



Water Engineering in Ancient Civilizations: 5,000 Years of History (IAHR Monographs)

By Pierre-Louis Viollet

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This new book offers an engineer's perspective on the history of water technology and its impact on the development of civilisation.

A Second Edition and translation into English of the French book "*L'Hydraulique dans les Civilisations Anciennes*".

Water professionals, engineers, scientists, and students will find this book fascinating and invaluable to their understanding of the fundamental role of water engineering in the development of civilization. The book abounds with descriptions of hydraulic techniques in the civilizations of the classical era and the Middle Ages, including illustrations and translated descriptions of ancient observers and authors. The work is unique in offering an engineer's perspective not only on the history of water technology, but also demonstration of the genesis of ideas and the transmissions of ideas and technology from one age and civilization to the next. The book is especially noteworthy for its efforts to situate hydraulic developments in their historical and intellectual context.

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Editorial Review

Review

"One of the greatest challenges for society in the 21st century is, without doubt, the sustainable management of water. This is true both for developed and especially, as the millenium goals clearly state, for developing countries. A goal which can only be achieved, as history has proven, by adapting solutions to existing conditions.

This constitutes in itself a powerful reason to devote the time to read this book, for it will allow the reader to learn how men and women have done, in every age, what the circumstances required at time. This is a lesson that, unfortunately, we need to learn again nowadays. This is a lesson taught masterfully by Pierre-Louis Viollet, an engineer in love with history, and particularly with those times in which mankind's creativity was most evident. Creativity which, in so many cases, is driven by need. Creativity which is closely related to water. After all, water is essential for human life."

?Prof. Enrique Cabrera

Professor of Fluid Mechanics

Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Spain

About the Author

Pierre-Louis Viollet graduated from Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (Paris) in 1974, PhD at Paris 6 University (1977). He has been working with EDF R&D as a research engineer and head of the R&D Laboratory of EDF on Hydraulics and Fluid Mechanics in Chatou. In 1994 he moved to a managerial position as deputy director of the Generation Plants Department of EDF R&D, then as Director of the Power Systems Department. In 2001 he was nominated Vice-President for R&D Laboratories, and since 2006 has been acting as VicePresident for R&D Coordination and Partnership of EDF R&D. He has supervised the creation of 11 common laboratories involving EDF R&D and French academic partners, as well as a common institute with the University of Karlsruhe (Germany): the European Institute for Energy Research. *P.-L. Viollet* has been for many years Professor of Applied Fluid Mechanics as Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (Paris), where he has been nominated Honorary Professor in 2008, and Scientific Committee Member. He wrote two tutorial books in fluid mechanics as well as two books on the history of water and fluid technologies. *P.-L. Viollet* is chairman of the scientific committee of "Société Hydrotechnique de France", and of the scientific committee for the "Baie du Mont Saint Michel" hydro-sediment management. He has been for three years member of the Technical Committee of the Energy Technologies Institute (UK). He is a member of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (UK), and of the Energy Committee of the "Agence Nationale de la Recherche" (France).

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