

EXAM 4 – Notes on T.C. Essays, October 21st, 2002

1. Discuss the artistic heritage of Ravenna, focusing on the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the Church of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo, and the Church of San Vitale. Please dwell on specific works of art.

*When Emperor Honorius moved the capital of the Western empire to Ravenna in A.D. 402 (due to the instability of Rome) the artistic heritage of Rome in a sense relocated to Ravenna as well. In time, Ravenna also became influenced by the Goths and Byzantium. We see this **Roman, Goth, and Byzantine** influence in three major structures in Ravenna: The Mausoleum of G...*

Mausoleum of Galla Placidia

-late Roman Art

Built in the early fifth century, this burial chapel is likely a votive chapel that originally attached to the nearby Church of the Holy Cross.

*-structure in the shape of a **cross***

*-very **plain exterior***

*-tendency to combine **basilica**-style nave w/**dome***

*-uses a modified **pendentive form** (later in Hagia Sophia)*

-beautiful mosaics decorate walls and ceilings

*~~**Christ as Good Shepherd lunette** (fifth cent), royal purple*

**with almost courtly, elegant appearance*

**refines rustic descriptions of G.S. theme in earlier Roman Christian art.*

-lots of gold and blue

*-vaulting of both apse and dome, covered with **Persian rug motif***

**symbolic of heavens and where God dwells*

*-**meander** pattern used to frame lunette mosaics*

-lost the Greco-Roman realism

**bushes, rocks, sheep stylized*

-tesserae not fully set, refract and break up light, eerie effect

Church of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo

-Barbarian Gothic Art

*Built by **Theodoric**, emperor of the **Goths**, in the early sixth century, this church was constructed in the severe Basilica style.*

-wide nave, with two side aisles partitioned by double columns of marble

-walls richly ornamented with mosaics

*~~**South and North wall mosaics** (early sixth)*

*-reflects both **Byzantine and Roman styles***

-procession of both male and female saints, facing the apse and main altar; move toward enthroned Christ and Madonna w/child

**these mosaics added during reign of Justinian*

-depiction of Theodoric's palace

**evidence of Orthodox censorship*

-traces of now-excised Arian saints, members of Theo's court

- miracles of Christ and scenes of his passions on the other
- gospel sequence Roman in nature: **severe and simple**
- the procession of saints Byz: lush, reverent, and static in tone
- Orientalizing element seen in Three Magi (Phrygian caps)

Church of San Vitale

-High Byzantine Art

Shows presence of Justinian in Ravenna, San is **octagonal** with only the barest hint of basilica length

- built roughly at same time as Sant' Apollinare
- interior octagon, columns, containing a second-story women's gallery, is basis for dome
- intricate and not fully understood architecture
- stunning mosaics

Christ Enthroned with Saint Vitalis and Bishop Ecclesius (c.530)

Emperor Justinian and courtiers – donations

Empress Theodora and retinue (c.547)

- Christ as Pantocrator – sustaineth all things in his hands
 - Beardless Christ, royal purple
 - holds book with seven seals – Revelation
 - offers crown of martyrdom to St. Vitalis
 - flanked by two archangels
 - four rivers of paradise rendered in a symbolic fashion
 - mosaics of the two royal regents on earth
 - *Eucharist gifts from Justinian and Theodora
 - Justinian represents Christ on earth**
 - *his power balances church and state
 - pierced capitals – Byzantine
 - elaborate mosaics, lunette of O.T. Eucharist, monumental scenes
 - ***infusion of imperial, Christian, and Middle Eastern**
- cultural impulses
- Byzantium fused with religious worldview of early Christianity**

*Choose perpendicular (parallel??) art work per time period; depth disc.

2. Discuss the contributions of Abbot Suger, dwelling in detail about the characteristics of the architecture he inspired and the aesthetic/religious reasons for creating it.

Abbot Suger took over the Abbey of St. Denis; abbey became focal point of **French patriotism**. Built in Carolingian times, housed relics of St. Denis. Crypt served as burial place of Frankish kings and nobles from before reign of Charlemagne

- Two legends of Charlemagne connection to St. Denis
- popular pilgrimage site**

-rebuilding to make as lavish and brilliant as Hagia Sophia, loyal as Temple of Solomon

-entrance given three portals to accommodate the crowds
*-outer ambulatory given **seven radiating chapels** to handle increasing number of monks and **priests having Mass on a daily basis***

-two tall windows piercing the chapels to let in more light

List 5 characteristics and state functions (p. 326), Fig. 9.12

-Gothic – “barbarous” or “rude” to distinguish from buildings that did not follow the Classical models of Greece and Rome

-not only desire for verticality, but pushed building engineering to the limits

**walls reinforced by outer buttresses*

-pointed Romanesque arch, distributed weight more equally

Most of the structures the Abbot Suger incorporated were for practical reasons. He used a double ambulatory so that those making pilgrimages could circumnavigate the church without disturbing the monks/priest having mass or the choir. He also shied away from the Romanesque look – i.e. large barrel arches – b/c their needed thickness tended to limit the amount of windows. Used pointed arches instead. He designed the church in a gothic way that let the sunshine in.

Give aesthetic reasons for innovations

Suger’s Theory, theology of beauty

*-mysticism of light and **Lux Nova** – new light*

-pseudo-Dionysus – Suger assumed it was Saint Denis, was influenced by Neo-platonic philosophers as well as by Christian doctrine

**every created thing partakes of the essence of God, ascending hierarchy*

**purity of light, which is God*

*-use of **stained-glass** and importance – high point of light mysticis*

**pervaded by lux nova – bib. God of light*

****every created thing is a small light** that illuminates the mind. Light becomes more pure as one ascends the hierarchy*

“Bright is that which is brightly coupled with the bright, and bright is the noble edifice which is pervaded by the new light.”

3. Discuss the central issues of Dante’s Inferno, concentrating on three specific books of your choosing. It’s important for you to refer specifically to events and characters as you support your argument

Cite 3 books

Talk about events and characters

*Dante is first alone, stuck on the **middle ground** in a dreary wasteland, but is trying to ascend to **the light** at the top of the hill.*

Guided by **Vergil**, author of Aeneid, great inspiration to Dante. Then Beatrice.

The Inferno sufferers are divided by **sins** of incontinence, violence, or fraud; borrowed from Aristotle's ethics

In purgatory, how they acted or failed with respect to **love**.

Issues:

-**symbolic retribution** – their sufferings both punish and instruct
Justice is a major theme of this divine comedy. One wonders what happened to mercy, but this epic seems to hint that those suffering had their chance for mercy but passed it up, being left to justice.

-portrayal of Satan

***animalistic, stupid**

***lost the “good of intellect”**

***unable to move away from frozen lake**

***the great imitator – 3 heads, four river**

***will remain totally unfulfilled, rejected source of all knowledge and light**

The beating of Satan's wings is what causes the cold. He is seen chomping on the most famous betrayers,

“If he was once as beautiful as now

he is hideous, and still turned on his Maker,

well may he be the source of every woe.”

Justice says that b/c Satan fell when he was so promising means that it would follow that he be the source of every woe.

-light

*only alluded to at the beginning and ending of the epic
Light would create warmth and the more absent a place is of God's light, the colder it becomes. Satan is the source of the cold and

-unforgettable portraits of people (pg. 363-366)

*paragraph per issue

PURGATORY Canto XXXIV

PARADISE Canto XI – Aquinas reads Dante's mind, sees his uncertainties he alludes to the Bride-Church and Groom-Christ
Tells him he takes his “shining from on high”

PARADISE Canto XXXIII – Saint Bernard's intercessory prayer to the Virgin on Dante's behalf allows Dante's soul to swell and he is rewarded with a Direct Vision of God. God alluded to as the Eternal Ray, Radiance, the Love that Moves the Sun

*to Mary – pity him, allow him the all-healing final revelation

*“grace abounding that made me fit”

4. Discuss the main features of music from the Notre Dame period. Refer specifically to the pieces assigned from your Norton Scores.

*Mention 3 of the 4 pieces

Organum, Haec Dies, (c.1175) – cantus firmus 18 notes

Motet, O mitissima (13th), 851 repetition on long of long short long.

Polyphonic, 1st mode rhythm

Anon (13th), Royal estampie No. 4, open, closed, monophonic

Charact of Notre Dame

Elaboration on liturgical chant - melisma

-experimenting w/added voices (sacred) – **embellishment** to liturgy

-secular music

-3/4 – part Motet arrives due to polyphony (secular)

5. Compare and contrast Everyman with the Song of Roland.

Similarities (cite textural examples)

-death – keep death always before your eyes

-virtue

-religious ideals/concepts

Differences

-loyalty

-view of man

*total of 5

6. List and explain the three motifs that permeate the Hebrew Bible.

*Give two total references from Bible

(pg. 191-193)

Biblical Monotheism

-discuss 3-part def. of God

*one God

*He is good

*he is involved in our lives, God sustains his creations

-discuss testament

*Greek word for Hebrew covenant

“I will be your God, you will be my people”

Ethics

-how 10 commandments relate to ethics – humane treatment of man to glorify and follow God

-role of prophet – prophet called to preach peace and justice, speaks for the Lord, mouthpiece, testifies of Messiah

Models & Types

-3 examples

*faith of Abraham

*guidance of Moses

*fidelity of Ruth

-2 modern uses of Exodus

*Ben Frank – Reed Sea on Great Seal of U.S. “milk and honey”

*Slaves in America