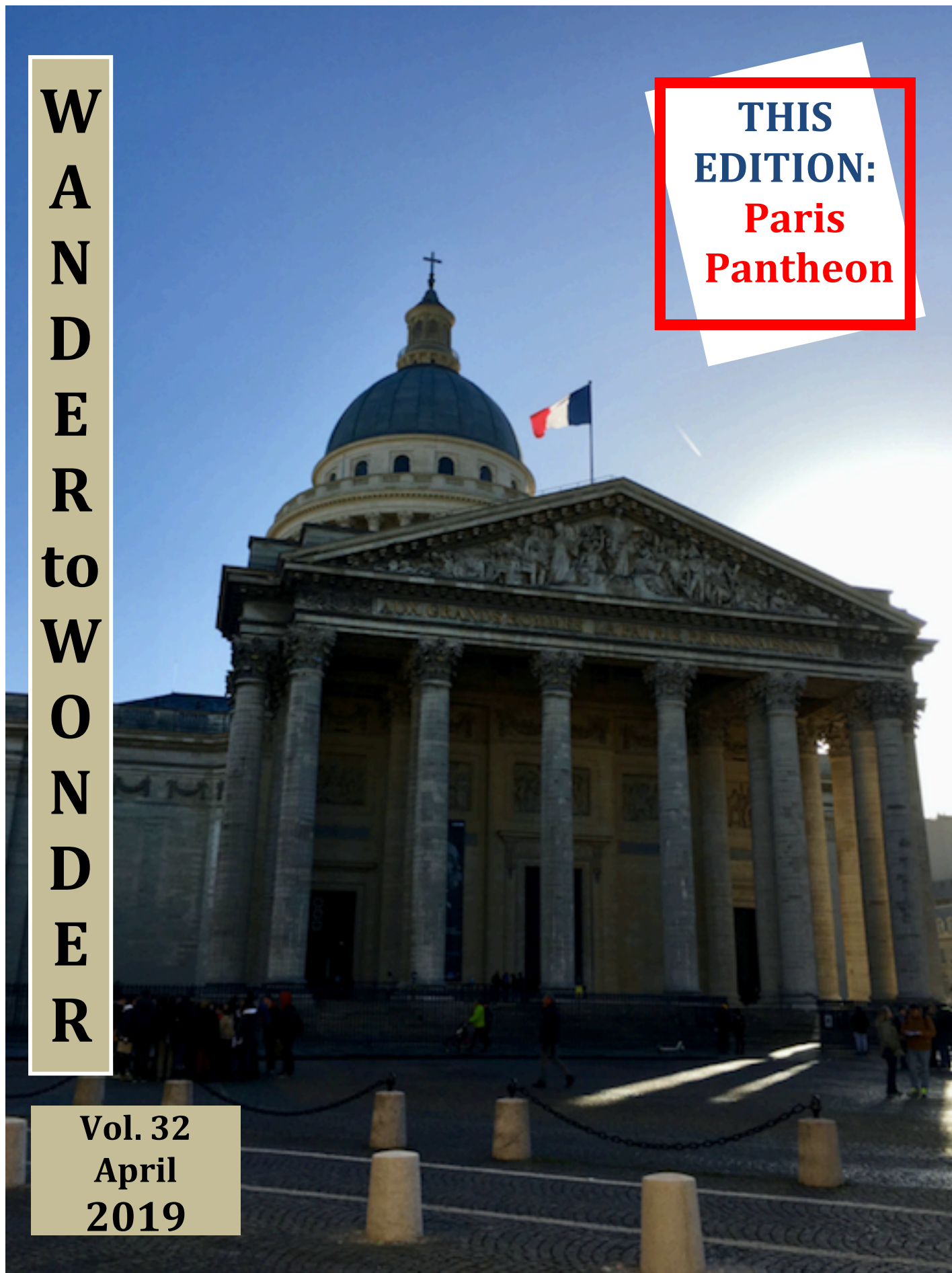


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**THIS  
EDITION:  
Paris  
Pantheon**

**Vol. 32  
April  
2019**



# WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.  
G.K. Chesterson**

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## editor's note

*Welcome to the 32nd edition of WANDER to WONDER*

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on the Paris Pantheon in France.

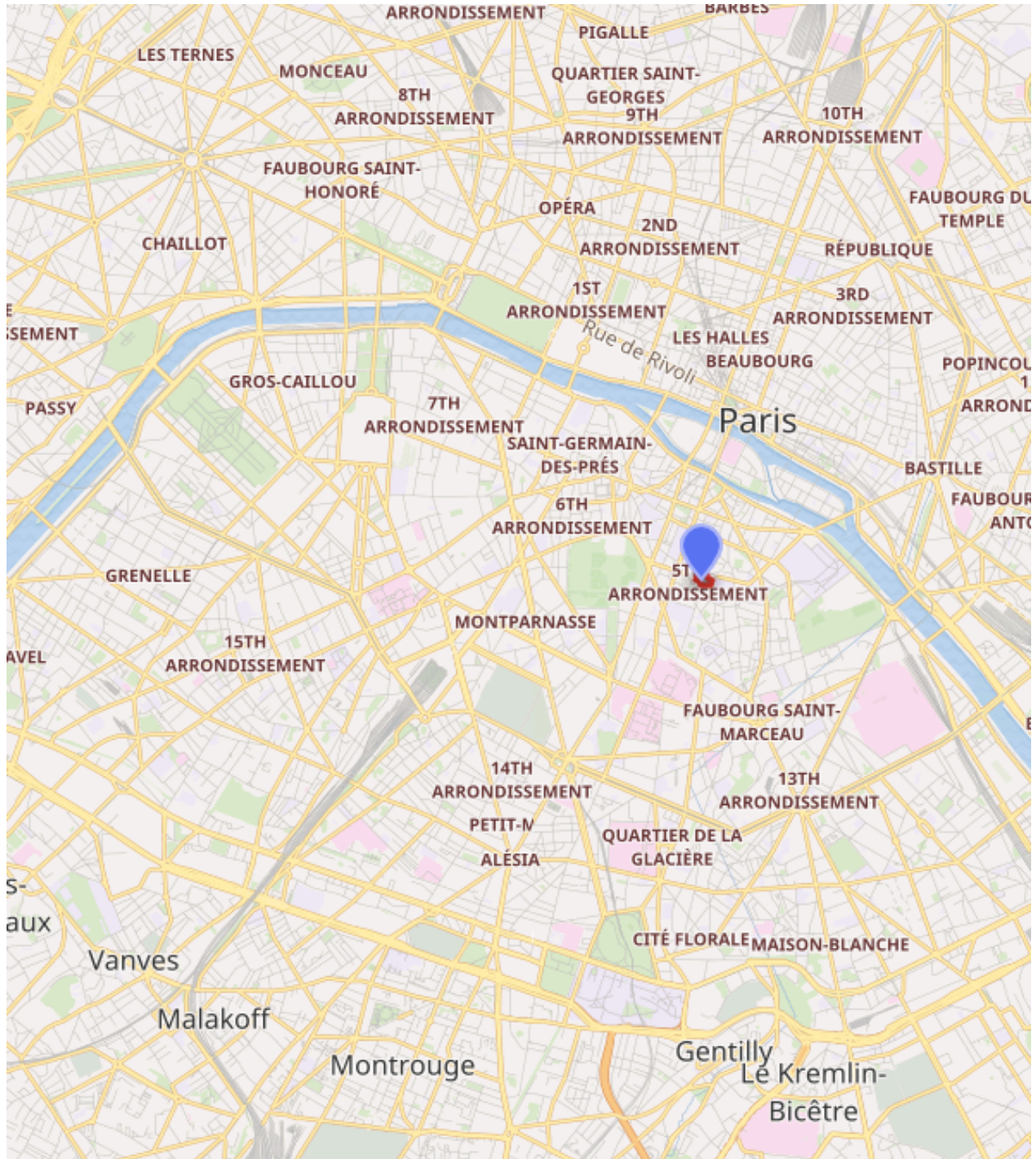
Until next edition, with another theme,

*Martina*

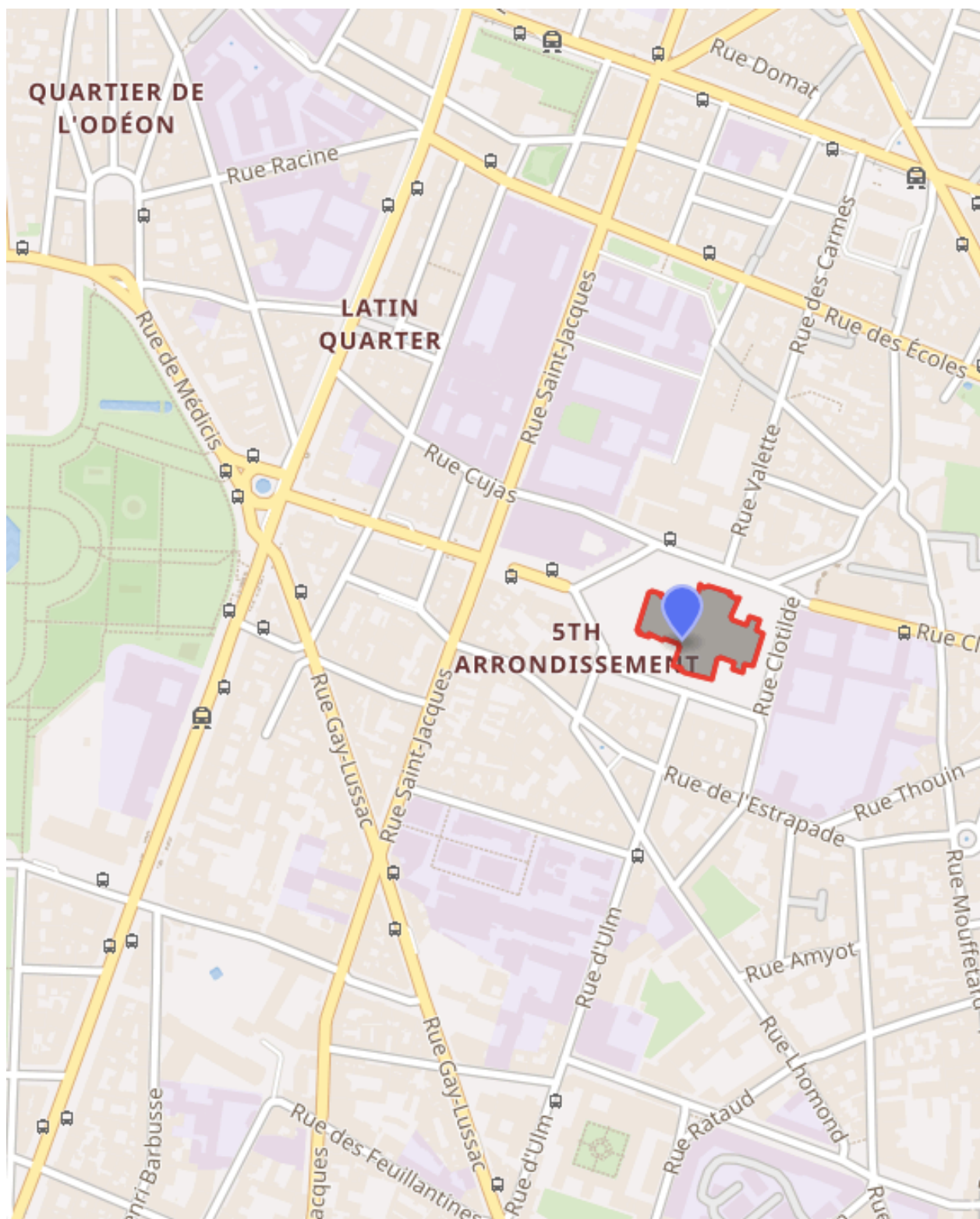
MARTINA NICOLLS



## map - paris



## map – 5<sup>th</sup> arrondissement



# location

The Paris Pantheon is one of the most popular tourist attractions in France's capital city. The Pantheon was originally built as a church dedicated to St. Genevieve. Now it is also known for its crypt (mausoleum) where famous French people are buried.

It is located in the Latin Quarter (Latin Quarter) of the 5<sup>th</sup> arrondissement (suburb) of Paris, near the Jardin du Luxembourg (the Luxembourg Garden) at the Place du Pantheon – down Rue Soufflot on the Montagne Sainte-Genevieve.

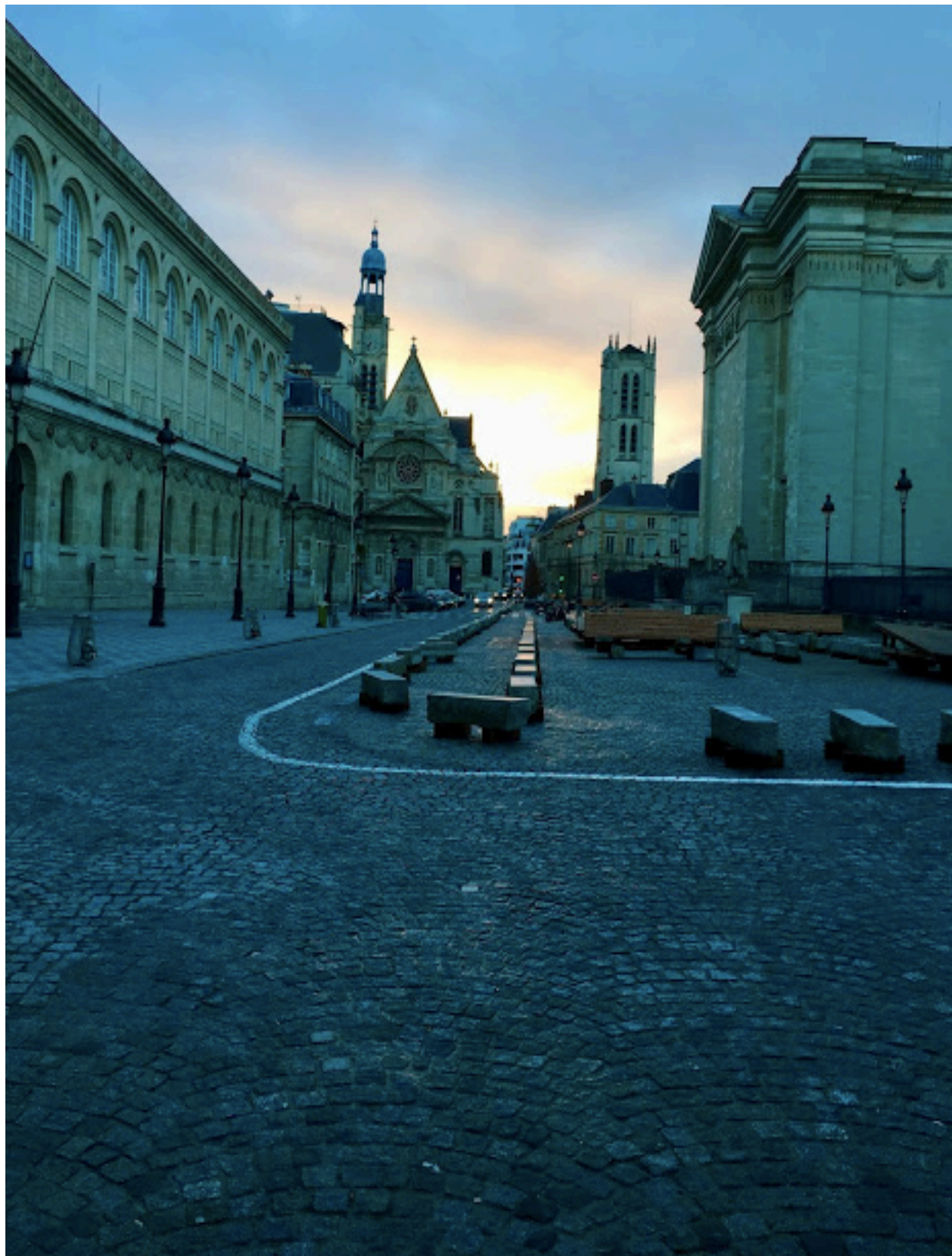


## architect soufflot

King Louis XV, known as Louis the Beloved, who ruled for 59 years from the age of five in 1715 until his death in 1774, ordered the construction of the Paris Pantheon on the site of the damaged Saint-Genevieve church.

Jacques-Germain Soufflot (1713-1780) was the chosen architect. The architectural style is Neoclassicism, which incorporates Gothic and classical architecture. The construction occurred from 1757 with its first drawings. The foundations were laid in 1758. On Soufflot's death in 1780, his student Jean-Baptiste Rondelet (1743-1829), continued as architect until completion in 1791.





## architecture

The Rome Pantheon influenced the design of the Paris Pantheon's façade. The overall design is the shape of a Greek cross with a massive portico of Corinthian columns.

It is constructed from stone and marble. The building is 110 metres (361 feet) long by 84 metres (276 feet) wide, and 83 metres (272 feet) high.











## the triple dome

The triple dome is three shells that fit within a one larger outermost dome. The frescoes of Antoine Gros, called The Apotheosis of Saint Genevieve, are also visible. The outermost dome is built of stone held together with iron cramps. It is covered with lead sheathing.

There are 276 steps to climb to the top.

The cross on top of the dome indicates that it was, on several occasions, used as a church.













## the crypt

The crypt is in a subterranean chamber. When the Paris Pantheon was completed in 1790-1791, it was used as a church. With the death of the French statesman Honore Gabriel Riquet, the Count Mirabeau, on 2 April 1791, a mausoleum was included, and he was interred on 4 April.

The first woman interred on merit was scientist Marie Curie (1867-1934) in 1995. Marie Curie was actually the second woman interred after Sophie Berthelot, the wife of Marcellin Berthelot, in 1907. Genevieve de Gaulle-Anthonioz (1920-2002) and Germaine Tillon (1907-2008), heroines of the French resistance, were symbolically interred in 2015 (their coffins only contain soil, and their families retain the body). French lawyer, politician, 12<sup>th</sup> President of the European Parliament, and Holocaust survivor, Simone Veil (1927-2017), and her husband Antoine Veil (1946-2013), were interred in 2018. Their original burial site was in the Montparnasse Cemetery.

Other people buried in its necropolis include Jacques-Germain Soufflot, Alexandre Dumas, Victor Hugo, Louis Braille, and Voltaire.





## the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, data quality and financing models.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017)  
A Mongolian Lament (2015)  
The Komodo Verses (2012)

Liberia's Deadeast Ends (2012)  
Bardot's Comet (2011)  
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)  
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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