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Art of Medieval Scandinavia and Britain



A H Introduction

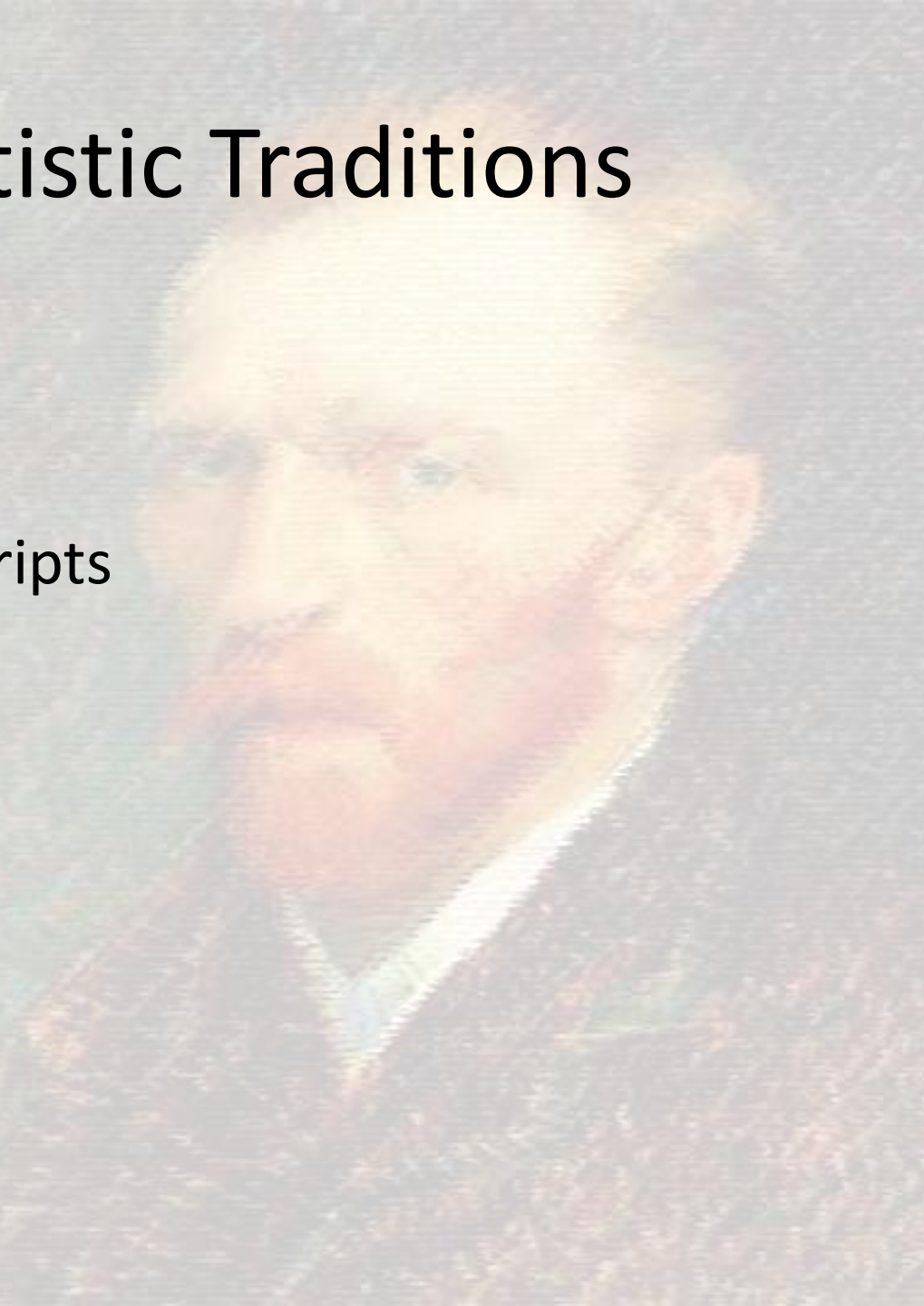
- Artistic Era between the fall of Rome and the beginning of the Renaissance
 - Including Romanesque and Gothic Movements
 - Large regional differences
 - Commonality on religiously focused



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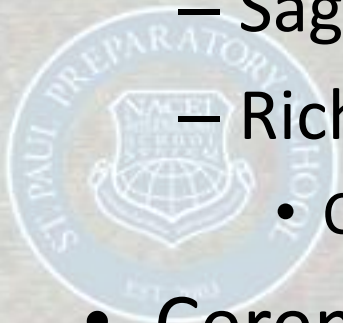
Building Artistic Traditions

- Mediums
 - Sculptures
 - Illuminated Manuscripts
 - Architecture
 - Palaces
 - Cathedral
 - Icons
 - Religious artifacts



Scandinavian

- Most of what we know about Vikings comes from artifacts left behind
 - Sagas not recorded until 13th Century
 - Rich trading culture
 - Connected to vast wealth of Islamic world
- Ceremonially and Religiously based mostly
 - Religiously linked to Nordic gods then Christianity



Viking Longboats

- Used to conduct raids and trading missions along coastal regions and rivers across Europe
- Used in elaborate burial process of nobility
 - Archeological treasure troves



Burial Ship, Found near Osenberg, Norway, 9th Century

Art History

Details from Osenberg Longboat



Viking Runestones

- Used as a way to tell stories of great accomplishments or recount sagas from Nordic traditions



Memorial Stone, Larbro Saint Hammers, Gotland, Sweden, 8th Century

Christianity in Scandinavia

- Introduction of Christianity around 995 led to change in culture and art of Scandinavia



Borgund Stave Church, c. 1150

British Isles

- Originally a Roman land so heavily influenced by Christianity
 - Native Celtic influence of artistic style
 - Anglo-Saxon invasion in 5th Century
 - Viking invasion in late 8th Century



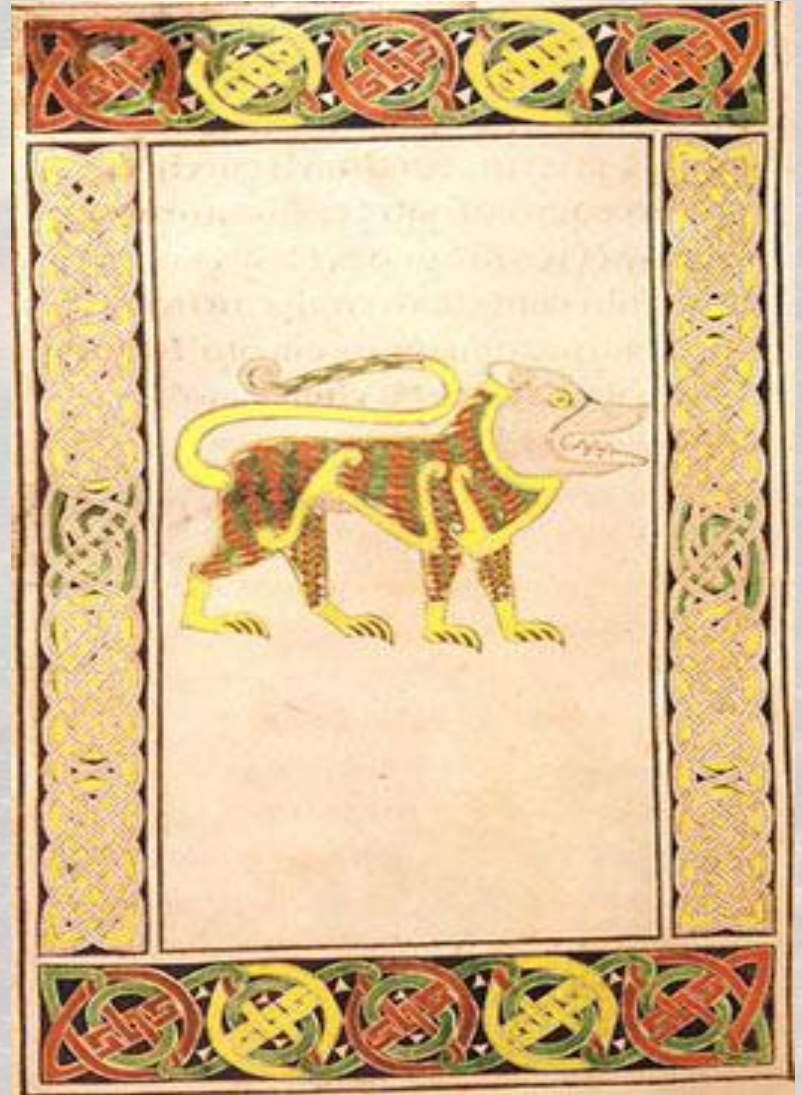
South Cross, Ahenny, Ireland, 8th Century

Purse Cover, from the Sutton Hoo Burial Ship, Suffolk, England, c. 615- 630



Blending of Cultures

- Increased connection led to hybrid artistic styles incorporating different artistic traditions with similar themes



“Page with Lion,” Gospel Book of Durrow, Possibly originated in Iona, Scotland, c. 675