

A

bstract

It is a sad fact that the monastery of Santa Maria Bonaval, a jewel of Cistercian architecture and the monumental architecture of Spain, is in a state of impending doom and active degradation. It's almost been 67 years since José TORIJA ALONSO expressed in his work about Bonaval the alarming under condition it had when then used as stockyards for whom and expressed the progressive lack of architectural, construction and decorative elements, without any neighbor, user, or visitor he should report, denounce or communicate to the authority, in order to initiate a cry for help.

It is then that Francisco JURADO SERRANO who in 1990, after 12 years of tireless research, translation and interpretation of historical texts, published his brilliant doctoral thesis about the Monastery of Santa Maria de Bonaval, where a detailed study was conducted through its life span and its preservation by its different stages of life.

Later it will be the thesis of Juan TEJELA JUEZ, a monastery forgotten: Santa María de Valdeiglesias, who summarizes the detailed information document for Bonaval its alarming state of ruin and abandonment, as well as the "dispersion" of its objects and file.

We should add other publications of Antonio Herrera Casado and Thomas NIETO Taberné, in detail about the deterioration and conservation status of the monastic complex, which can be read about and illustrated with clear images of the same.

And to this tangible and documented situation arises this research project in order to document, digitalize analyze and protect this architectural forgotten marvel. A project that began in 2004 with the first workshop *in situ* of the monastery and eight years since the publication of the first book of the author, in order to capture every detail of Santa Maria de Bonaval, in a written document that reaches society, public institutions and heritage bodies, with the ultimate aim to preserve it.

Now, eleven years after the initiation of this work that presents a detailed historical, architectural, constructive and pathological analysis of the monastery. A job that begins its journey in Santa Maria de Bonaval, based on a study of the monastery and an empirical study of more than a hundred Cistercian monasteries of Spain, which has served to make a comparative sample and understand this Cistercian architecture in context. By using traditional techniques like making manual data, and the use of instruments of high accuracy with the use of modern technology such as ground penetrating radar or 3D scanner, it has obtained documentary material of extraordinary value, which has allowed to compare results and understand the original project, its construction and its progressive degradation over time.

Now, it is time get to work on the monastery: its sad reality must become a new fact summarizing this documentary work into something tangible, whose value could be passed down to future generations, and preserve in our historical memory. It is my greatest wish that this thesis serves to push consolidation, and that it be shared without profit, to save Bonaval.