

Chapter 5—Fiefdom and Monastery



[Tapisserie de Bayeux Image](#)

Early Medieval World

(the Medieval Age began with the fall of Rome to the Renaissance)

- **Dark Ages (550-750) and monasticism**
- **Charlemagne—ruler, diplomat, and playboy (768-814)**
- **Leo III crowned him on Christmas Day 800 the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.**
- **It has been said that the Holy Roman Empire was neither holy, Roman, nor an empire.**
- **However, it lasted until the Austrian/Hungarian Empire, which fell in the aftermath of WWI.**

- **Charlemagne upset Byzantine emperors with his delusions of Roman grandeur.**
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- **Charlemagne didn't get along with the Byzantine Emperor but seemed to have gotten along with the Muslims. However, Charles Martel, grandfather of Charlemagne, stopped the spread of Islam into Europe in 732 leaving Muslims in the south of Spain.**
- **Charlemagne became protector of the Christian shrines in the Holy Lands.**
- **Learning during the time of Charlemagne—who couldn't write—but he brought education to Aachen.**

- **Set-up a head-start system for his kingdom—literacy was a major concern.**
- **Decree of 798—local leaders were to start schools.**
- **Feudalistic society—France, Germany, Low Countries, and Italy were in a pyramidal social structure**
- **Music: Gregorian Chants or plainsongs**
- **Literature: *Beowulf*, *Chanson de Roland*, and *Nibelungenlied***

Anglo-Saxon art and culture



Sutton Hoo gold belt buckle



Sutton Hoo helmet



The Wash

Norfolk

East Anglia

Suffolk

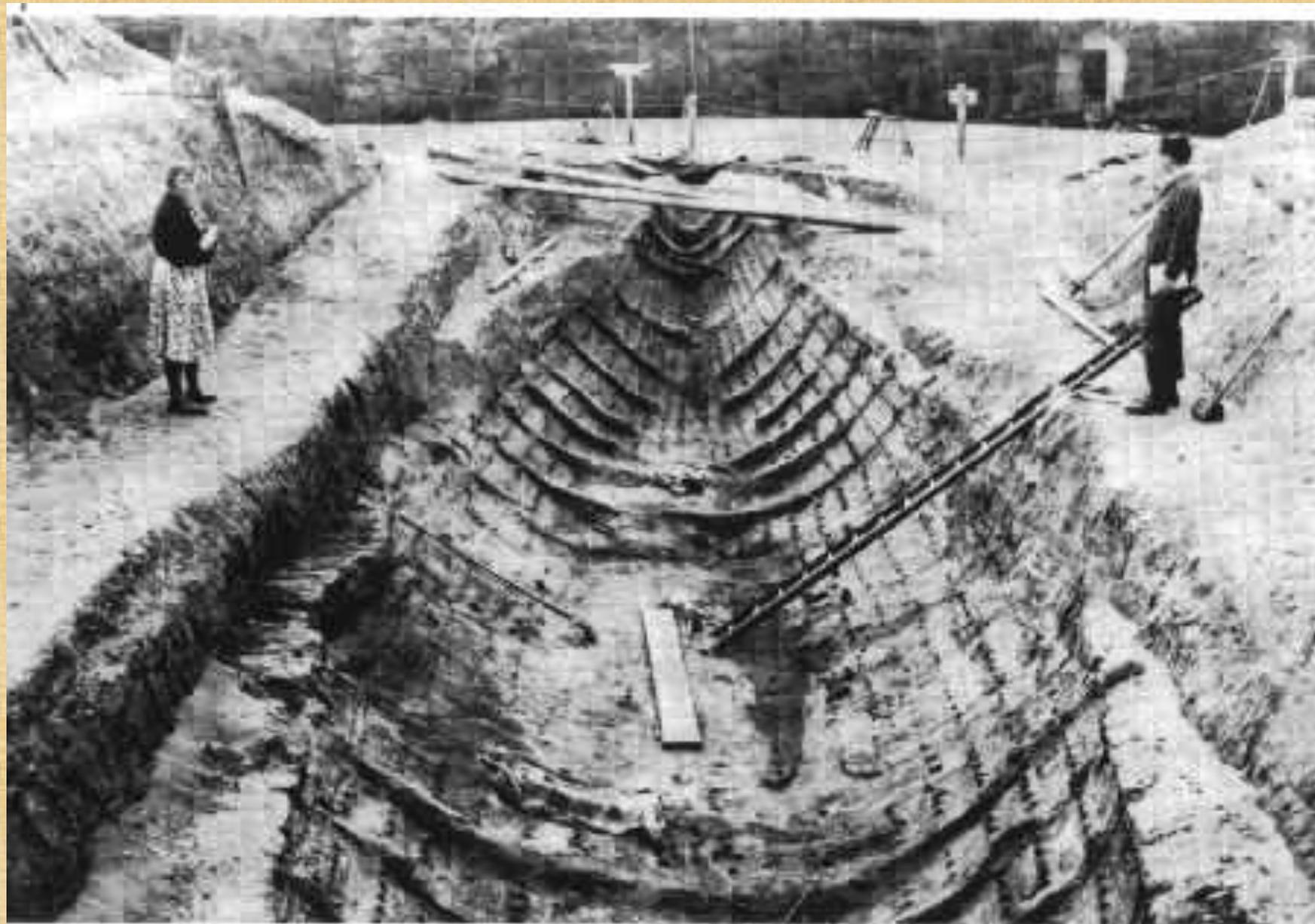
Sutton
Hoo

River Deben

Essex

Sutton Hoo is above the River Deben.











Sutton Hoo burial mound



Several burial mounds

**Sutton Hoo gives us a glimpse
of the Anglo-Saxon presence
in England after the Romans left.**

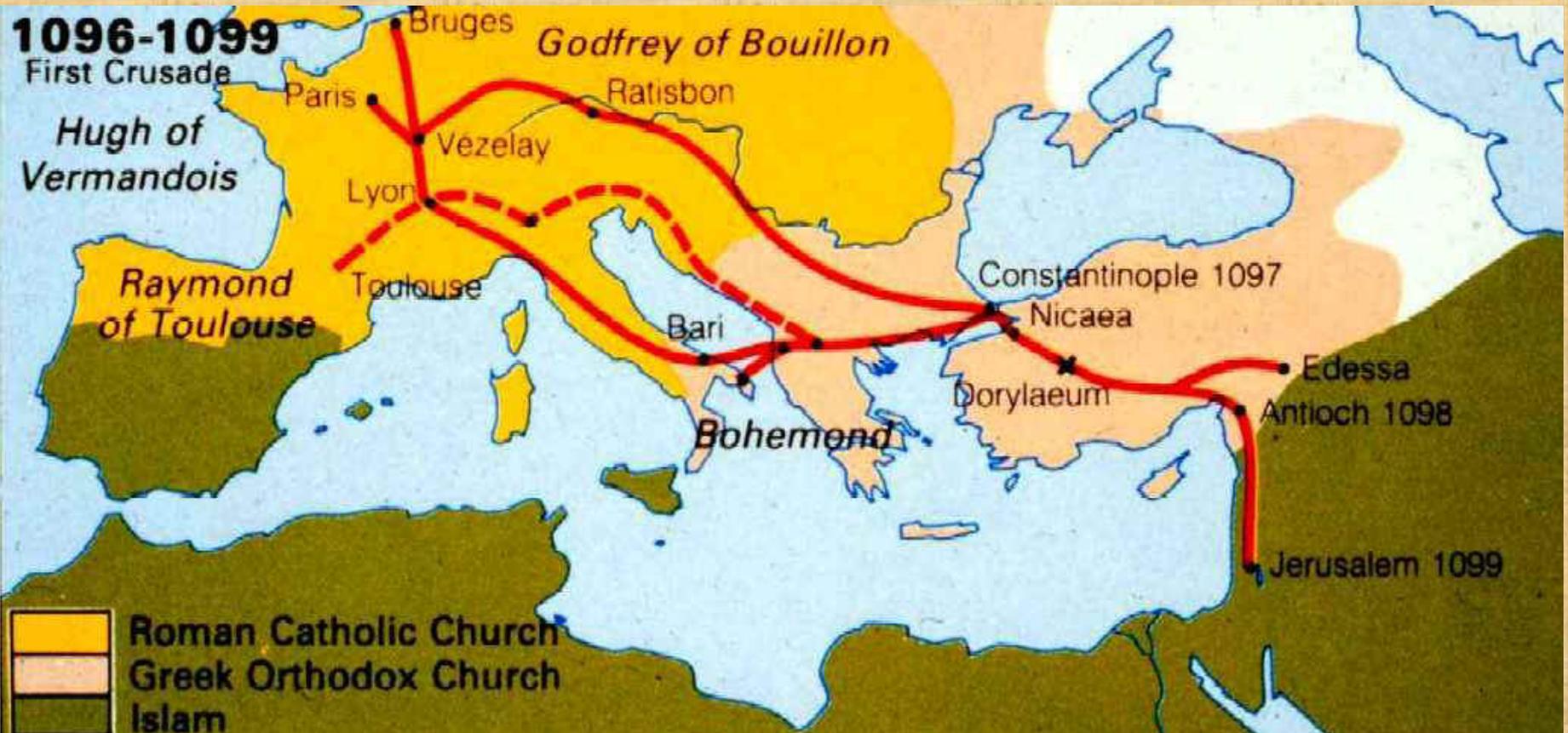
**Both the ships, art, and cremation
of the early settlers is critical
in understanding Britain
after the fall of the Roman Empire.**

**Feudalism expanded from Roman times.
The Anglo-Saxons had the Brits as their
subjects.**

**This is paralleled with Christian
spiritual control of their salvation.**

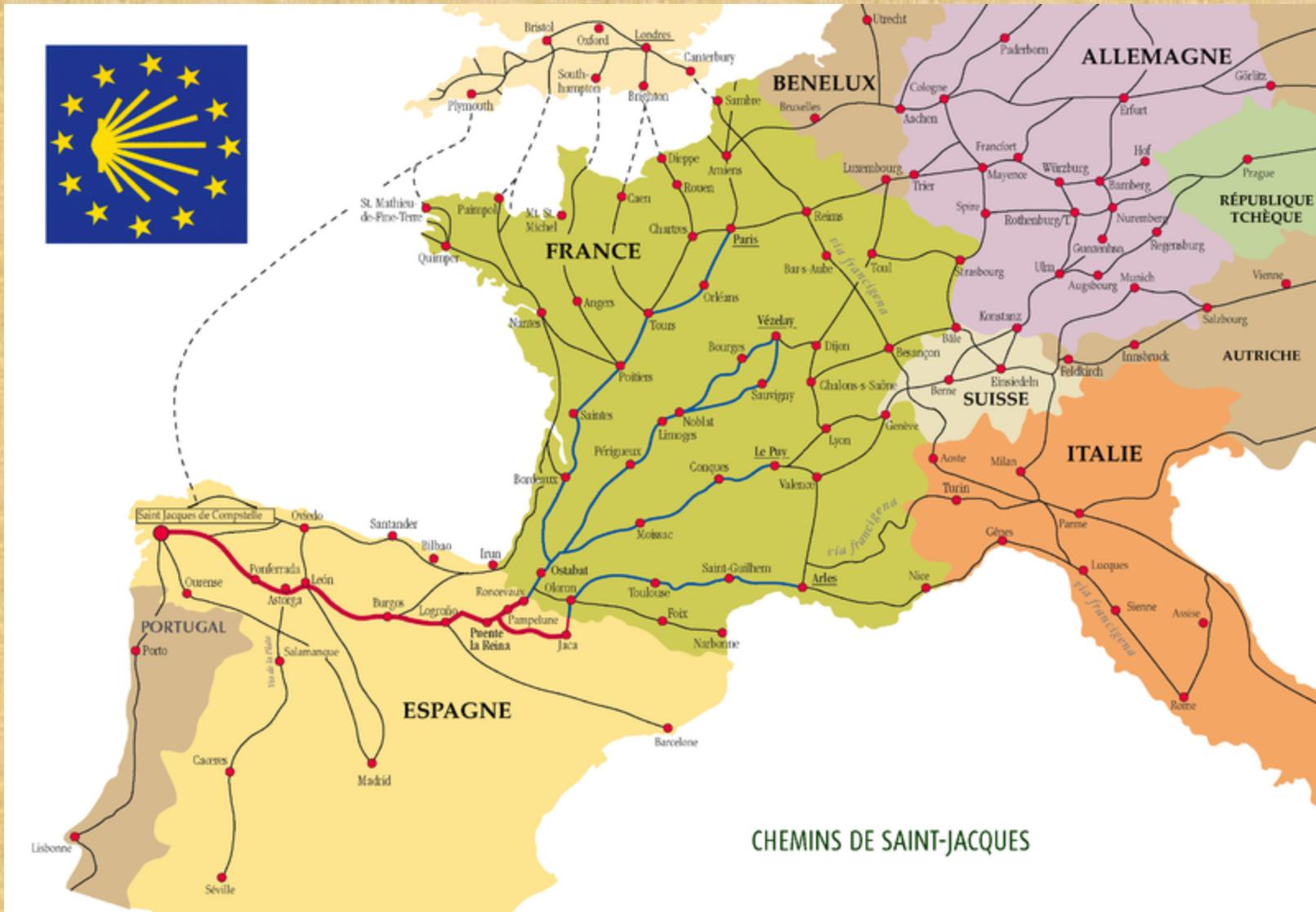
The pilgrimage to holy shrines was a major factor during this period.

The Crusades were a militaristic pilgrimage to the Holy Lands starting in 1099.



The First Crusade to the Holy Lands

The pilgrimage to holy shrines was a major factor during this period. See the movie, *The Way*.



The Way of St. James or El Camino de Santiago was then and still is a major pilgrimage.



In England, the pilgrimage to Canterbury was the basis for *The Canterbury Tales* by Chaucer.





Chaucer on the pilgrimage to Canterbury

Anglo-Saxon Artistic Style and Culture

Cloisonné is gold outline with colored glass and semi-precious stones.





Beowulf

WÆT ÆE LARDE
na in seap dagum. heod cunniga
hym se fūmon huda æþelingsas elles
fne medon. of seald scepms sceape
þreatum monegū mæspum meodo seala
of tealh esode eopl syddan ærest þæt
fæa sceapz funden he þæs trofne seba
peox under polenum þeopid myndum þah
od þ him æghpyle þara ymb sit ten dya
of æ hron. þade hyran scolde zombair

**Beowulf is
the oldest epic poem
in all of England.**

ca. early 11th century

**The Book of Kells
ca. late 8th to early 9th
century was from
Iona, Scotland.**



Carolingian Culture

**Charles Martel or Charles the Hammer
stopped the Muslim forces in France.**





The Alhambra was the last Muslim stronghold in Spain.





Toulouse

Andorra

Zaragoza

Porto

Portugal

Madrid

Spain

Lisbon

Cordoba

Seville

Granada

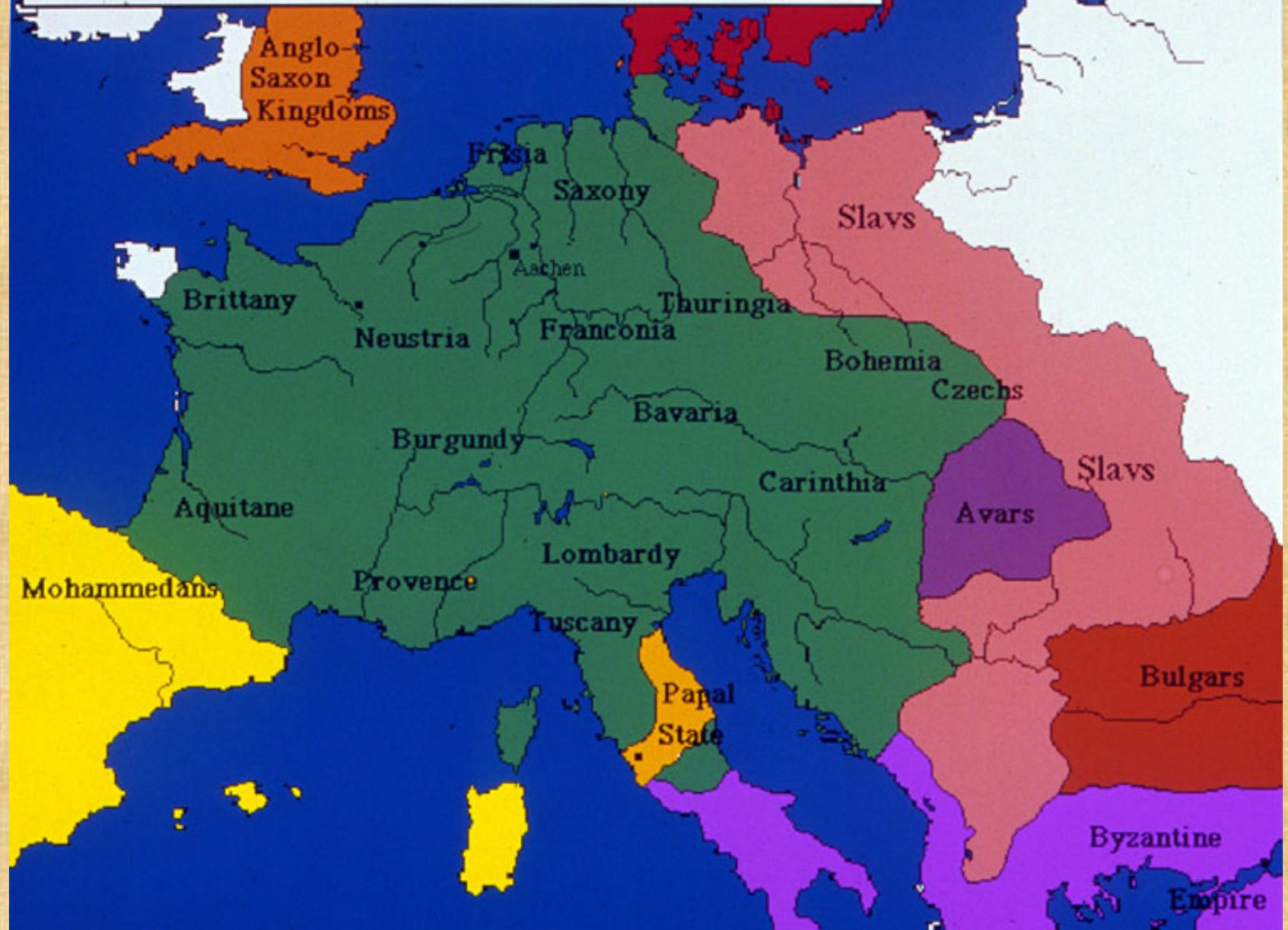
Malaga

Gibraltar

Charlemagne reigned in the Kingdom of the Franks from 768 to 814.



Frankish Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne 800-814



Song of Roland

Chansons de geste (songs of deeds) were minstrel tales of the time. The Song of Roland is the oldest *historical* tales.



Literacy in Europe

Charlemagne learned to read and write and wanted the rest of his kingdom to do so for everyday reasons including religious reasons.

Medieval Monasteries



St. Gall
ca. 820



Bayeux Tapestry and the Norman invasion of England in 1066.



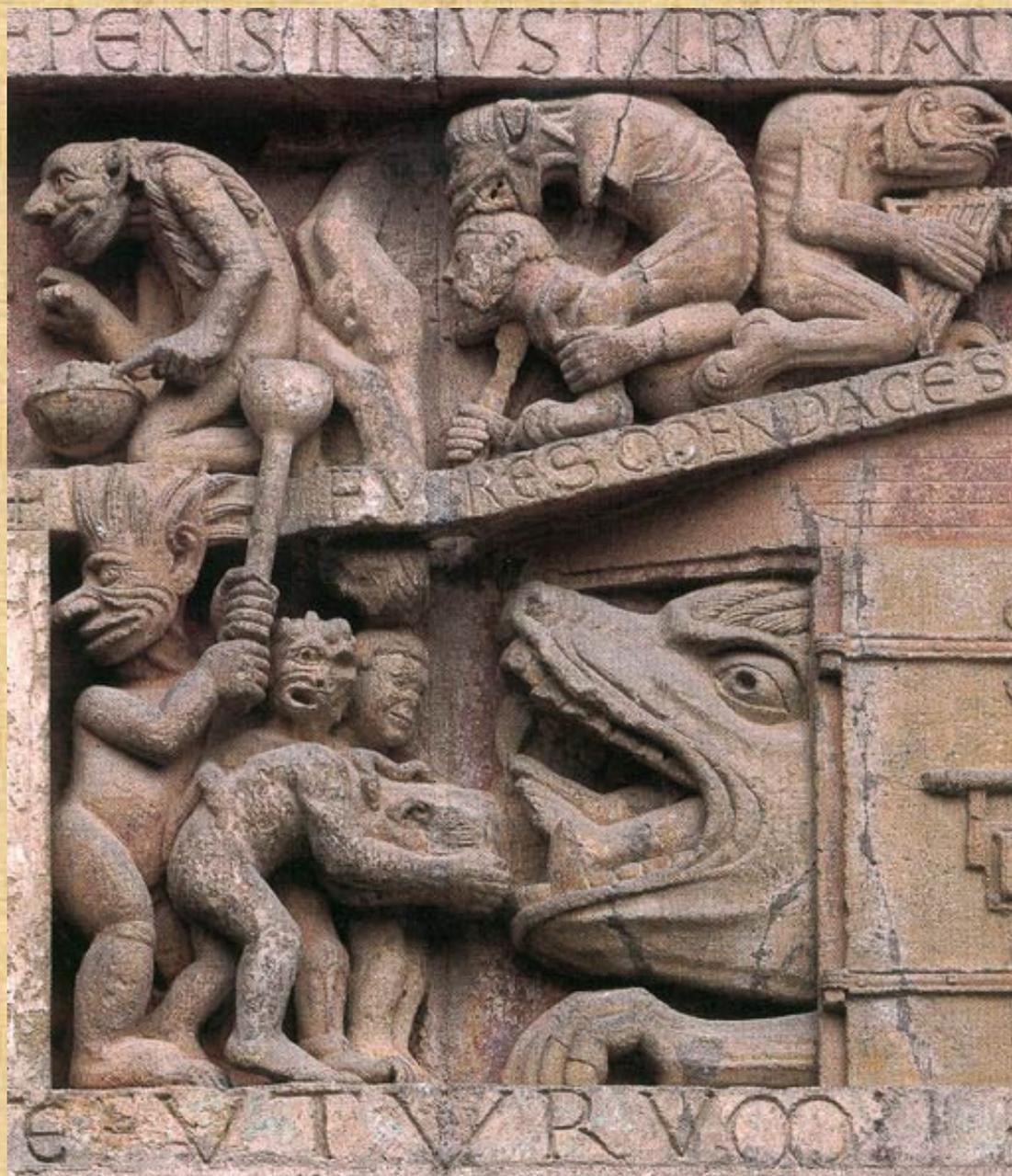
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St. Foy was on the El Camino pilgrimage.



Tympanum of St. Foy
ca. 1050



Hell carvings

St. Foy and her skull ca. 983



Romanesque style

- **Romanesque style (Roman-like)—1050-1200**
- **Stone rounded-arches**
- **Heavy walls—and ceilings with roof in masonry**
- **Tympanum**
- **Pilgrimages and reliquaries—movement of masses like Mecca and the Muslims**
- **Feudal society in which the church/state linked**
- **Urban II ordered the first crusade to free Jerusalem.**
- **Great discoveries of Greco-Roman art and culture**



**St. Etienne ca. 11th
(spires 13th century)**



Cathedral of Pisa ca. 1063

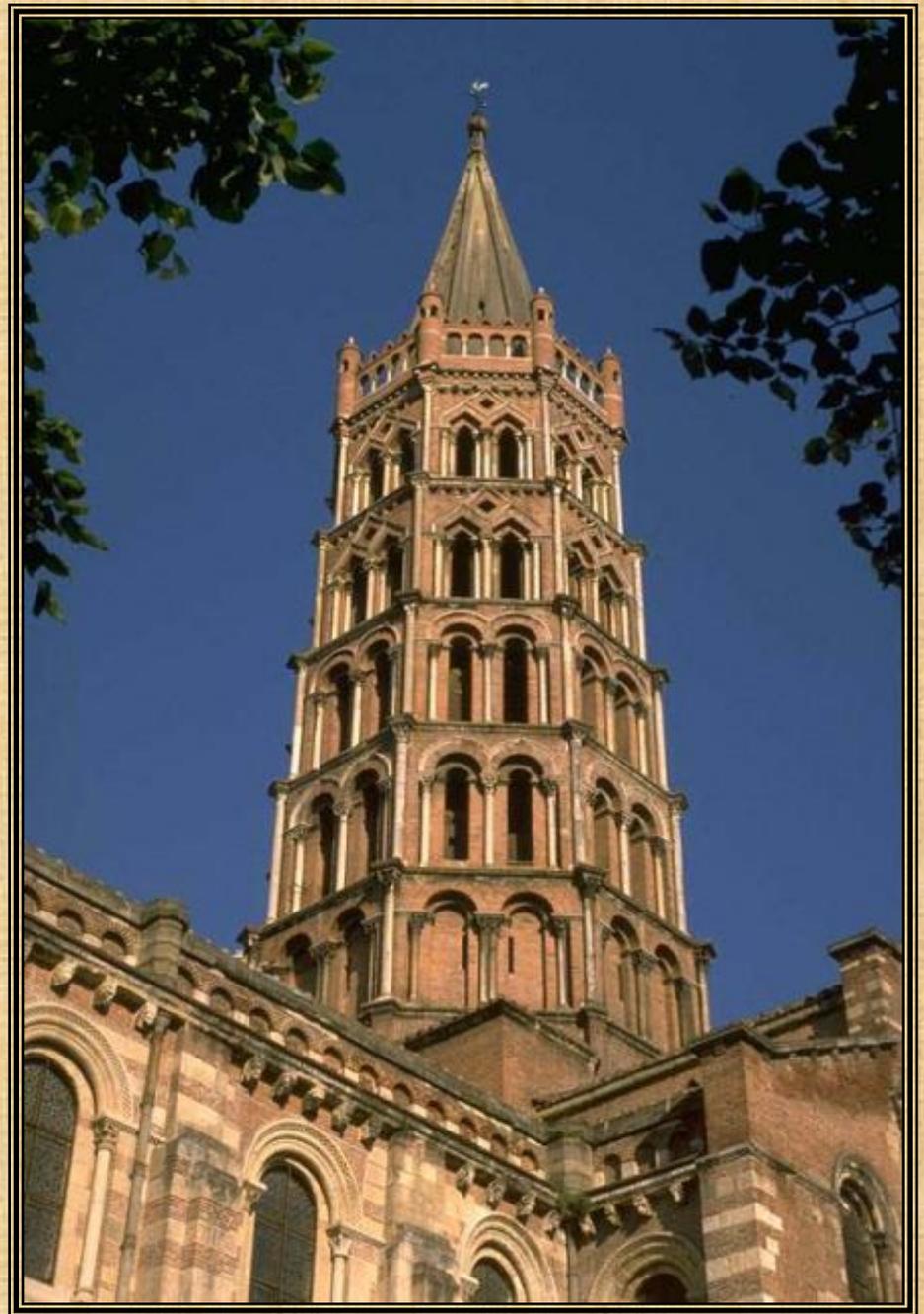
Leaning Tower ca. 1174



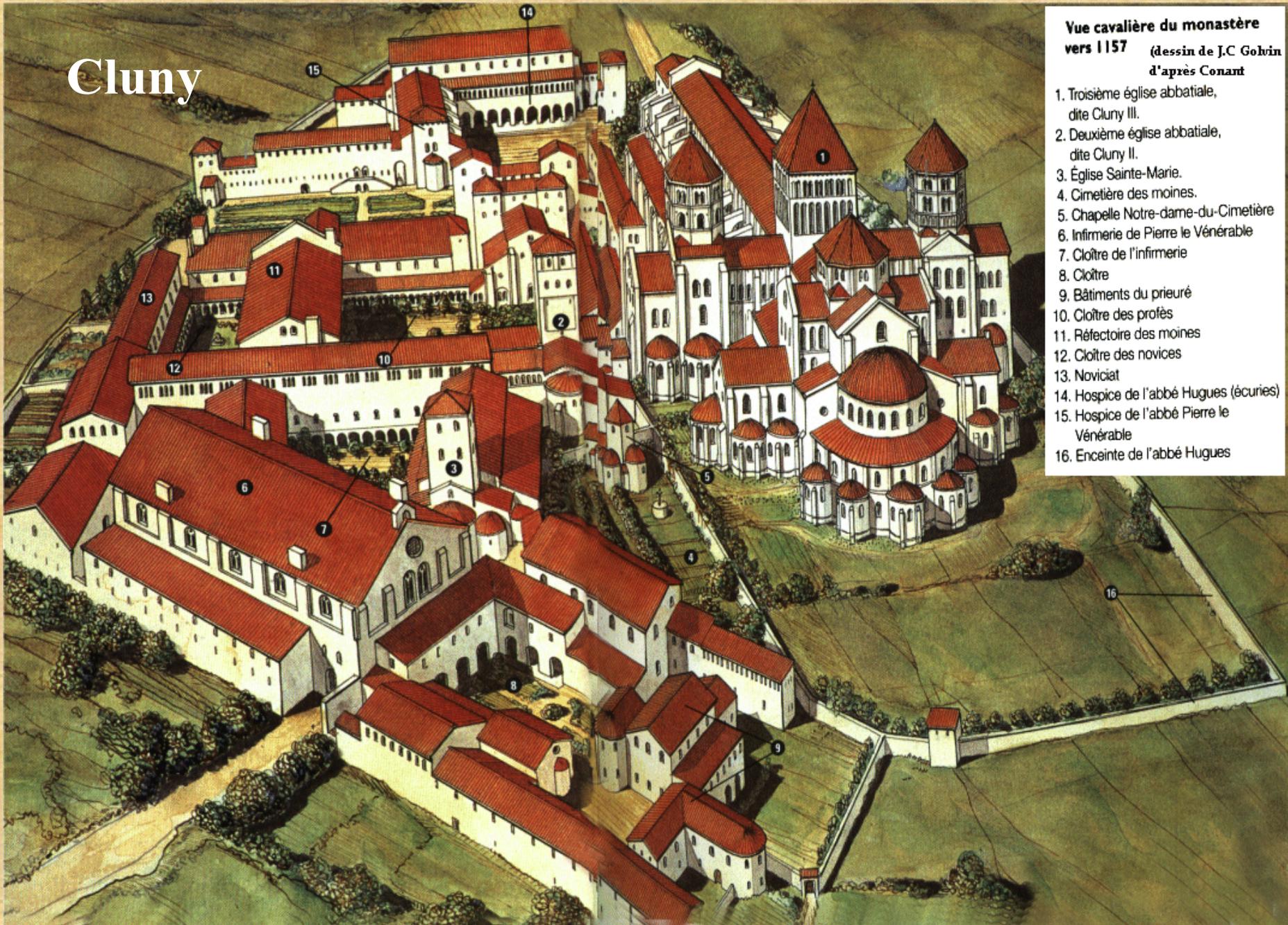


Baptistery ca. 1153

St. Sernin ca. 1250



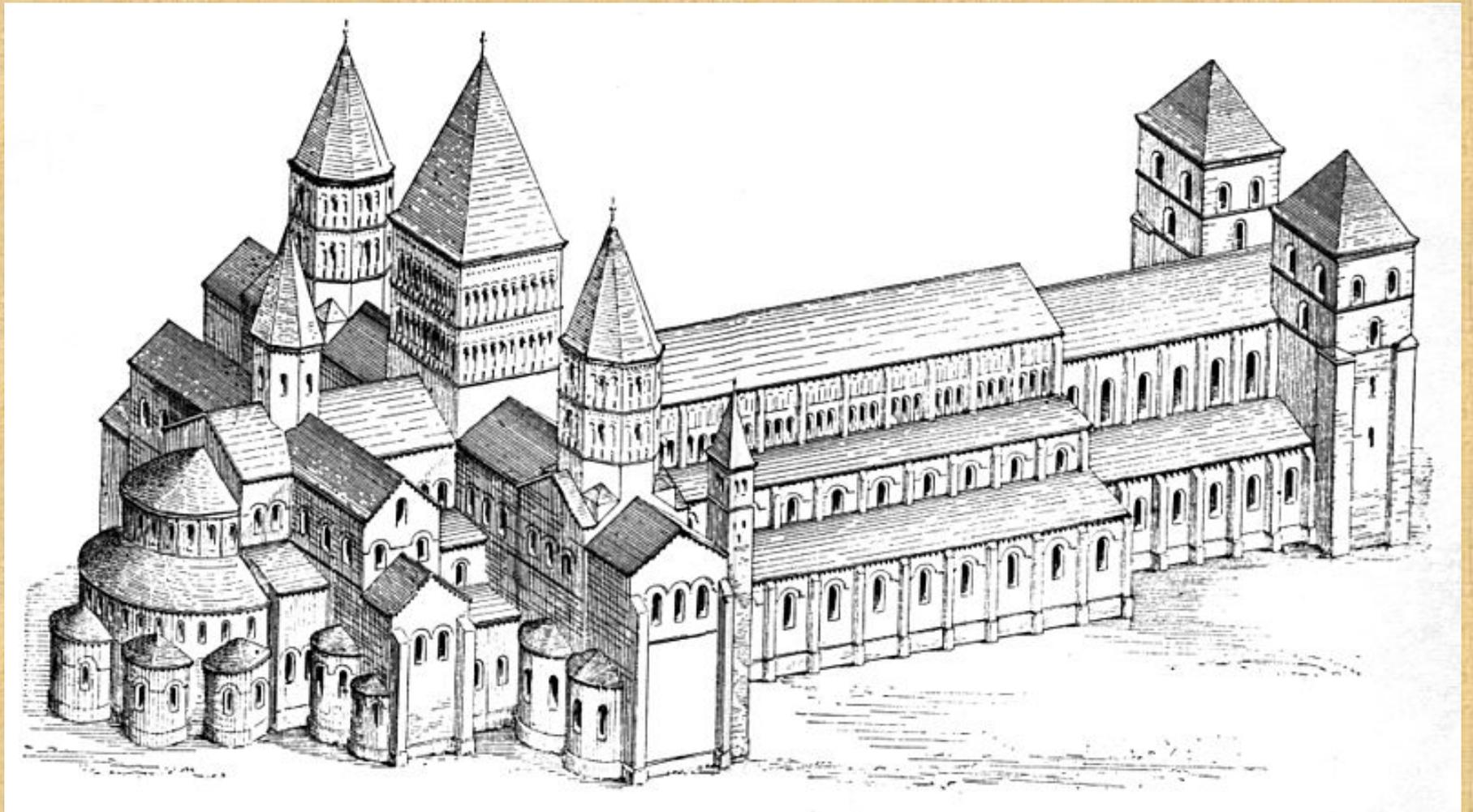
Cluny



Vue cavalière du monastère vers 1157 (dessin de J.C Golvin d'après Conant

1. Troisième église abbatiale, dite Cluny III.
2. Deuxième église abbatiale, dite Cluny II.
3. Église Sainte-Marie.
4. Cimetière des moines.
5. Chapelle Notre-dame-du-Cimetière.
6. Infirmerie de Pierre le Vénérable.
7. Cloître de l'infirmerie.
8. Cloître.
9. Bâtiments du prieuré.
10. Cloître des profès.
11. Réfectoire des moines.
12. Cloître des novices.
13. Noviciat.
14. Hospice de l'abbé Hugues (écuries).
15. Hospice de l'abbé Pierre le Vénérable.
16. Enceinte de l'abbé Hugues.

Cluny





**Only a small part
of Cluny remains—
a tower and part
of the transept.**

The Crusades and the Culture of Romance

Pope Urban II started the First Crusade for various reasons. One was to recapture shrines of Christianity in the Holy Land that now were under Arab Muslims starting in 638.

However, the issue of primogeniture was also a main reason. Under primogeniture, only the first born male inherited the family wealth.

The Crusades were a jobs program for the disinherited younger brothers.

There were also religious reasons for the Crusades. Urban II said, “Jerusalem is the navel of the world; the land is fruitful above others, like ... as we have already said, God has conferred upon you above all nations great glory in arms. Accordingly, undertake this journey for the remission of your sins, with the assurance of the imperishable glory of the kingdom of heaven.”

He also said...

“From the confines of Jerusalem and the city of Constantinople, a horrible tale has gone forth... a race utterly alienated from God...They destroy the altars, after having defiled them with their uncleanness... When they wish to torture people by a base death, they perforate their navels and, dragging forth the extremity of the intestines, bind it to a stake; then with flogging they lead the victim around until, the viscera having gushed forth, the victim falls prostrate upon the ground. Others they bind to a post and pierce with arrows. Others they compel to extend their necks and then, attacking them with naked swords, attempt to cut through the neck with a single blow. What shall I say of the abominable rape of the women?”

**100,000 formed the First Crusade,
which reached and captured Jerusalem
in July 1099.**

**However, in about a half century,
the Muslims retook Jerusalem,
which resulted in several more crusades.**

**Essentially, the crusades didn't
accomplish anything militarily.**

NB

However, the Crusades did discover the West's cultural and artistic background, which had been lost for a half millennium...the Greek's artistic ideas, thoughts, democracy, etc.

In reality, it was the only positive result of any of the Crusades. It made us who we are today... it changed the entire world. Therefore, one of the worst things done ensured Western thought, ideas, philosophy, Weltanschauung, etc.

This issue can't be forgotten or missed.

A moment of *double* Medieval Zen

- **Crusades (1st Crusade 1095)** were designed to free the Holy Lands from the *infidels* who had been living there for a millennia.
- **The West didn't want them on holy land. Think of one of bin Laden's complaint....**
- **Where did the West discover their Greco-Roman culture? Hint: in the Arab world.**

