

## **Vocabulary—Medieval and Romanesque art**

animal interlace: decorative of interwoven animals or serpents, often found in Celtic and northern European art in the early medieval period.

bailey: the outermost walled courtyard of a castle.

Book of Hours: a private prayer book, having a calendar, services for the canonical hours, and sometimes special prayers.

buttress: a type of architectural support which acts by transferring the weight of the buildings from a higher point to the ground. Flying buttresses transfer the thrust of the roof vaults to a pier.

cathedral: the principal Christian church in a diocese, built in the bishop's administrative center and housing his throne (*cathedra*).

choir: the section of a Christian church reserved for the clergy. Located either between the crossing and the apse or in the nave just before the crossing, screened or walled and fitted with seats; may also be raised above the nave over the entrance.

cloister: an open space, part of a monastery, surrounded by an arcaded or colonnaded walkway, often having a fountain or garden, and dedicated to non-liturgical activities. Members of a cloistered order do not leave the monastery or interact with outsiders.

folio: a page in a manuscript, typically when a large sheet of paper or parchment has been folded twice and cut, producing four separate sheets.

gilding: the application of paper-thin gold leaf or pigment to an object as a decorative finishing detail.

illumination: a painting used as illustration and decoration for manuscripts, usually done in rich colors and often supplemented by precious materials. The illustrators are referred to as illuminators.

interlace: a type of linear decoration popular in ancient and early medieval art in which ribbon-like serpents, vines, animals or ribbons are interwoven.

keep: the most heavily fortified defensive structure in a castle.

lantern: a turret-like structure situated on top of a dome, with windows that allow light into the space below.

Latin-cross plan: a cruciform building incorporating a longer nave and shorter transept arms.

lectionary: book containing readings from Christian scripture arranged according to liturgical calendar, from which the priest reads to the congregation during the service.

manuscript: a handwritten book.

parchment: a writing surface made from the treated skins of animals.

portal: a grand entrance door to an important public building, often decorated with sculpture.

provenance: the history of ownership of a work of art from the time of its creation to the present.

quatrefois: a four-lobed decorative pattern.

recto: the principal or front side of a leaf of parchment.

refectory: the dining hall for monks or nuns in a monastery or convent.

reliquary: a container used as a repository to protect and display sacred relics; often made of precious materials.

sacristy: in a Christian church, the room in which the priest's robes and the sacred vessels are housed.

scriptorium: a room in a monastery for writing, copying and illuminating manuscripts.

stigmata: the wounds of Christ.

transept: the arm of a cruciform church perpendicular to the nave.

trefoil: an ornamental design made up of three rounded lobes.

trumeau: a column, pier or post found at the center of a large portal, supporting the lintel.

tympanum: in medieval and later architecture, the area over a door enclosed by an arch and a lintel, often decorated with relief sculpture or mosaic.

verso: the back side of a leaf of paper or parchment.

westwork: the monumental, west-facing entrance of a Carolingian, Ottonian or Romanesque church.