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Full-Size Replica of the Bayeux Tapestry

By Rita Tekippe, University of West Georgia

At the University of West Georgia, in Carrollton, where I am a faculty member, is a full-size replica of the Bayeux Tapestry—one of a handful of such copies in existence. Wrought in different media (painted canvas), and hung at greater height (unreachable ∴ untouchable) it nonetheless offers an opportunity for students/scholars to examine the imagery in somewhat similar fashion to what would be possible in the home of the original. This work is mined frequently and effectively from a variety of disciplinary approaches here at the university and it is explored by local schoolchildren as well. There are even annual group pilgrimages made by young Atlantan academics to study and sketch, as part of history and social study courses. Whether its replication here influenced Medieval English scholar Micheal Crafton's pursuit of the fabulous textile as a research topic is unknown to me; that it was instrumental in the meeting of medievalist minds for Micheal and me is certain. Further it has led to the happy occasion of our being able to present this special group of articles on this phenomenal medieval work.

The replica was created by Atlanta artist Margaret ReVille. Dr. E.D. Wheeler, former judge and former dean at Oglethorpe University, commissioned the work and donated it to UWG in 1997.