

[pp. 38-47: Owen-Crocker, Gale R. (2006), "The Embroidered Word: Text in the Bayeux Tapestry", in *Medieval Clothing & Textiles 2*, ed. by Robin Netherton and Gale R. Owen-Crocker, 35-59. Woodbridge, UK: The Boydell Press, an imprint of Boydell & Brewer.]

Table 2.1: The Bayeux Tapestry inscription: Translation, parts of speech, and symbols

| Sc | Inscription | Translation | Noun or Pronoun | Prep | Adj | Verb | Adv or Conjun | Symbol |
|----|---|---|--|------|-----|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | EDVVARD REX: | King Edward | Edward Rex | | | | | : |
| 2 | VBI: HAROLD DVX: ANGLOVM: ETSVIMILITES: EQVI TANT: ADBOS ham: | Where Harold duke of the English and his soldiers ride to Bosham. | Harold dux Anglorum milites Bosham | ad | | equitant | ubi | : : : : : : : : |
| 3 | ÆCCLESIA: | church | ecclesia | | | | | : |
| 4 | HIC HAROLD: MARE: NAVIGAVIT: | Here Harold navigated the sea | Harold mare | | | navigavit | hic | : : . . . : : |
| 5 | ETVELIS: VENTO: PLENIS VE= =NIT: INTERRA: VVIDONIS COMITIS | and, with the wind full in his sails, came to the land of Count Guy. | velis vento terra Widonis Comitis | in | | venit | et | : : = = : : : |
| 6 | HAROLD: HIC: APPREHENDIT: VVIDO: HAROLDV: | Harold Here Guy arrests Harold | Harold Harold[um] | | | apprehendit | hic | : : : : : : : : |
| 7 | ETDVX IT: EV M ADBELREM: | and led him to Beaurain | eum Belrem | ad | | duxit | et | : : : |
| 8 | ETIBI EVM: TEN VIT: | and held him there. | eum | | | tenuit | et ibi | : : : |

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|----|--|--|---|----|--------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 9 | VBI:hARO LD:7VVIDO:PA RABO LANT: | Where Harold and Guy talk. | Harold Wido | | | parabolant | ubi | : : 7 : : |
| 10 | VBI:NVNTII:VVILLEMI: DVCIS:VENERVNT:ADVVIDO NĒ TVROLD | Where the messengers of Duke William came to Guy. Turold | nuntii Willelmi Ducis Widone[m] Turold | ad | | venerunt | ubi | : : : : : |
| 11 | NVN TII:VVILLEMI | William's messengers | nuntii Willelmi | | | | | : : |
| 12 | †HIC VENIT:NVNTIVS:ADWIL GELMVM DV CEM | Here a messenger came to Duke William. | nuntius Wilgelum Ducem | ad | | venit | hic | † : : : |
| 13 | HIC:WIDO:AD DVXIT hAR OLDVm ADVILGELM VM: NORMANNO RV M: DVCĒM | Here Guy led Harold to William Duke of the Normans. | Wido Haroldum Wilgelmum Normannorum Ducem | | | adduxit | hic | : : : : : |
| 14 | HIC:DVX:-VVILGELM : CVMhAROLDO:VENIT:ADPA LATIV SVV | Here Duke William came with Harold to his palace. | Dux Wilgelm Haroldo palatii[m] | ad | suu[m] | venit | hic | : : - : : : |
| 15 | VBI:VNVS:CLERICVS:ET:- ÆLFGY VA | Where a cleric and Ælfgyva ... | clericus Ælfgyva | | unus | | ubi et | : : : : - |

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|----|--|---|---|--------|------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 16 | hIC·VVILLEM:DVX: ETEXERCITVS: EIVS :VE NERVNT:ADMONTĒ MICHAELIS | Here Duke William and his army came to Mont-Saint- Michel | Willem Dux exercitus Monte[m] Michaelis | ad | eius | venerunt | hic et | ••••• |
| 17 | ET hIC:TRANSIERVNT:FLVMEN: COSNONIS: hIC:hAROLD:DVX:TRAHEBAT: EOS:- DEARENA | and here they crossed the River Couesnon. Here Duke Harold pulled them from the sand | flumen Cosnonis Harold Dux eos arena | de | | transierunt trahebat | et hic hic | •••• •••••- |
| 18 | ETVENERVNT AD DOL: ET:CONAN:- FVGA VER TIT:- R&D N&S | and they came to Dol and Conan took flight. Rennes | Dol Conan fuga Rednes | ad | | venerunt vertit | et et | •••••- |
| 19 | hICMILITĒS VVILELMI:DVCIS:PVG NANT:CONTRA DINAN TES:- | Here Duke William's soldiers fight against the inhabitants of Dinan | militēs Wilelmi Ducis Dinantes | contra | | pugnant | hic | •••••- |
| 20 | ET:CVNAN:CLAVES:POR R&EXIT:- | and Conan surrendered the keys. | Cunan claves | | | porrexit | et | •••••- |

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|----|---|---|---|----|----------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 21 | hIC:WILLELM: DEDIT: HA ROL DO: ARMA | Here William gave arms to Harold. | Willelm Haroldo arma | | | dedit | hic | : : : : |
| 22 | hIEVVILLEL M VENIT:BAGIAS | [Here] William came to Bayeux | Willelm Bagias | | | venit | hie [<i>sic</i>] | : |
| 23 | VBI hAROLD:SACRAMENTVM: FECIT:- VVILLELMO DVCI:- | where Harold made an oath to Duke William. | Harold sacramentum Willelmo Duci | | | fecit | ubi | : : : - : - |
| 24 | hICHAROL D:DVX:- REVERSUS: EST ADANGLICAM:TERRAM:- | Here Duke Harold returned to England | Harold Dux terram | ad | Anglicam | reversus est | hic | : - : : : - |
| 25 | ET VENIT:AD:EDVVARDV:- REGE M:- | and came to King Edward. | Edwardu[m] Regem | ad | | venit | et | : : : - : - |
| 26 | hIC PORTA TVR:CORPVS:EADWARDI: REGIS:AD:ECCLÆSIAM:SĀI PETRI APET | Here the body of King Edward is carried to the church of St. Peter the Apostle. | corpus Eadwardi Regis ecclesiam S[an]c[t]i Petri Ap[osto]li | ad | | portatur | hic | : : : : : : |
| 27 | hIC EADVWARDVS:REX INLECTO : ALLOQVIT:FIDE LES:- | Here King Edward in bed speaks to the faithful | Eadwardus Rex lecto fideles | in | | alloquit[ur] | hic | : : : - : - |

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|----|--|---|--|------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 28 | ETHIC: DEFVNC TVS EST | and here he is dead. | | | defunctus | est | et hic | • • |
| 29 | hIC DEDERVNT:hAROLDO: CORO NĀ: REGIS | Here they have given the king's crown to Harold. | Haroldo corona[m] regis | | | dederunt | hic | ••• ••• |
| 30 | hICRE SIDET:hAROLD REX:AN GLORVM: STIGANT ARCHI EPS | Here sits Harold, king of the English. Archbishop Stigand | Harold Rex Anglorum Stigant Archiep[iscopu]s | | | residet | hic | ••• ••• |
| 31 | | None | | | | | | |
| 32 | ISTIMIRANT STELLĀ | These [people] wonder at the star. | isti stella[m] | | | mirant | | |
| 33 | hAROLD | Harold | Harold | | | | | |
| 34 | hIC:NAVIS:ANGLI CA:VENIT.INTER RAM WILLELMI:DV CIS | Here an English ship came to the land of Duke William. | navis terram Willelmi Ducis | in | Anglica | venit | hic | ••••• ••••• |
| 35 | HIC:WILLELM DVX:IVSSIT NAVES : EDI FICARE: | Here Duke William commanded ships to be built. | Willelm Dux naves | | | iussit edificare | hic | ••••• ••••• |
| 36 | hIC TRAHVN̄T:NAVES:ADMA RE:-: | Here ships are dragged to the sea. | naves mare | ad | | trahunt[ur] | hic | ••••:- ••••:- |

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| 37 | ISTI PORTANT:ARMAS:ADNAVES: εThIC TRAhVNT CARRV:M CVMVINO:ETARM IS:- | These [people] carry arms to the ships and here drag a cart with wine and arms. | isti armas naves carrum vino armis | ad cum | | portent trahunt | et hic et | : : : : : :- |
| 38 | †hIC:VVILL ELM: DVX INMAGN O:NAVIGIO: MAR ε TRAN SIVIT ETVENIT ADPEVEN S:ε:- | Here Duke William crossed the sea in a big ship and came to Pevensey. | Willelm Dux navigio mare Pevensæ | in | magno | transivit venit | hic et | † : : : : : :- |
| 39 | hIC εXεVNT:CABALLI DENAVIBVS:- | Here horses get out of the ships | caballi navibus | de | | exeunt | hic | : :- |
| 40 | εThIC:MI LITES: FESTINA VERV NT:hεSTINGA: VTCIBVM.RAPERENTVR : | and here soldiers hastened to Hastings to plunder food. | milites Hestinga cibum | | | festinaverunt raperentur | et hic ut | : : : : : : |
| 41 | HIC:EST:VVAD AR D: | Here is Wadard. | Wadard | | | est | hic | : : : |
| 42 | hIC:COQVI TVR:CARO ET hIC: MINISTRAYERVN MINISTRI | Here meat is cooked and here they waited on. Waiters | caro ministri | | | coquitur ministraverunt | hic et hic | : : : |
| 43 | hICFECERVNT:PRANDIVM: ET:hIC:EPISCOPVS:CIBV:ET: POTV: BE NE DIC IT. | Here they made a meal and here the bishop blesses the food and drink. | prandium episcopus cibu[m] potu[m] | | | fecerunt benedicit | hic et hic et | : : : : : : : . |

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| 44 | ODO:EPS: ROTBERT:- WIL LELM: | Bishop Odo, Robert, William | Odo ep[iscopu]s Rotbert Willelm | | | | | ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ |
| 45 | ISTE: IV SSIT: VTFO DERETVR: CASTELLVM: AT: HESTENGA CEASTRA | This [man] has commanded that a castle should be thrown up at Hastings. Castle | iste castellum Hestenga ceastra | at | | iussit foderetur | | ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ |
| 46 | HIC: NVN TIATVMES T: WILLELMŪ DEHAROLD: | Here [information] is reported to William about Harold. | Willelmo Harold | de | | nuntiatum est | hic | ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ |
| 47 | hIC DOMVS: IN CEN DITVR: | Here a house is set on fire. | domus | | | incenditur | hic | ⋮ ⋮ |
| 48 | hIC: MILI TE S: EXIERVNT: DēHESTENGA: ET: VENE R VNT ADPRELIVM: CON TRA: HAROL DVM: REGE : | Here soldiers left Hastings and came to the fight against King Harold. | milites Hestenga prelium Haroldum Rege | de ad contra | | exierunt venerunt | hic est | ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ |
| 49 | HIC: V VILLELM: DVX INTERROGAT: VITAL: SIVI DISSET EXER CI TV̄ HAROLDI | Here Duke William questions Vital if he has seen Harold's army. | Willelm Dux Vital exercitu[m] Haroldi | | | interrogat vidisset | hic si | ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ |

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|----|---|--|--|--------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 50 | ISTE NVNTIAT:HA RO LDVM RĒGĒ DEEXER CITV VVILELMI DVCIS | This [man] reports to King Harold about Duke William's army. | iste Haroldum rege[m] exercitu[m] Wilelmi Ducis | de | | nuntiat | | • |
| 51 | HIC WILLELM:D VX ALLOQVI TVR:SV IS:MILITI BVS:VT. PRĒPARA RENSE: VI RILI TER ETSAPIENTE R: ADPRE LIVM: CONTRA:AN GLORVM EXER CI TV | Here Duke William exhorts his soldiers that they should prepare themselves manfully and wisely for the fight against the English army. | Willelm Dux se prelium Anglorum exercitu[m] | ad contra | | alloquitur preparant | hic ut viriliter sapienter | ••••• ••••• ••••• |
| 52 | hIC CECI DERN T LĒVVINE ET:GYRD:FRATRE S:hARO L DI REGIS: | Here Leofwine and Gyrth, brothers of King Harold, were killed. | Lewine Gyrð fratres Haroldi Regis | | | ceciderrunt | hic et | ••••• |
| 53 | hIC CĒCI DERN T SIMVL:ANGLI ET FRA NCI:INPRELIO:- | Here English and French were killed at the same time in the fight. | Angli Franci prelio | in | | ceciderrunt | hic simul et | ••••- |
| 54 | hIC:ODO EP̄S:BACVLV̄. TENENS: CONFOR:- TAT PVE ROS | Here Bishop Odo, holding his staff, 'encourages' the boys. | Odo Ep[iscopu]s baculu[m] pueros | | | tenens confortat | hic | •••••- |

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|----|---|---|-----------------------|------|-----|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 55 | hICEST:- DVX VVILEE E CIVS | Here is Duke William [?] Eustace | Dux Wille[m] E...cius | | | est | hic | :- |
| 56 | hIC:FRAN CI PVGNAN' ETC&CI DE RVNT QVIERANT:CVM HAROLDO:- | Here the French fight and have killed those who were with Harold. | Franci qui Haroldo | cum | | pugnant ceciderunt erant | hic et | : :- |
| 57 | hIC hARO L D:-REX:- INTERF&C TVS:EST | Here King Harold has been killed | Harold Rex | | | interfectus est | hic | : :- :- : |
| 58 | ETFVGA:VE RTERVN' ANGLI | and the English have turned to flight. | fuga Angli | | | verterunt | et | : : |