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To the organizing committee of the 2012 Ancient Studies Symposium

 “Masons at Work”:

I wish to submit a proposal (below) for delivering a 20-minute paper.

Sincerely,

Matthew Savage, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Art History

Louisiana State University

**Observations on a vault construction technique in 9th- and 10th-century Constantinople**

This paper discusses a specific masonry technique used in the late ninth and early tenth centuries for the construction of arches and vaults in several buildings in Constantinople and areas directly influenced by Constantinopolitan building practices. The technique, as identified, appears to be restricted to building construction during this period alone, and as such could be viewed as representing a specific workshop tradition practiced in Constantinople. Further, its identification in other buildings could be useful in their dating to this same period. When the technique is found in building outside Constantinople, it might provide evidence for a direct association with and reliance upon building practices in the Byzantine capital during this period.