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Archaeology and Queenship: Gendered power in the Material Record

The standard image of the queen in medieval Europe is a secular foreign woman who has a very limited scope of power. However, recent literature shows that not only were queens active agents of change within their new countries, but they often acted as disseminators of objects from their homeland, they brought significant retinues with them, and could even bring in new fashions, particularly of religious patronage. This poster is for a doctoral thesis that will examine items such as seals, coins, regalia, books, graves, heraldry, palaces, objects donated to the church and so on in an attempt to better understand how the power of the queen was exercised through visual media and in architecture. The objects in question show a wide network of social trade over vast distances, and point to the central role of the queen as a catalyst in the exchange of people, things and ideas.