WC 241-260 PP 253-261: "Letter to Bishop Hermann"

Chronology

900-1150	Monastic Reform Movement
936-973	Reign of Otto the Great
1050	Agricultural Revolution
1066	Battle of Hastings
1075-1122	Investiture Conflict

Star Terms

- Otto II
- Battle of Hastings
- Investiture Controversy
- Pope Gregory VII
- HRE Henry IV

Geog. Terms

- Holy Roman Empire (c. 950)
- Normandy
- Italian City States

A. Gospel Book of Otto III, c. 1000 CE, currently Munich

Otto III, Holy Roman Emperor, son of the emperor Otto II and the princess Theophano, daughter of the Byzantine emperor Romanus II, was born in July 980, chosen as his father's successor at Verona in June 983 and crowned German king at Aix-la-Chapelle on the 25th of the following December. In these dedication pages of his Gospel book the young emperor Otto III—who died in the year 1002 at age twenty-one—is portrayed in imperial splendor, holding the orb and scepter that symbolize his authority and power. Posed frontally on a faldstool throne before a cloth of honor, Otto draws the viewer's attention with his steady gaze. His larger size and slight elevation demonstrate his higher rank over the churchmen and weapon bearers that flank him. In the left hand miniature (not shown) personifications of Rome and Provinces of the Empire approach the emperor bearing gifts, their heads and bodies slightly inclined to show their homage. (see WC page 244)

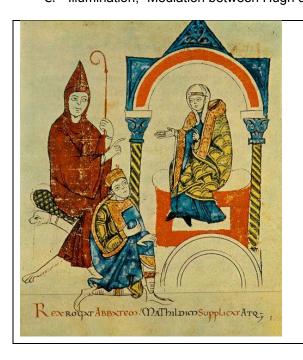


B. Bayeux Tapestry, 11th century, embroidery on linen. currently in France



The Bayeux Tapestry is probably the most important pictorial image of the 11th century for understanding English history, which approaches the subject from the Norman perspective, attempting to justify the invasion launched by William to claim the English throne in 1066. As well as being a source for political events, the tapestry is also a source for cultural history because it is a record of the way 11th-century people reflected on their world. It reveals something of how people represented themselves to each other. The tapestry was commissioned by William the Conqueror's half-brother, Bishop Odo of Bayeux, depicting the events surrounding the conquest. It details events leading up to the invasion and shows the key aspects of the conquest itself, not least the Battle of Hastings. Here is a link to each scene in the tapestry: http://www.bayeuxtapestry.org.uk/BayeuxContents.htm (see WC page 254)

C. Illumination, "Mediation between Hugh of Cluny and HRE Henry IV" 1115, currently Vatican, Rome



The Investiture Controversy was the most significant conflict between Church and state in medieval Europe. In the 11th and 12th centuries, a series of Popes challenged the authority of European monarchies over control of appointments, or investitures, of church officials such as bishops and abbots. The principal conflict began in 1075 between Pope Gregory VII and Henry IV, Holy Roman Emperor, but would continue until 1122. In 1075 Pope Gregory VII asserted in the "Dictatus Papae" a "collection of canons," one of which claimed that the deposal of an emperor was under the sole power of the Pope. It declared that the Roman church was founded by God alone and that the papal power was the sole universal power; in particular, the pope alone could appoint or depose churchmen or move them from their religious position. This attitude had never been adopted in Germany, where the Holy Roman Emperor had sole power to appoint clergy. The conflict escalated into warfare by 1075. This image shows the mediation between Pope and Emperor through the efforts of a female abbot named Matilda (see WC pg. 255)