

SOME CALL THIS HILL MONTEPARTICCIO. ON THE TOP OF THE HILL IS A MONUMENT TO THE BATTLE OF MONTAPERTI. THE HILL IS TERRACED WITH EARTHEN PLATFORMS THAT PROJECT OUT FROM CERTAIN TERRACE LEVELS. AT THE BASE OF THE HILL IS A LARGER PLATFORM OR BURM. THESE FEATURES MAY BE REMNANTS OF AN OLD FORTRESS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE BATTLE ITSELF. WHEN I FIRST VISITED THIS SITE I WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH DANTE'S WRITINGS OR IMAGERY. NOW I FIND MYSELF WONDERING WHETHER OTHER FEATURES OF THIS "RECENT" MONUMENT WERE DESIGNED TO ECHO

### DANTE'S PURGATORIO



DOMENICO - MICHELINO CA 1465



Web Gallery of Art www.gallery.euroweb.hu/



Digital Dante www.ilt.columbia.edu

I am curious about the pyramid form at the center of the memorial. Is it possibly connected to Neo-Platonic thought or the Greek lambda? As a form encircled by the Cypress trees I wonder if it echos Dante's idea about the final ascent to heaven.



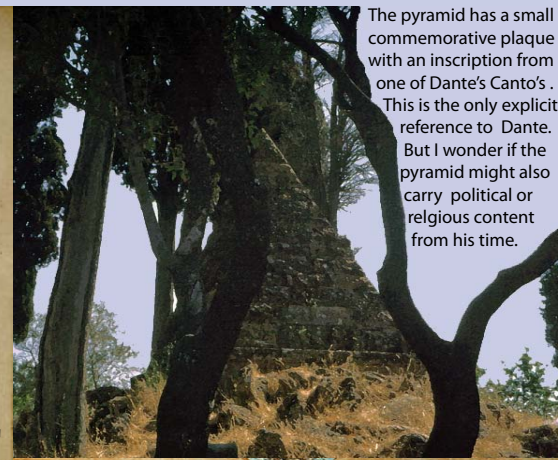
GUSTAVE DORE

digital dante www.ilt.columbia.edu

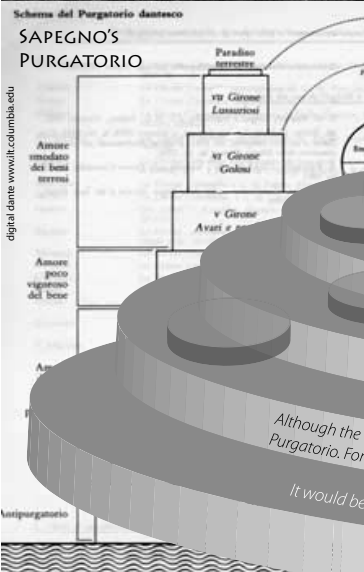
CYPRESS TREES OF THE PYRAMIDALIS VARIETY OFTEN MARK MEMORIALS AND SACRED SITES. I WONDER IF THEIR NUMBER AND POSITION ON MONTEPARTICCIO MIGHT ECHO DANTE'S IMAGE OF THE ASCENT TO HEAVEN.



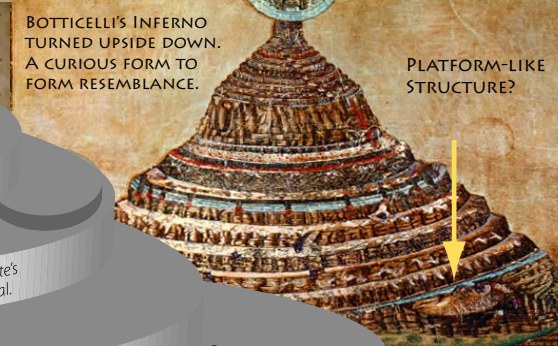
BOTTICELLI - ASCENT TO HEAVEN  
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The pyramid has a small commemorative plaque with an inscription from one of Dante's Canto's. This is the only explicit reference to Dante. But I wonder if the pyramid might also carry political or religious content from his time.



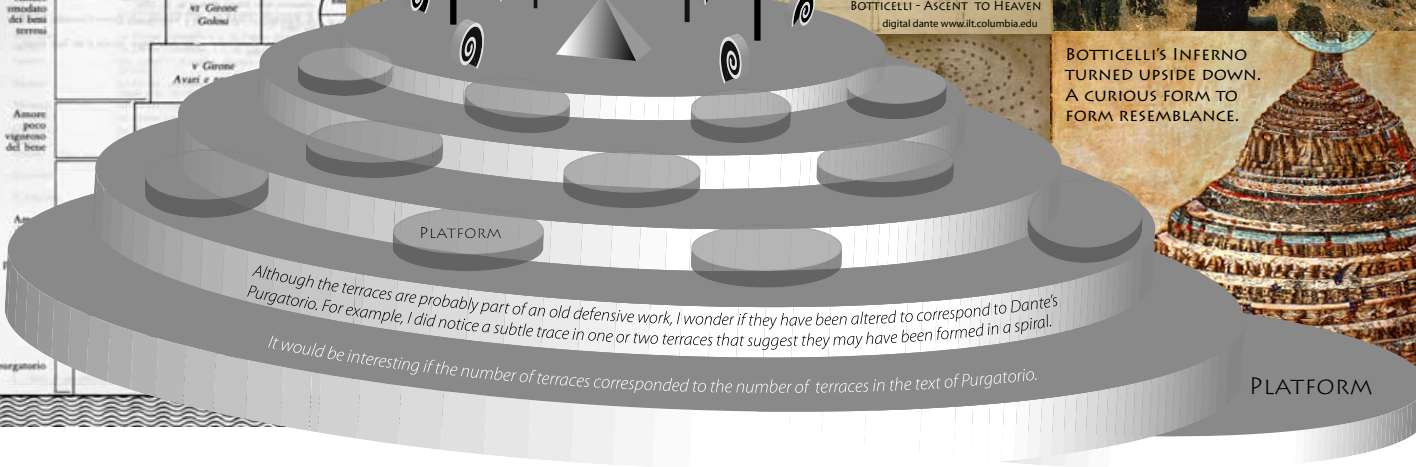
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BOTTICELLI'S INFERNO TURNED UPSIDE DOWN. A CURIOUS FORM TO FORM RESEMBLANCE.

PLATFORM-LIKE STRUCTURE?

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Although the terraces are probably part of an old defensive work, I wonder if they have been altered to correspond to Dante's Purgatorio. For example, I did notice a subtle trace in one or two terraces that suggest they may have been formed in a spiral.

It would be interesting if the number of terraces corresponded to the number of terraces in the text of Purgatorio.

PLATFORM

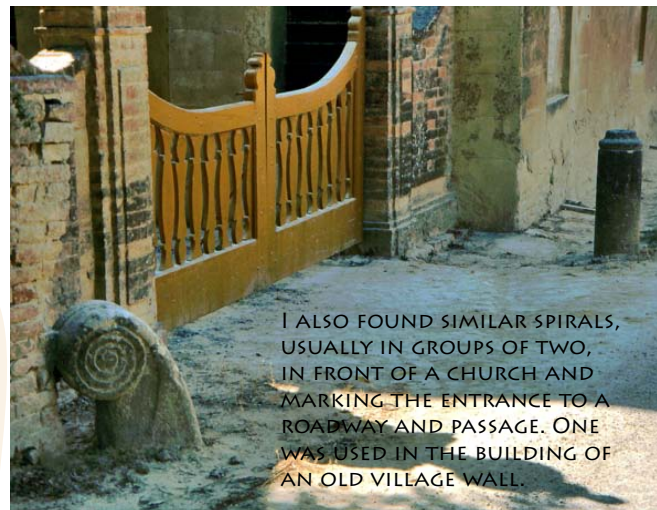
### SPIRALS ON TOP OF MONTEPARTICCIO



BOTTICELLI  
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IF I RECALL, THE SPIRALS ENCIRCLE THE CYPRESS AND THE CYPRESS ENCIRCLE THE PYRAMID. ARE THE SPIRALS MERELY DECORATIVE OR COULD THEIR POSITION SIGNIFY THE ENTRANCE TO PARADISO? DO THEY NUMBER 7 OR 8? DO THEY CARRY NEO-PLATONIC MEANING? DOES THE SPIRAL IN ITALY HAVE A CELTIC OR PAGAN MEANING THAT SOME MIGHT CONNECT TO DANTE? WHAT ABOUT THE SIMILAR SPIRALS THAT ARE FOUND IN THE COUNTRYSIDE?

### SPIRALS FOUND 50 KM AWAY IN CHIANTI



I ALSO FOUND SIMILAR SPIRALS, USUALLY IN GROUPS OF TWO, IN FRONT OF A CHURCH AND MARKING THE ENTRANCE TO A ROADWAY AND PASSAGE. ONE WAS USED IN THE BUILDING OF AN OLD VILLAGE WALL.