

# Early Medieval and Romanesque Art

## ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

- Medieval art is studied according to geographic placement, styles, and traditions.
- There are frequent interconnections between religions, governments, and artistic influences that create a variety of approaches.
- Medieval art is chiefly concerned with religious expression and court life. There is a strong culture of endorsing scholarship.

## ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

- Late Antiquity and Early Christian art are medieval art periods.
- There is no uniform medieval style. Some periods revive ancient classicism, others use geometric and natural designs.
- Medieval artists are influenced by contemporaries in other parts of Europe, as well as ancient traditions.
- Learning was centered on specific fields that were transmitted throughout Europe through trade, pilgrimage, and military activity.
- Medieval architecture is mostly religious.
- Medieval painting and sculpture avoids naturalistic depictions.
- At times medieval religions will reject images.

## IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

1. The four evangelists and their corresponding symbols.
2. The importance of ambulatories in pilgrimage churches.
4. The physical parts of the Romanesque Portal.
5. The major differences between an Early Christian basilica and a Romanesque church.
6. The social system of feudalism.
7. The Migratory period of the Early Middle Ages featured portable works that were done in animal style.
8. Characteristics of Early Medieval art include horror vacui and interlacing patterns.
9. Art at the court of Charlemagne begins the first of many western European revivals of ancient Rome.
11. Pilgrimages to sacred European shrines increase the flow of people and ideas around the continent.
12. Romanesque churches develop their apse end to accommodate large crowds of pilgrims.
13. Church portal sculptures stress themes of the Last Judgment and the need for salvation.
14. Manuscript painting and weaving flourish as art forms.

## VOCABULARY

archivolts	Hiberno-Saxon	rib	trumeau
Buttress	Hildeshiem	rib vault	tunnel vault
Carolingian	incrustation	Santiago de	tympanum
cathedra	jamb	Compostela	vassal
choir	liege-lord	scholasticism	Vikings
cloisonné	Lindisfarne	serf	Visigoths
cloister	manuscript	sexpartite vault	vousoir
compound pier	illumination	square	westwork
crossing	module	schematism	zoomorphic
fibula	Normans	stave church	
flying buttress	pier	stringcourse	
feudalism	quadrant vault	Sutton Hoo	
groin vault	radiating chapel	tribune	

## RESOURCES

- Bring out Your Dead  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grbSQ6O6kbs>
- Trailer for The Lion in Winter  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKoYHKpCSc4>
- A guide to Romanesque Architecture  
<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-arthistory/chapter/romanesque-architecture/>

# Early Medieval and Romanesque Art

## JOURNAL

*Reliquary of St. Foy (3.1, 1.2, 3.3)*  
*Bayeux Tapestry (3.1, 1.1, 2.1)*

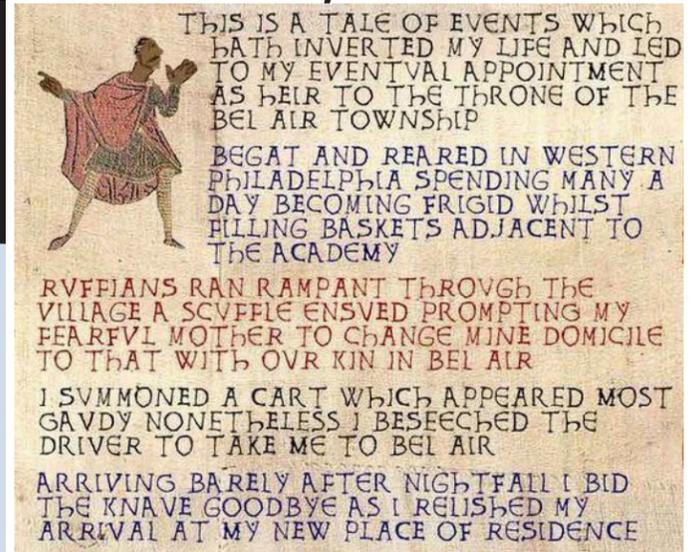
## CONTEXT

In the early medieval era, Christian and pagan nomadic tribes made small, portable art objects that could be carried as they migrated throughout Europe. Under Charlemagne, a renewed interest in classical culture influenced the art and architecture of the late 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century Christianity triumphed throughout Europe. As people wandered across the land on pilgrimages and as a result of the Crusades, they brought various traditions to bear on the primarily sacred art of the Romanesque period. Virtually all Romanesque art is sacred, and it's highly expressive and emotional style was influenced by the past traditions of Ancient Roman, early Christian, and Byzantine art.

In the year 600, almost everything that was known was old. The great technological break-throughs of the Romans were either lost to history or beyond the capabilities of the migratory people of the seventh century. This was the age of mass migrations sweeping across Europe, an age epitomized by the fifth century king Attila the Hun, whose hordes were famous for despoiling all before them. The Vikings from Scandinavia, flew across the North Sea and invaded the British Isles and colonized France. Other groups, like the notorious Vandals, did much to destroy the remains of Roman civilization. However, stability in Europe was reached at the end of the eighth century when a group of Frankish kings, most notably Charlemagne, built an impressive empire whose capitol was centered in Aachen, Germany.

By 1000, Europe had begun to settle down from the great migration that characterized the Early Medieval period. Wandering seafarers like the Vikings were Christianized, and their descendants colonized Normandy, France, and Southern Italy and Sicily. Islamic incursions from Spain and North Africa were neutralized; in fact Europeans began counter-invasions of Muslim lands called the Crusades. The universal triumph of Christianity in Europe with the pope cast as it's leader was a spiritual empire not unlike the Roman secular one.

Even though Europeans fought with equal ardor among themselves, enough stability was reached so that trade and the arts could flourish; cities, for the first time in centuries, expanded. People began to crisscross Europe on religious pilgrimages to Rome and even Jerusalem. The most popular site was the shrine dedicated to Saint James in the town of Santiago de Compostela. A magnificent Romanesque cathedral was built as the endpoint of western European pilgrimages. The journey to Santiago took perhaps a year or longer to make. Shrines were established at key points along the road, so that pilgrims could enjoy additional holy places, many of which still survive today. This pilgrimage movement, with it's consequent building boom, is one of the great revitalizations in history.



## WORKS OF ART

- Merovingian looped Fibulae mid 6th century
- Lindisfarne Gospels: St. Matthew, cross carpet page 700
- Church of Sainte-Foy: Conques, France 1050-1300
- Reliquary of Saint Foy: 9th century with later additions
- Bayeux Tapestry: Romanesque Europe (English or Norman) 1066-1080

## ASSIGNMENTS

- Read Gardner's pages 311-371
- Complete homework packet
- Write journal
- Fill in flashcards
- Design a family crest for extra credit

**HOMWORK DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_