

Bayeux Tapestry & the Battle of Hastings 1066, 5th Edition: And the Battle of Hastings 1066

Mogens Rud

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The Bayeux Tapestry (French: Tapisserie de Bayeux) is a 50 cm by 70 m (20 in by 230 ft) long embroidered cloth, done in painstaking detail, which depicts the events leading up to the 1066 Norman invasion of England as well as the events of the invasion itself. Once thought to have been created by William the Conqueror's wife Matilda of Flanders it is now believed to have been commissioned by Bishop Odo of Bayeux, William's half brother. The Tapestry is valued both as a work of art and as a source concerning the history of the Norman Conquest. Decorative borders on the top and bottom show medieval fables and the Tapestry also provides historical data concerning military equipment and tactics during the era around 1100. It also includes images of Halley's Comet. Originally intended to legitimize the Norman power in England, the tapestry is annotated in Latin. Nearly hidden in the Bayeux Cathedral until its rediscovery in the seventeenth century, it was moved several times to protect it from invaders. It is presently exhibited in a special museum in Bayeux, Normandy, France, with a Victorian replica in Reading, Berkshire, England.



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