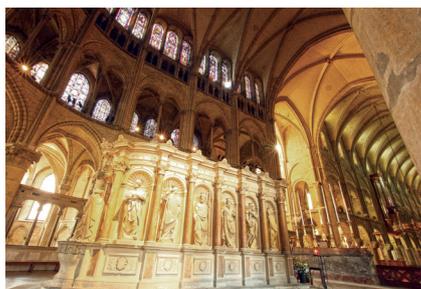
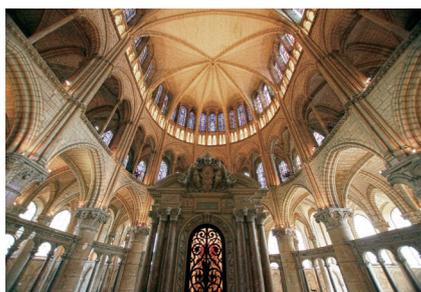


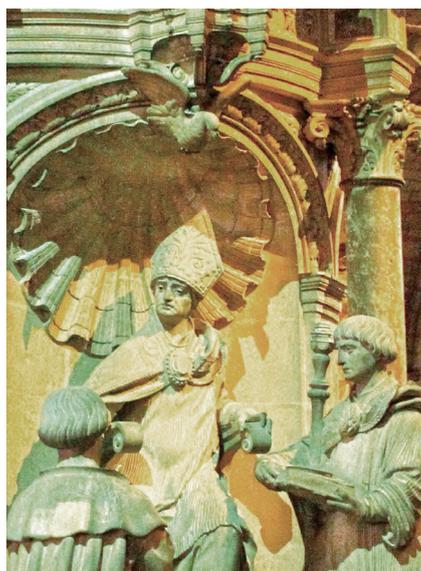
9 THE TOMB OF REMI THE HOLY OF HOLIES IN THE BASILICA



Picture 45 – View of the choir with the Tomb designed as a huge shrine – photo TD



Picture 46 – Under the choir vault – photo TD



Picture 47 – Detail of the group of full-length statues of the Baptism of Clovis, the kneeling king is anointed by Bishop Remi – photo TD

The tomb

Five tombs were successively erected in honour of Remi inside his sanctuary. The first one was erected by Hincmar in the ninth century; the second one by Herimar in the eleventh century; the third one by Abbey Lenoncourt in the sixteenth century; the fourth one by Ludinart of Vauzelles in 1802 and the fifth one by Archbishop Gousset in 1847 which, in fact, was a copy of the first level of the 16th century tomb. Indeed, the tomb copied in 1847 had been erected between 1533 and 1537, then partly destroyed by the revolutionaries. Gousset revived Renaissance architecture and reused the initial sculptures by Pierre Jacques which had survived the massacre; only the top of the monument was not reconstructed.

The sculptures

The sculptures represent the former peers; 12 characters on the north and south façades are wearing the royal insignia for the coronation, in particular the crown, the sword, the sceptre and the ring. On the south façade, six ecclesiastics including, from left to right, the Bishop of Noyon, carrying the harness, the bishop of Chalons, holding the royal ring, the Bishop of Beauvais with the coat of arms, the Bishop of Langres holding the royal sceptre and the hand of justice, the Bishop of Laon holding the Holy Phial, and the Archbishop of Rheims, crowning and anointing the king and holding the Episcopal Cross. On the north side, six laymen : the Duke of Burgundy with the crown, the Duke of Guyenne with the standard, the Duke of Normandy with the pennant, the Duke of Toulouse with the spurs, the Duke of Flanders with the sword, and the Count of Champagne with the royal banner. On the back side of the tomb, facing the axial chapel, a group of sculptures dating from the 19th century, show the Baptism of Clovis who, kneeling, is being anointed. Above the group, a dove brings the phial filled with holy balm and chrism.

The shrine

The reliquary shrine of Saint Remi is exhibited every year during the novena that precedes the first Sunday in October, and on 15 January, the day when Saint Remi is celebrated in France. It was made in 1896 by goldsmiths Charles Wéry and Emile Wéry, and painter Théophile Soyer. The sides of the upper part are decorated with a series of enamels on copper. The enamels of great beauty, that show the battle of Tolbiac and the baptism of Clovis, are inspired by those of the former shrine made in 1663 by Jacques Laudin. Two antique shrines are kept in the Saint Remi Museum. One of them, made in 1824, was deposited in the south tribune of the basilica, and later replaced by the current shrine in 1896; the other one, from 1803, is kept in the capitulary hall of the Museum.



Picture 48 – The shrine of 1896 – photo TD



Picture 49 – The shrine of 1803. Saint-Remi Museum – photo TD



Picture 50 – The shrine of 1824. Saint-Remi Museum – photo TD