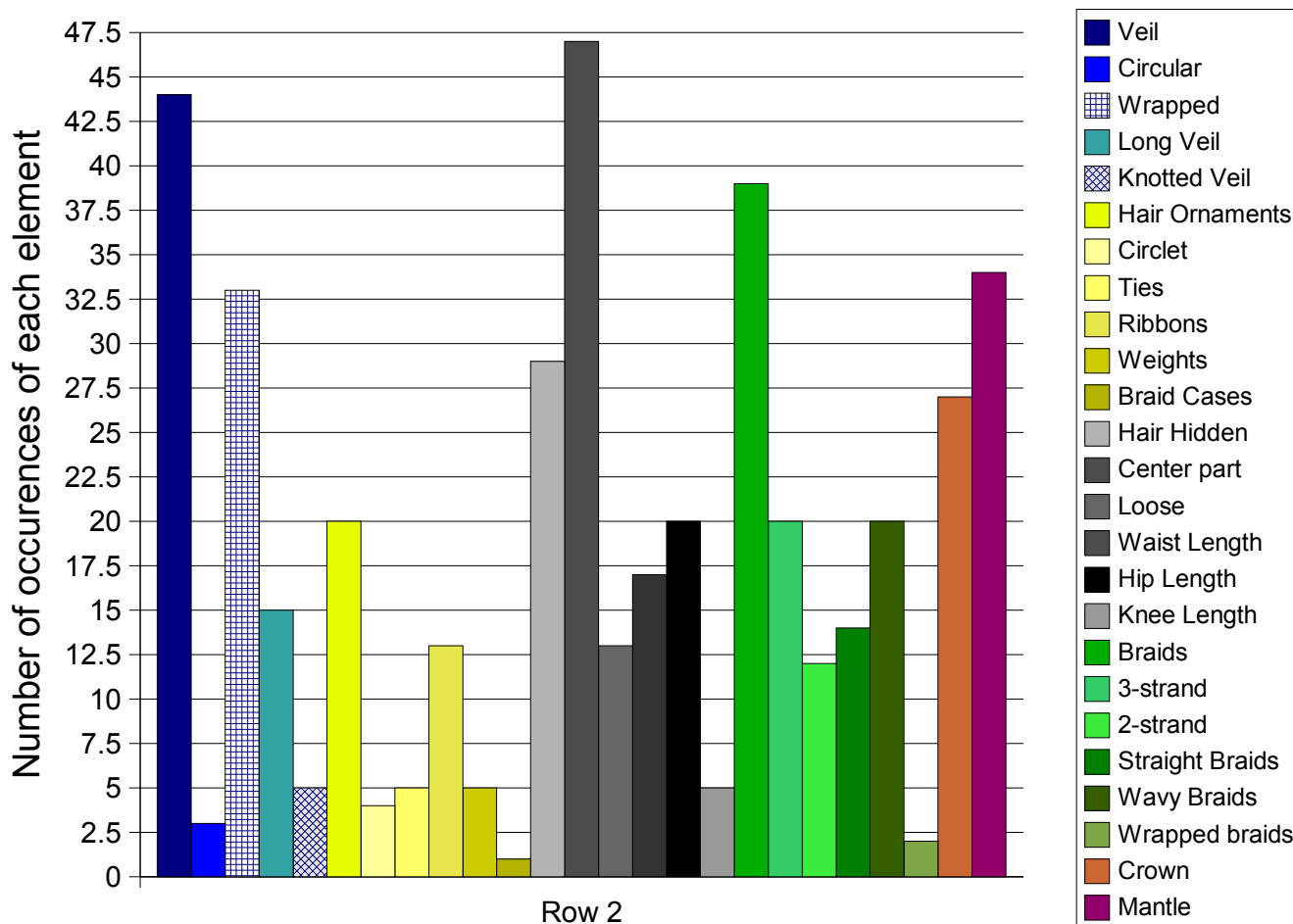


Hairdressing types overview

In preparing the handouts for this workshop, I charted the frequency of various elements in 12th century hairdressing (for all classes), as depicted in artworks. To keep the sample from being too far skewed towards religious iconography, all “enthroned virgins” were deliberately left out and only saints' effigies that looked to have particular care put into making them appear as human as possible were considered (St. Foy falls into that category because of the degree of realism in her clothing).

The results were somewhat startling.

Overall Frequency of 12th century hairdressing elements in a sample of 90 artworks






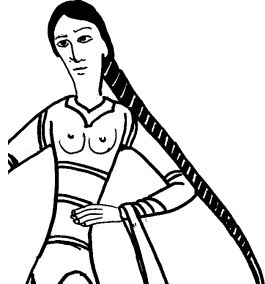


elements (some artworks exhibited several elements)





Main Points:

- Court hairstyles seem to fall into a few types: Braids/veil/crown; braids/crown; braids/circlet; veil/crown; on young women, braids; and for very young girls, loose hair/circlet.
- Ordinary women don't seem to have left their hair uncovered. All depictions of ordinary women show them veiled, hair hidden, except perhaps for a bit at the front, indicating that it's parted centrally. Lovely tresses on view seem to have been the exclusive province of the nobility.
- Braid cases: Inconclusive. No clear visual evidence for braid casings beyond 2 examples: a late German illumination that depicts what looks as though the girl's hair is stuffed through 2 tubes of bamboo; and an early mss. illumination which could possibly also show a clumsily drawn ribbon-bound braid. There were also two which were too ambiguous to say for certain that they were not simply wrapped braids. Textual sources could just as easily mean braids weighted to be straight as scabbards, for which there is visual evidence.
- No Toques. At all. Crowns, yes, Circlets, yes. Fillets, yes. No toques until the 13th century. Most of the “toques” in earlier costume history books were misunderstood crowns.
- Equally notable is the low number of possible circular veils in the sample. I only found 3. This is both good and bad news, as circular veils are very pretty, but are difficult to keep in place.

Six Main Categories of Court Hairstyles:

<p>Braids/veil/crown</p> 	<p>braids/crown</p> 	<p>veil/crown</p> 
<p>braids/circlet</p> 	<p>loose hair/circlet</p> 	<p>braids</p> 

Four Types of Braids:

<p>Straight ribbon bound</p> 	<p>Straight 3-strand</p> 	<p>Wavy 3-strand</p> 	<p>Wavy ribbon bound</p> 
--	--	---	--