



Short note on the provenance of Alabaster used in Late-Medieval and 16th century epithaf carvings (Grote Kerk, Breda, the Netherlands)

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During late medieval times alabaster from Nottingham and Derby (United Kingdom) became widespread over France, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Small samples taken from epithaf sculptures in the Old Church in Breda were analysed by XRF –analysis and compared with samples from the Triassic Cropwell Bishop Formation in Fauld Mine, near Tutbury. Showing close element spectra in both series of samples it was concluded that the epithaf alabaster pieces were mined from the Triassic gypsum layers. Most probably the alabaster came from the surroundings of the village of Chellaston, where the alabaster reach close to the surface. The origin of the translucent, slightly veined red and white alabaster is not yet fully unravelled. Some hypotheses about the geological history of the alabaster deposits are discussed by the present authors.