



Where were the building stones of the Basel Minister quarried?

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The Basel Minister, build between the years 1019 and 1500, was constructed dominantly out of Triassic Buntsandstein building stones. The sandstones were mined in quarries North-East of the city of Basel, in the foothills of the Southern Black Forest. However, the knowledge of the quarry locations has been lost in the past centuries. For restoration and repairs of the building and cut stones at the minister, the use of original material desirable. Here, we present the first results of a detailed mapping, sedimentological and petrographical study of abandoned and disused quarries from which the building materials likely originate. The sandstones show a wide range in grain-size, composition, sedimentological facies and colour – similar to the range observed at the minster. We compare the properties of the sandstones in the quarries with the properties of the original building and cut stones of the minister in order to identify the quarries which sourced the building material. Our work is the first step towards establishing the origin of the building stones of the Basel Minister and other medieval buildings in the region.