

10th century ecclesiastical fabric in northern France and the influence of continental practices upon Anglo-Saxon fabric and styles in England.

Jumièges Abbey, northern France.

Openings with mid-wall shafts supporting through-stones.

Commencing in 942 the Abbey church at **Jumièges** in northern France, was rebuilt after the Viking invasions resulted in the fabric standing in ruins. There are some really nice openings (see photo below), which I calculate date from the rebuilding at this time since they cannot belong to the next rebuilding in the 11th century (which would be in the Romanesque style). The technique is identical with the English Anglo-Saxon where the arched openings are formed of stones making an opening with jambs straight through the depth of the wall and with distinctive mid-wall shaft supporting the arch on a through-stone. The existence of this type of opening in England doubtless represents knowledge from the continent being imparted to English masons, who were being schooled abroad, and returning to their homeland where they in turn schooled those under them.

At Jumièges some other work remains from this date but the remainder was swept away when the main church was rebuilt commencing in the first quarter of the 11th century in the Continental Romanesque style.



This page created 01/2013



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