

### Comparative References

See also Breck, Joseph, "Thre Capitals from Saint-Pons," *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, vol. XVII, no. 5, May 1922, pp. 111-113 (dates late capitals early XIIIth century.). Cf. Porter, A. Kingsley, "Romanesque Capitals," *Fogg Art Museum Notes*, vol. 1, no. 2, June 1922, p. 30 et seq. (dates 11th and

12th centuries). Cf. idem, *Romanesque Sculpture of the Pilgrimage Roads*, Boston, 1923, vol. I, pp. 337-339, vol. VIII, pls. 1265-1274. (dates some capitals late 12th century, and some perhaps later). Cf. idem, "The Avignon Capital," *Fogg Art Museum Notes*, vol. 1, no. 3, January 1923, p. 10 et seq., (dates late 12th century). Cf. Durliat, Marcel, *LA Sculpture Romane en Roussillon*, Perpignan, (1948-1954), t. I, pp. 89-92, t. III, pp. 43-56. (dates some capitals late 11th century; bibliography). Cf. Mesple, "Les Chapiteaux du Cloître de Saint-Pons-de-Thomières," *Revue des Arts*, vol. 6, 1956, p. 111 et seq. (dates some capitals early 13th century; bibliography). Cf. Marcel Aubert, *Description Raisonnée des Sculptures...*, (Musée National du Louvre), Paris, 1950, vol. I, p. 31 f., no. 19 (dates Louvre capital to last third of 12th century, & outlines dating sequence for entire cloister).

## **Collections**

Sculpture

## **Label Text**

The capitals on the left depict scenes from the Old Testament and important episodes associated with the life of Saint Pontius (Pons in French), patron saint of the monastery of Saint-Pons-de-Thomières (TOM-ee-yair). Born in 3rd-century Rome, Pontius converted to Christianity at a time when several Roman emperors violently persecuted Christians. Pontius traveled as a missionary to the Roman province of Gallia Narbonensis (today part of southern France), where he established a church and set about converting local people to Christianity. The Roman governor of the Gauls, Claudius, had Pontius arrested and tortured in various ways for refusing to worship pagan idols and affirming his Christian faith. On one capital, we see Claudius raising his hand to order that Pontius be thrown to two bears. Instead of attacking, however, the bears lick his feet. Finally, the governor orders his beheading, as seen directly to the left. The devotional cult surrounding Saint Pontius included much of Catalonia (today in northeast Spain) and southern France, with Saint-Pons-de-Thomières serving as an important center of the cult.

## **Not On View**