Were there Flyers?

Hypothetical reconstruction
What did the new work at St. Denis contribute towards the history of architecture?

1. new building technologies
2. new attitude towards wall surfaces and the role of stained glass
3. new concept of architecture and its decoration as invested with meaning
4. the monumental, “harmonic” west façade with richly-decorated and symbolically-important sculpture and rose window
5. the fundamental and politically charged role of decoration (glass and sculpture)
The consecration of Abbot Suger’s choir in 1144:

Archbishop Samson of Reims
Bishop Peter of Senlis
Bishop Simon of Vermandois of Noyon
Archbishop Guy of Sens
Bishop Jocelin of Soissons
Bishop Geoffroy of Chartres?

Absent are abbots (the abbot of Cluny or Citeaux
Maybe absent is Bernard of Clairvaux, Cistercian
VERY absent is the Bishop of Paris
Early Gothic in France: ca. 1140 to 1155: transition and innovation at Reims (no longer visible)
Senlis
Send
The dioceses and archdioceses of France
Archbishop Samson’s (1140-1160) new chevet and west façade at Reims (attached to the Carolingian cathedral), 1152.
The cathedral of Senlis, begun c. 1150
The Gallo-Roman fortification of the late 3rd century

1. Cathedral
2. Royal Palace
3. Approximate location of canon’s house
4. Bishop’s palace
The Gallo-Roman wall and royal palace
The cathedral of Senlis adjacent to the Gallo-Roman wall, begun c. 1150

Baptistery – 10th century
7. Plan actuel de la cathédrale.
Senlis Cathedral with later additions

Senlis, appearance reconstructed
Senlis Cathedral, interior
1152? +
Later additions
Sexpartite rib vaults

Thin wall construction

Alternating supports: piers and columns
St. Etienne at Caen: 3-story elevation, vaults added c. 1120
St. Etienne at Caen
The monumental 3-story elevation as a signifier of royal authority?

St. Etienne at Caen
Senlis
Notre-Dame in Paris, first design
Sens Cathedral Archbishopric
begun 1120s? 1130s?
1140s?

Archbishop Henry the Boar (le Sanglier),
1122-1142

Cathedral of Saint Stephen (St.-Etienne)
Nave completed by c. 1180

81 ¼ ' high
x 49 ½ ' wide
Sens Cathedral

Original plan

After addition of transept and axial chapel
The “U” shaped plan

Senlis
The bay
alternating supports

False triforium (no passage)
old cathedral?