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## **Professor Helps Shed New Light on Renowned Bayeux Tapestry ; News Release**

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## Professor Helps Shed New Light on Renowned Bayeux Tapestry

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University Professor of English Dan Terkla is helping to uncover the mysteries of a famed historical artifact with the new book *The Bayeux Tapestry: New Interpretations* (Boydell & Brewer, 2009).

The Bayeux Tapestry captured a pivotal moment in history. The 230-foot-long embroidered cloth, which depicts events leading up to the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and scenes from the battle itself, is renowned among scholars of medieval history, art and literature. Co-edited by Terkla, Martin Foys and Karen Eileen Overbey, the book is a collection of essays from scholars on the Tapestry. “We truly hope to live up to the title of the book, *New Interpretations*,” said Terkla. “Not only does the book take a multi-disciplinary approach, with scholars from fields ranging from history to art to Anglo-Saxon studies contributing, but its particular mix of seasoned and young scholars can provide a new perspective.”

The publisher says the book “demonstrates the value of more recent interpretive approaches to this famous and iconic artifact, by examining the textile’s materiality, visuality, reception and historiography, and its constructions of gender, territory and cultural memory.”

“The Tapestry has captured the interest of scholars and leaders for centuries,” said Terkla, who noted that Napoleon and the Nazis studied it for tips on invading England. The Tapestry “invites viewers to see it as part of a continuum of history. I am hoping the book encourages readers to step back and discover something they have not realized about the Tapestry before.”

Terkla joined the faculty of Illinois Wesleyan in 1995, and teaches classes on medieval literature, art and culture; the humanities; and the Beat Generation. He received his doctorate in comparative literature from the University of Southern California in 1992. His research on the thirteenth-century Hereford world map has been published in *Imago Mundi: The International Journal for the History of Cartography*, *Geotema: Organo ufficiale dell’Associazione Geografi Italiani*, and elsewhere. He has co-edited another collection of Tapestry studies, *New Research on the Bayeux Tapestry*, to be published early in 2010.

For more information on the book, or to contact Terkla, contact the Office of University Communications at (309) 556-3181.