

**L2-14day14**

## **Romanesque**

**Art Discussed:**

**The Bayeux Tapestry 1070-1080**

**Master Hugo, *Moses Expounding the Law*, from the *Bury Bible***

**VOCAB:**

**Embroidery**

**Tapestry**

**HW:**

**STUDY**

### **The Bayeux Tapestry**

- Called a tapestry, actually is an embroidery
- 20 inches high, 230 feet long
- Narrative of the Battle of Hastings in 1066 told in Latin
- William the Conqueror vs. King Harold of England
- Commissioned by Bishop Odo, half-brother to William the Conqueror
- A contemporary event told in full detail
- Master designer probably a male, but stitching probably done by females
- 75 scenes
- Controversy over where it was made: French or Anglo-Saxon in manufacture?

- Figures cast no shadows
- Neutral background
- Upper and lower registers have fanciful beasts and birds
- Behavior of people and animals seems natural
- Decorative patterning
- Cf. *Column of Trajan*
- Displayed in a great hall? A church?
- Wealth of incident: soldiers wading in water with coats wrapped up, sailors looking out from top of mast, roast served on long spits, farming techniques

### **Master Hugo, *Moses Expounding the Law from the Bury Bible***

- Upper: Moses and Aaron proclaim the law to the Israelites
- Lower: Moses points out the clean and unclean beasts
- Flatness of body
- Intricacies of line
- Bodies seem to float
- Elongated figures
- Cross-legged poses
- Zigzag and dovetail lines of drapery
- Gestures are deliberate and didactic
- Arbitrary squares of color in background
- Foliage border