Sherborne U3A

Medieval Church Architecture: An Introduction

A Booklist

This booklist is provided for the benefit of those who may wish to take things further. It is not necessary to read anything upon it in order to do the course.

Rickman, T. *An Attempt to Discriminate the Styles of Architecture in England from the Conquest to the Reformation* (7th edn., London, 1881). Still being published in revised editions many years after his death in 1848, Rickman's work was formative and gave us the period names and divisions still in use today. The characteristic features of the individual architectural styles in terms of doorways, windows etc. are extensively illustrated. Available on the internet from the Open Library, although I can supply a pdf to anyone who is interested.


*Pevsner's Architectural Glossary* (Yale, 1910). Not sure what a nook-shaft is? This book will tell you, and is a useful companion to the *Buildings of England* series.

Newman, J. & Pevsner, N. *The Buildings of England: Dorset* (Harmondsworth, 1972). Pevsner's great work, which began in the 1950s, is central to the popular study of architecture in this country. This is one of the older volumes in the present series, and less detailed than more recent ones.

Cherry, B. & Pevsner, N. *The Buildings of England: Devon* (Yale, 1991). Has the most readily accessible detailed treatment of Exeter cathedral and is worth the money for that alone.


Cherry, B. & Pevsner, N. *The Buildings of England: Wiltshire* (2nd edn., Harmondsworth, 1975). Like *Dorset*, one of the older volumes, but it has a useful treatment of Salisbury cathedral (upon which see further below).

The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England completed their work on Dorset some time ago. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Dorset* was published in five volumes (some in a number of parts) by HMSO between 1952 and 1975. More recently, it has appeared online at [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/) There are errors of transcription in the digital edition and unfortunately the photographic plates were not included, but this is still a wonderful resource if one bears in mind that some of it - the section on Sherborne Abbey, for example - is out of date. Sherborne Library has some but not all of the volumes, while sets do occasionally turn up second-hand if you have £300 to £400 to spare.

Brown, S. *Sumptuous and Richly Adorn'd: The Decoration of Salisbury Cathedral* (RCHME, London, 1999). Together with Wells and Exeter, Salisbury is our most readily accessible cathedral and this fine volume is able to take things a lot further than Pevsner. Out of print, but available second-hand.

Keen, L. & Cocke, T. *Medieval Art and Architecture at Salisbury Cathedral* (British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions XVII, 1996). A series of articles by different scholars, this is another book which goes beyond the more general literature. I shall make use of it in some of what I say about Salisbury. Out of print, but available second-hand.

Colchester, L.S., ed. *Wells Cathedral: A History* (Shepton Mallet, 1982). Another collection of essays in a specialist volume, but note that it is over thirty years old and that the relevant *Buildings of England* volume is much more recent.

Friends of Wells Cathedral *Stained Glass in Wells Cathedral* (3rd edn., Wells, 1963). Old, but an extremely useful little pamphlet if you become interested in the stained glass, as it is listed and described window by window. No longer sold in the cathedral, but available second-hand on the internet.