Wolter proposed that a hole in the east wall of the tower and a niche on the west inner wall gave an angle of about 23 degrees and that Venus could be sighted during 20-21 December in the hole niche alignment (about 120 degrees on the drawing provided).

It is always suspicious when an author speaks of an alignment and does not give the azimuth of the alignment or the time of day that such an alignment is reached. Neither is the height of eye and the latitude and longitude of the tower given. Obviously no calculation for Venus had been made for his proposal.

Wolter did add a caveat with, “Future research into the Venus alignments by qualified researchers may provide validation to their existence.”

While in the U. S. Coast Guard I have circumnavigated around North America, across the Atlantic three times, and across the Pacific, both below and above the equator, twice always using Venus both as a morning star and an evening star. I have made over 2000 sights on this star.

My calculation shows that Venus is 30 degrees south of the aperture of the east wall when it reaches 22 degrees altitude on 21 December 2007. Wolter claimed that clouds obscured Venus when he tried to find it during December 20-22 in 2007, otherwise he would have observed his error.

Wolter stated, “This paper proposes that Venus alignments are captured in the Newport Tower which provide evidence consistent with medieval/Templar construction practices. Regarding the claim that Cistercian structures in Europe had such alignments with Venus, Wolter gives not one example of such a Cistercian structure or any proof that the Cistercians ever captured this alignment.

Obviously Wolter’s paper is a work in progress, but no claim for a Venus alignment in the Newport Tower can be made by him until he proves it by celestial calculations.

—Richard Nielsen