

**Viking Northumbria – the Non-Saga Evidence
(Abstract)**

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I aim to provide a historical paper that will throw light on the background of the secondary theme, 'Sagas and the British Isles, especially Northumbria'. Concentrating on non-saga evidence, I would like to examine the effects of the Viking take-over of Northumbria, an obscure process which has found only dim reflection in English sources. How did the Viking kings of Northumbria operate? How were ecclesiastical sites used in the Viking wars of the ninth century, both before and after the Scandinavian conquest? The fate of the Church is one way of approaching the larger subject. What happened to Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, for example – both the actual sites and the large estates owned by the communities? We know that some monastic land was in the hands of pagan Hiberno-Scandinavians, although sculpture suggests continuous Christian use of the church sites themselves. Can this tell us something more general about relations between Vikings and natives and how the Vikings exploited what Northumbria had to offer? In addition to the sculptural evidence, my discussion will draw on coins and on the historical material in annals and narratives such as the *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto* and later chronicles from Durham.