

Saint-Loup-de-Naud

The choir and transepts, very simple in form and undecorated, may be the work of the 1070s and 80s. The capitals show that the nave was the work of the 1120s. This included the portal, the porch roof and the room over it. The coursing is unbroken between both levels of the nave and the portal and its room over. See Master Carvers Series #15 on Master Victoire (1108-1143) and the discussion therein on the integration of the portal with the rest of the architecture.

<http://www.creationofgothic.org/Articles/15-Victoire.pdf>

The nave aisle capitals have been of the utmost importance in establishing the date for the portal and confirming the chronology. As the nave and portal were built together the capitals are all that can determine the date.

I concluded from the carving manner of the capitals that the portal was set out about the time that the bases for the portals on Saint-Denis were being started. This crew at Saint-Loup seems to have stayed on site for the whole period needed to carve the portal, but not necessarily to erect it. It seems to have been the first *Maiestas Domini* tympanum in the region.