

“Reading” the Bayeux Tapestry (Embroidery)

The Bayeux Tapestry is a long strip of linen cloth embroidered with scenes that illustrate how William, Duke of Normandy, came to be the king of England. Embroidered script labels each of the scenes. While most historians agree that the work was embroidered in England toward the end of the eleventh century, there is much debate over the patronage and interpretation of the work.

Go here:

<http://www.sd-editions.com/bayeux/zoom/#/facsimile%3DBayeux%26panel%3D1%26inScenes%3D1>

to visit a website that presents the whole work and includes a great deal of interpretive information. Take advantage of the opportunity to click around the site – in light of your museum catalog project this term, this is another example of how professionals compile information and analysis of a specific work of art to present to an audience. Consider what is available on the site and how the material is organized.

Scroll through the tapestry, taking in the different scenes and thinking about what is included and how the story is told. Write a short (250-500 words, typed and double-spaced) reflection on your observations of the tapestry. Bring this to class to turn in on Monday, November 18th.