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SUMMARIES

- Jean Luc BOUDARTCHOUK, Laurent BRUXELLES et Henri MOLET, *Strabo, the “sacred lakes” of the Tectosagi, and the “humid zones” of the Toulouse area* 15

This article examines the historiographic evidence for the “sacred lakes” of the Tectosagi of Toulouse, taking texts published from 1900 up until 2009. A “state of the art” presentation is then made of research concerning the “humid zones” of the area around Toulouse, which have been thought to be evidence of the reality of the famous “sacred lakes” referred to by Strabo. Returning then to the Greek text, and working from a very close translation, some lines of inquiry are proposed to consider what real information value the text may have, or rather that of the various texts gathered together by the geographer.

- Philippe GARDES, *The ancient town of Touget in the Gers (from the second century B.C. to the fifth century A.D.). An assessment of our knowledge in the light of recent research* 39

Many individual archaeological discoveries in the commune of Touget have been reported since the middle of the nineteenth century. A re-examination of the historical data and of the results of recent surveys has raised questions about the status of the site of the “Faubourg”, situated downhill from the present village. The archaeological survey carried out in 2004 revealed the existence in this area of the remains of several phases of occupation of the site from the second century B.C. up until the fifth century A.D., and stretching over an area of more than 10 hectares. It consists of an area of habitation situated in what is now known as “Le Prieuré” (the Priory), and of a pottery workshop of the late Iron Age in the area now known as “Le Clos”. These findings, along with that of a vast necropolis nearby, provide evidence of a hitherto unstudied ancient town.

- Henri MOLET, *The urban amphitheatre of ancient Toulouse rediscovered ? Some first indications* 79

The Roman amphitheatre of Purpan-Ancely has always troubled historians because of its location so far from the ancient city of Toulouse. The existence of another amphitheatre within the city remained as pure speculation without the slightest evidence. The author, basing himself on a study of the whole urban layout of the medieval town, looks carefully at an unusual structure in the centre of this area, a vast oval space immediately to the north of the Roman forum. Using topographic, historic and cadastral evidence, he shows that the layout of the roads and the buildings here date without doubt from ancient times. He then uses more specific data, both archaeological and from buildings, to draw some conclusions. At this provisional stage of research, he presents his hypothesis that in this area the roads and layout of buildings have preserved over the centuries the memory of a vast ancient structure which he identifies as an amphitheatre. Nothing is left of this on the surface but various lines of inquiry are open which should sooner or later provide material evidence of its existence.

- Vincent GENEVIÈVE, *Coins from Gallo-Roman settlements in the Martres-Tolosane plain. II. Coins from the sites of Chiragan, Bordier, Sana, Coulieu, Bantayré, Blancotte, Champs Besses-Lambry; and Tuc-de-Mourlan* 95

The first part of this study (in vol. LXVII) examined the four treasure hoards discovered at the end of the nineteenth century in the Martres-Tolosane plain, and this article now examines and analyses the coins found on the sites excavated in this area by L. Joulin and which are now held in the Musée Saint-Raymond of Toulouse. Seven sites on four different communes are concerned: Blancotte and Bantayré in Cazères - Saint-Cizy, the villa of Coulieu in Marignac-Laspeyres, the villa of Bousquet in Sana, the villa of Chiragan, the villa of Bordier and the Tuc-de-Mourlan in Martres-Tolosane. Of the 402 coins found during the excavations, 251 are now to be found in the coin collection of the Musée Saint-Raymond. The recent cleaning campaign of this collection allowed a full catalogue to be made. Among these coins one notes a real rarity, a previously unknown denarius of Diocletian minted in Lyons during the early years of the Diarchy.

Jean-Charles BALTY, <i>Chiragan and Montmaurin, "Imperial villas" ?</i>	141
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The identification of a group of statuary from the period of the Tetrarchy, comprising the figures of Maximian Hercules, his wife Eutropia, their son Maxentius and the latter's young wife Maximilla, relaunches the questions surrounding the famous villa of Chiragan, at Martres-Tolosane in the Haute-Garonne. The exceptional series of relief sculptures discovered there, depicting the Labours of Hercules and executed by a single team of sculptors, must be seen as relating to the emperor whose military exploits were compared to those of Hercules and whose coinage also alluded to this comparison.

Chiragan might well have also been the place to which the half brothers and sisters of Constantine were exiled, the children of Constantius Chlorus and Theodora : Diocletian had forced Constantius to repudiate Helena and marry Theodora, hence the vindictiveness of Helena towards these princes who took refuge in Toulouse. They probably did not live in Toulouse itself but in the surrounding area within its territories, and one could wonder whether they might not have spent this period in the villa of Chiragan, which housed this imposing artistic collection glorifying Maximian and his family. They were after all the grandchildren of Eutropia by their mother Theodora.

As for the villa of Montmaurin, outstanding again in its size and its richness, it is situated in the valley of the Save in an area which still today is called "Nébouzan", a name that has been said to derive from a certain Nepotius who could have been the owner of the villa, and from whom the name of "Nepotianum" was given to the villa and the surrounding area. But a more likely hypothesis is that this name derives from that of the forgotten Nepotianus, the husband of one of the sisters of the exiled princes, or their son of the same name, the future ephemeral emperor of the year 350. Surely it is their name which is still commemorated in this area.

Virginie CZERNIAK and Jean-Marc STOUFFS, <i>The Romanesque wall-paintings of the church of Notre-Dame in Vals. New interpretations in the light of the recent restoration campaign</i>	153
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The painted decoration of the choir of Notre-Dame de Vals, discovered in the 1950s, dates from the early twelfth century, and has recently benefited from an exemplary campaign of restoration, which has allowed a new interpretation of the paintings. These have unanimously been attributed, ever since they were first discovered, to the Catalan sphere of artistic production, and this has been confirmed, while the iconographic programme developed mainly on the choir vaults has been revealed to be of even greater interest, due notably to the identification of St Pantasaron among the archangels who accompany the vision of the Parousia. His presence is unique here, not found elsewhere, and these medieval wall-paintings of Vals, which also comprise rich imagery of Marian devotion, are thus revealed as among the most remarkable in the South of France.

Adeline BÉA, Olivier GIRARDCLOS, Christophe PERRAULT, Maurice SCHELLÈS et Sonia SERVANT, <i>Dendrochronology in the Midi-Pyrénées : an assessment of the programme of 2004 to 2008</i>	171
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The reference curves for oak that have been established for the Middle Ages and the Renaissance period in Quercy-Rouergue and in the northern part of the Montagne Noire area show a fairly high variability relating to the nature of the terrain and show marked differences from the data collected in regions to the north of the Massif Central.

Some datings of the buildings analysed in Cahors, Cordes and Sorèze have been confirmed, others have been called into question, while a notable absence of fourteenth and early fifteenth-century buildings has been found. Analyses of wood have been accompanied by detailed examinations of the sawn planks and of how they have been employed.

The project has resulted in the setting up of a public database for dendrochronology on the internet, in liaison with the databases of the Inventaire Général of the Midi-Pyrénées region.

Adeline BÉA, <i>The collegiate church of Saint-Etienne in Capestang (in the Hérault) : an ambitious building project of the first half of the fourteenth century</i>	207
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The elegant Gothic chevet of the collegiate church of Saint-Etienne in Capestang was the only part to be completed of the ambitious project of the first half of the fourteenth century. The style of its construction is original and brings in techniques originating in Northern France; no documents survive but light is thrown on its construction by studying the workshop of Narbonne Cathedral which was in full activity at this time. Work was suddenly interrupted in the middle of the fourteenth century and the building was not finished until much later, at a time of economic stringency which did not hesitate to join up by very basic methods the remains of the

Romanesque church and the early thirteenth-century porch. However, even in these difficult times, great attention was paid to the bell-tower, a superb addition to the collegiate church rising above it and 45 metres high.

Hiromi HARUNA-CZAPLICKI, *Illuminated manuscripts of Bernard de Castanet and Toulouse production around 1300* 227

During the last decade of the thirteenth century, Bernard de Castanet, then bishop of Albi, ordered a series of manuscripts, making a fine collection mostly relating to patristic and medieval Christian texts, of which 17 are now housed in four different libraries in France. An analysis of the book-hands and the decorated and pen-flourished initials of these manuscripts suggests Albi as the place of their production, while evidence of the participation of an illuminator working for the Dominican convent of Toulouse confirms their close connection to the manuscript illumination of the latter city, regional centre of study and book production whose importance was growing particularly at the beginning of the fourteenth century.

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The minutes of the meetings of the Society give an account of its various activities, recording in particular the discussions which followed the lectures presented, whether or not the latter are published in the *Mémoires*. Also included is information on archaeological digs, restorations in progress and various discoveries in Toulouse and the region, as well as the following summaries and notes: *Campanological research: the old bell of Auterive (continued)*; *The Château of Laréole*; *Theft of 91 pieces of gold and silverware from the Cathedral of St-Etienne in Toulouse*; *Architecture on paper, two designs signed by Bernard Nalot*; *Maximilien Théodore Chrétin and the empire of Tetricus: the story of a hoax*; *Bishop Saturnin and his entourage: disciples, companions and martyrs*; *Discovery of a fragment of a second copy of Etienne de Gan's chronicle*; *New elements concerning the page for 1452-53 of the manuscript annals of Toulouse*; *Bertrand Trille, a Toulousan master carpenter of the second half of the seventeenth century*; *Sale in New York of a group of stone sculptures said to originate from South-West France*; *The stonework of the old cloisters of Maubourguet in the Hautes Pyrénées*; *Two objects found during excavations at the former military hospital Larrey*; *Concerning the construction and the occupation of the probable royal palace of the Goths in Toulouse*; *a note on the dangers threatened by the project of high yield gravel works on the commune of Montmaurin*; *Ancient occupation of the site of Barricou in Beauzelle in the Haute-Garonne*; *Prayer, invocation and healing: cult practices relating to relics in the Middle Ages*.

Translated by Lisa Barber