

MDST 300.001 Fall 2013

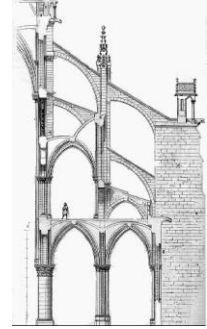
Short Paper Assignment 1

Due: Monday Sept. 16 by 2 PM in our Turnitin.Com folder

Class ID is 6795162; password (lower case) is _____

Length: 5-7 pages exclusive of Works Cited Page (2009 MLA documentation)

You are required to submit 2 out of 3 of the short papers. If you turn in all three, I will drop the lowest grade. This paper counts as 10% of your final grade.



This paper asks you to synthesize the reading you've been doing in Cook and Herzman with our analysis of the Staffordshire Hoard, both as a find and as a gateway into the culture of early medieval northern Europe. I'd like you, in a paper of 5-7 pages (not counting Works Cited), to answer this question:

What does the Staffordshire Hoard tell **you** about 7th century society in early Britain? Does it give you any insights into how people thought, about how they related to each other, about what they valued? How do you 'read' the Hoard?

Please note that there's no particular 'right' answer to this question. I'd like you think about things like what you've learned about the spread of Christianity, about the ideas of form (ideals) and substance (physical manifestation of those ideals), about the way the Bible might have been read or regarded, the role of a leader in the City of Earth, about what is and isn't present in the Hoard, about how it relates to other finds, etc., etc—but take this in the direction YOU want to take it.

You may certainly insert pictures into your text (but please, not just to stretch it for length). The easiest way to document these is to use the 'caption' feature in Word and put the parenthetical reference or URL in the caption. On the next page I have listed a number of online resources on the Hoard to help you get started, and I'll put a copy of Leahy on reserve at the library in case anyone is having trouble acquiring the book.

Researching the Hoard

The Staffordshire Hoard has a marvelous research site at www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk. You can find out a great deal of information about the Hoard and theories about its origin there. Some additional sites I'd recommend are listed below:

If you want to see how the items are being cleaned and conserved, try these links:

- Pieta Graves' blog
<http://www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk/conservation-in-the-bmag-galleries>
- Natalie Harding's "Cleaning the Staffordshire Hoard":
<http://www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk/cleaning-the-staffordshire-hoard>
- Grant Cox gives an idea of how they are making 3D reconstructions of some of the found objects: <http://grantcoxmedia.wordpress.com/tag/staffordshire-hoard-helmet/>

There are several high-resolution sets of photographs of the Staffordshire Hoard available on Flickr. Here are the links:

- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/birminghammag/sets/72157622327837525/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/sets/721576223278376316/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/staffordshirehoard/sets/>
- They also have a Pinterest board: <http://pinterest.com/birminghammag/staffordshire-hoard/>

An academic research conference was held at the British Museum in 2010 to start making sense of the find. If you are interested, you can read the papers for that conference on the website of the Portable Antiquities Scheme: <http://finds.org.uk/staffshoardsymposium>.

