

Le perdute tombe “angioine” dei conti di Provenza in Saint-Jean d’Aix (1245–1277)

Abstract

The present article puts forward a thorough historical and artistic reconstruction of medieval and modern occurrences relating to the tombs of Raymond Berengar V, Count of Provence, and his daughter, Beatrice, Countess of Provence and Queen of Sicily. The tombs were erected in the course of the 13th century in the hospital church of Saint-Jean d’Aix and demolished at the end of the 18th century during the French Revolution. The extant knowledge of the tombs is derived from some drawings ordered by the Provençal scholar Fauris Saint-Vincent some years before the destruction, as well as some drawing commissioned at the beginnings of the 17th century by the equally Provençal antiquarian Fabri de Peiresc, the majority of which have remained unpublished until now. The author conducts a close examination of these drawings, engaging in a multifaceted comparative analysis with textual sources, two surviving sculpted heads, and French Gothic sculpture between the first and second half of the 13th century. The novel results pertain to the chronology of the tombs, their original structure, their patronage, and, concomitantly, their cultural and artistic environment of production, adding an essential chapter to the history of 13th-century funerary sculpture.