

Art History 331  
Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Spain  
Prof. Stephen Clancy

IMAGE LIST

I. Spain to 711 C.E.: Romans and Visigoths

A. The Visigoths Arrive: "Metalwork" Transformations of Roman and Byzantine Visual Cultures

1. Historical background

- Who were the Visigoths, and how did they arrive on the Iberian peninsula?
- What impact did their rule have on the existing populace?
- What was "Arianism," and how did it contribute to turmoil under Visigothic rule?
- What steps did the Visigoths take to try to unite the Iberian peninsula under their rule?

2. Jewish culture in a repressive time

Pileta (trough/basin), between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> c.?  
Orihuela tombstone, 6<sup>th</sup> c.

3. What's in the Visigoths' baggage? Preexisting Visigothic visual traditions

Pair of eagle fibulae (Baltimore, Walters Museum), 6th c.  
Buckle and plaque (Ariadne Gallery, New York), 6th c.  
Harness pendant or terminal for a bit (Met. Mus., NYC), 6th c.

4. Visigothic traditions in service of Christian spirituality and power

Votive Crown of King Recceswinth, from the Guarrazar  
Treasure (Mus. Arq. Nac., Madrid), between 653 & 672  
Liturgical Ewer (Inst. de Val. de Don Juan, Mad.), 2nd 1/2 7th c.  
Liturgical Paten (Inst. de Val. de Don Juan, Mad.), 2nd 1/2 7th c.

5. Remnants of Visigothic architectural programs

a. transforming the basilica and centralized plans

São Frutuoso de Montelios, Braga (Portugal), 2nd 1/2 7th c.  
San Juan de Baños, near Palencia, c. 652-61  
San Pedro de la Nave, near Zamora, late 7th/early 8th c.

b. architectural sculpture: hierarchy and power

San Pedro de la Nave, near Zamora, late 7th/early 8th c.  
Sta. Maria de Quintanilla de las Viñas, relief carving:  
Christ flanked by angels, late 7<sup>th</sup> c.

**Terms and names**

animal style	apse	Arianism	basilica
centralized plan	chip carving	choir	cloisonné enamel
Isidore of Seville	Leovigild	mausoleum	nave
polychrome style	Recared	Recceswinth	transept

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Visigoths in Iberia: some background

1. who were they and how did they arrive on the Iberian peninsula?
  - the split of the Roman empire and the so-called "barbarian invasions"
  - Alaric and the sack(s) of Rome
  - the Visigoths as "foederati" of the Romans in Gaul
  - the Visigoths are nudged into Iberia by the Franks
2. what impact did they have on the existing populace?
  - the "**Isidore**" exercise: (1) what is the *overt* message of the excerpt from "In Praise of Spain"? (2) do you detect any *undercurrents* to the contrary?
  - an oligarchic rule of about 200,000 over 8,000,000 Hispano-Romans
3. what was "Arianism," and how did it contribute to turmoil under Visigothic rule?
  - Arius of Egypt (250-336): Christ as the 1<sup>st</sup> and highest "created being," and thus not truly divine
    - denies the Trinity
    - condemned at Council of Nicea (325)
    - cf. Justinian's mission to wipe out Arianism among the Ostrogoths
  - creates considerable unrest in "orthodox" Hispania
4. what steps did the Visigoths take to try to unite the Iberian peninsula under their rule?
  - under **Leovigild** (r. 569-86); beats Suevi and conquers center
  - conversion to Orthodoxy of **Reccared** (r. 586-601): Visigoths emerge as partnered with church
  - **Recceswinth** (r. 649-72): attacks Jews with a new ferocity
    - the **exercise** on *Visigothic legislation concerning the Jews*: (1) what reasons given? (2) what "treatment" announced? (3) reading between the lines: what does this say about actual social practices?
  - but political upheaval continues: not much resistance to Muslim forces when they arrive in 711
    - revolts from within Visigothic ranks, because of the conversion: frequent "succession via murder"
    - continued practice of confiscation of land
    - continued attitude of "eliteness" and separation from existing population