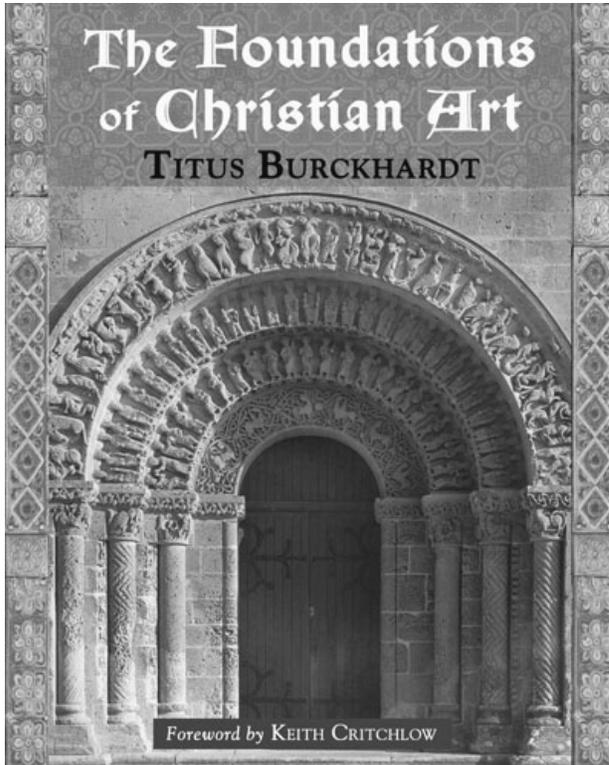


The Foundations of Christian Art: Illustrated

By Titus Burckhardt



Through a luminous interplay of Burckhardt's text and carefully selected illustrations this book becomes a work of art in itself, inviting the reader to "taste and see" the glories of the artistic and spiritual heritage of Christianity, a legacy which has had an inestimable impact upon all Western thought and culture.

This book takes the reader on a pilgrimage through the history of Christian art, focusing especially upon its architecture, iconography, illumination, and the arts and crafts guilds, but always returning to the fundamental genius of Christianity, which gave meaning to the art.

Additional Publication Information

The Foundations of Christian Art also contains:

- ❖ An Editor's Preface by Michael Oren Fitzgerald
- ❖ A Foreword by Keith Critchlow
- ❖ A Comprehensive List of Illustrations and Sources
- ❖ An Index
- ❖ 100 full color photographs



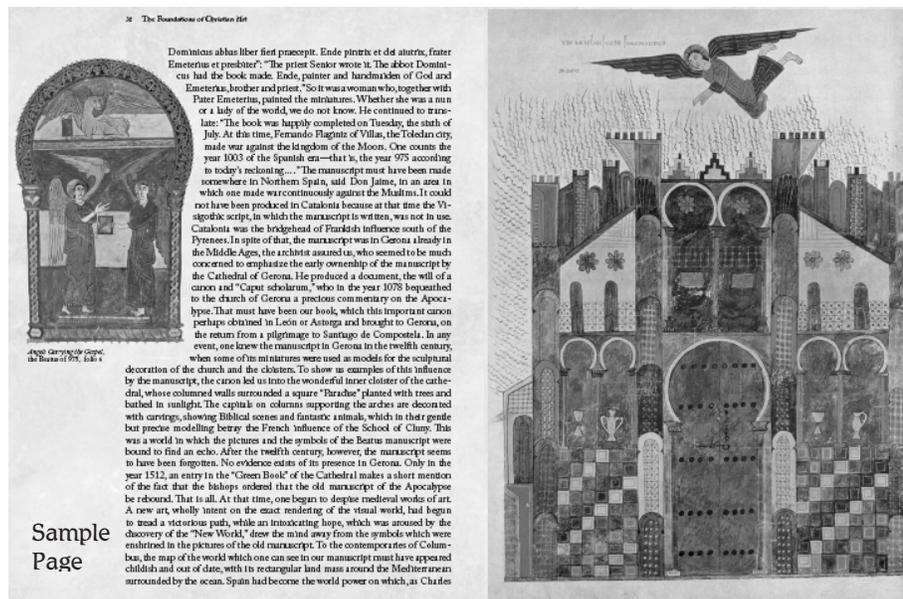
The book has a publication date of May 30, 2006 and has a suggested retail price of \$18.95. *The Foundations of Christian Art* is 128 pages in length.

World Wisdom



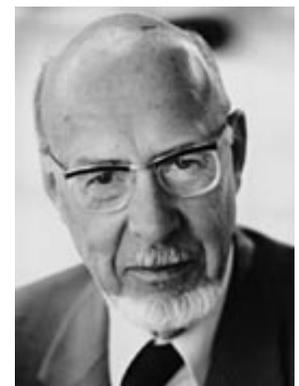
An Excerpt from *The Foundations of Christian Art*

“When historians of art apply the term ‘sacred art’ to any and every work that has a religious subject, they are forgetting that art is essentially form. An art cannot properly be called ‘sacred’ solely on the grounds that its subjects originate in a spiritual truth; its formal language also must bear witness to a similar origin. Such is by no means the case with a religious art like that of the Renaissance or of the Baroque period, which is in no way distinct, so far as style is concerned, from the fundamentally profane art of that era; neither the subjects which it borrows, in a wholly exterior and as it were literary manner, from religion, nor the devotional feelings with which it is permeated in appropriate cases, nor even the nobility of soul which sometimes finds expression in it, suffice to confer on it a sacred character. No art merits that epithet unless its forms themselves reflect the spiritual vision characteristic of a particular religion.” —Titus Burckhardt



About the Author Titus Burckhardt

Titus Burckhardt, a German Swiss, was born in Florence in 1908 and died in Lausanne in 1984. He devoted all his life to the study and exposition of the different aspects of Wisdom and Tradition. In the age of modern science and technocracy, Burckhardt was one of the most remarkable of the exponents of universal truth, in the realm of metaphysics as well as in the realm of cosmology and of traditional art. In a world of existentialism, psychoanalysis, and sociology, he was a major voice of the *philosophia perennis*, that "wisdom uncreate" that is expressed in Platonism, Vedanta, Sufism, Taoism, and other authentic esoteric or sapiential teachings.



What others have said about Titus Burckhardt

“The reader approaching the writings of Titus Burckhardt for the first time will quickly discover that they call for close and sustained attention.... But for those who fall in love with the profound and unchanging message contained in Burckhardt’s expositions, they become a joy and a necessity.”

— **William Stoddart**, editor of *The Essential Titus Burckhardt: Reflections on Sacred Art, Faiths, and Civilizations*

“Not only did he reveal the metaphysical truth of various traditional civilizations as expressed through the language of sacred art, but he also composed a number of illuminating works on Christian art, both in relation to the total vision of Christianity and to the traditional science which made the production of Christian sacred art possible.”

— **Seyyed Hossein Nasr**, editor of *The Essential Frithjof Schuon*

“It is indeed seldom that one has the privilege of reading a work by an author who has such mastery of his subject... Titus Burckhardt is an authority whose works are a constant source of inspiration.”

— **Martin Lings**, formerly Keeper of Oriental Manuscripts at the British Museum

“Titus Burckhardt looks at ... Christianity with the eyes of a scholar who combines deep spiritual insight with the love of eternal Truth. Burckhardt's writings reveal that this Truth is as fresh today as it was millennia ago, and that it will last as long as humans long to see the Divine light.”

— **Annemarie Schimmel**, Harvard University, author of *Mystical Dimensions of Islam*

About the Author of the Foreword Keith Critchlow



Dr. Keith Critchlow is the co-founder of Temenos and the author of numerous books on geometry, including *Order in Space*, and *Time Stands Still*. He is also the Director of the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture in London and a former professor of Islamic Art at the Royal College of Art. Dr. Critchlow, a leading expert in sacred architecture, also founded *Kairos*, a society that investigates, studies, and promotes traditional values of art and science.



An Excerpt from the Foreword

“Titus Burckhardt is an exponent of the permanent, the timeless; a domain which makes the use of the word ‘historian’ redundant in a modern context. Burckhardt has done more than any other single author in the past 50, if not 100, years to recover the essential principles of the purpose of the arts — that is, if you accept the premise that the arts are more than mere hedonism and ‘individual expression’ Due to his intrinsically spiritual nature, Burckhardt has revealed insight after insight into Christian symbolism and craft practice.” — Keith Critchlow

World Wisdom

