Chartres and High Gothic
1190+
The “High Gothic” Cathedrals:

Chartres, 1194+
Soissons, 1191+ (?)
Bourges, 1194

Reims, 1210
Amiens, 1220
Beauvais, 1225
gigantism in Gothic Architecture
Chartres Cathedral, begun 1194

Bourges Cathedral, begun 1194
The “High Gothic Revolution:”
3 stories
clerestory as tall as arcade (but not Bourges)
quadripartite vaults (mostly)
1. Simplification
   • 3-story elevations
   • Quadripartite vaults
   • Flying buttresses
2. Monumentality—buildings over 110’ tall
3. Assertiveness – (down go the Gallo-Roman Walls!)
Chartres Cathedral, 1194 +
The tunic of the Virgin: the sancta camisa, given to cathedral 876
Le puits des Saints forts

Ergotism - St. Anthony’s fire
Bishop Fulbert (1007-1028) dedicates the cathedral of 1020
The foundations of Fulbert’s cathedral of 1020 (in grey) underneath the present cathedral (in orange) rebuilt in 1194+.

West towers rebuilt after fire of 1134 with portals of c. 1145.

Royal portals 1145
Fulbert’s cathedral of 1020

Original location of portals

Final location of ROYAL portals
THE ROYAL PORTALS OF CHARTRES 1145
Bishop Fulbert’s Cathedral of 1020, built around older Carolingian church
1194 +
North Tower 1134
South tower c. 1140

Flamboyant style N. spire (16th century)
Royal portals and west windows, c. 1145
Chartres, the town
The bishop had full jurisdiction until c 1020’s, then king gave the county of Chartres and Blois to “Thibaud the Tricker” creating a division of powers:

• Count had right to set and collect taxes but these had to divided with the bishop
• The chapter had right to justice in the cathedral precinct
• The count could exercise justice outside the area of the cathedral

The count and the cathedral each had their own communities of serfs (avoués) – they worked either for count or the cathedral, and were fought over in relation who got to tax and try them

The Cathedral precinct (the clôitre) a free-trade no tax zone
Riots and violence in Chartres

1. Constant controversy between count/countess and the clergy over taxation and courts - constant “serf-snatching” - Philip Augustus had to intervene over 3 serfs
2. Riot of 1210: townspeople attack the cathedral – attack the house of the Dean who headed the ecclesiastical Courts
3. Riot of 1215 – count captures and tries a serf belong to the cathedral
4. 1245 the provost of the countess captured and hanged one of the serfs of the cathedral
Van der Meulen’s hypothesis on the wooden bridges
The south transept portals faced the town: deeply political
Chartres, the cathedral precinct
The cantonated pier: a core with 4 attached shafts