

INTERACTIVE EXCAVATIONS

The Bayeux Tapestry

Have you ever thought about a stamp study group working together to produce an exhibit? Think about it.

The Bayeux Tapestry has always been an interesting item. Tapestries were the history books of a thousand years ago. What's so interesting about this one is that it's 231 feet long. Now that's a lot of embroidery.

The 11th-century tapestry was stitched shortly after William's victory at Hastings. The tapestry hangs in a special glass casing in the former Bishop's Palace across from historic Cathedral of Bayeux.

Stamps have already been issued by a few countries commemorating the Battle of Hastings.

Here's the proposal. We'll print four panels like those at the right every quarter. Each quarter, those of you wanting to participate, will send stamps or covers showing something that was on one of the pieces of the tapestry. It can be a likeness of William, or Edward, or a battle ax of the era, or horse armor, or whatever, just as long as it comes close to the time frame of the tapestry. Remember, with the new Display class of exhibit we can add up to 30% of peripheral items to the pages.

Little-by-little we'll have an exhibit built up covering 77 yards of the linen history. And wouldn't that be a great way to tie us all together as a solid unit? We could enter it in the National Topical Show and show the country what study groups can do, and wouldn't you suppose there might be some people out there who hear about the project and want to join us?

And when we're all done . . . you'll have your own copy of the full tapestry — and then we can start on another project together.

Interactive excavations . . . what do you think about it?



Since King Edward has no offspring, he looks abroad for an heir and promises the kingdom to his cousin, Duke William of Normandy. The king calls Harold Godwinson, his brother-in-law and England's most powerful earl.



The monarch orders the earl, "Go to Normandy! Confirm the pledge!" With Harold leading, the knights set out. Falcon and hunting hounds signify they go in peace. At the port of Bosham, Earl Godwinson prays for a safe voyage.



A servant gestures that the ship is ready while Harold finishes a beaker of wine. The barefoot English, tunics tucked into their waists, carrying the animals, wade through the shallows to their ship. A sailor steps the mast.



The oarsmen stroke out to sea and a fresh wind billows the sails. Overlapping shields hang along the gunwale. A lookout shinnies up the mast. What perils of the sea lie ahead? We'll know more next issue of *Old World Archaeologist*.