

PUBLIC SCHOOL DARBHANGA



CLASS-7

HISTORY

CH-1

**Tracing Changes Through a
Thousand Years**

Historians and their Sources:

✚ Historians use different types of sources to learn about the past depending upon the period of their study and the nature of their investigation.

✚ Roughly from 700 to 1750 AD, historians rely on coins, inscriptions, architecture and textual records for information. But there is also considerable discontinuity. The number and variety of textual records increased dramatically during this period. They slowly displaced other types of available information.

Types of Primary (1^o) Sources

- Archaeological

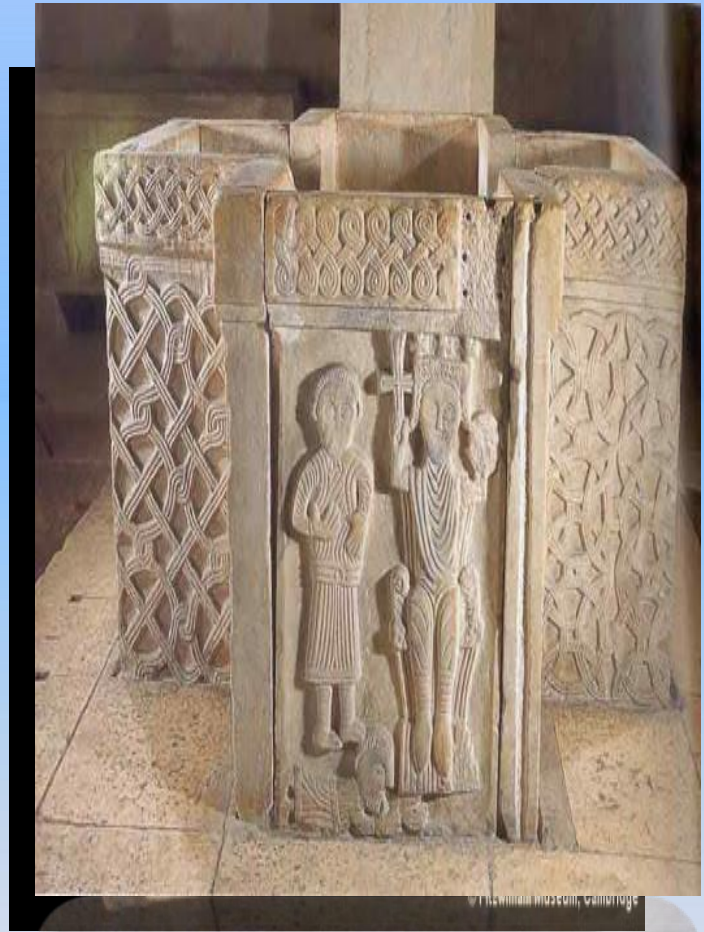


- Written



- Through this period, paper gradually became cheaper and more widely available. People used it to write holy texts, chronicles of rulers, letters and teachings of saints, petitions and judicial records, and for registers of accounts and taxes.

✚ Manuscripts were collected by wealthy people, rulers,

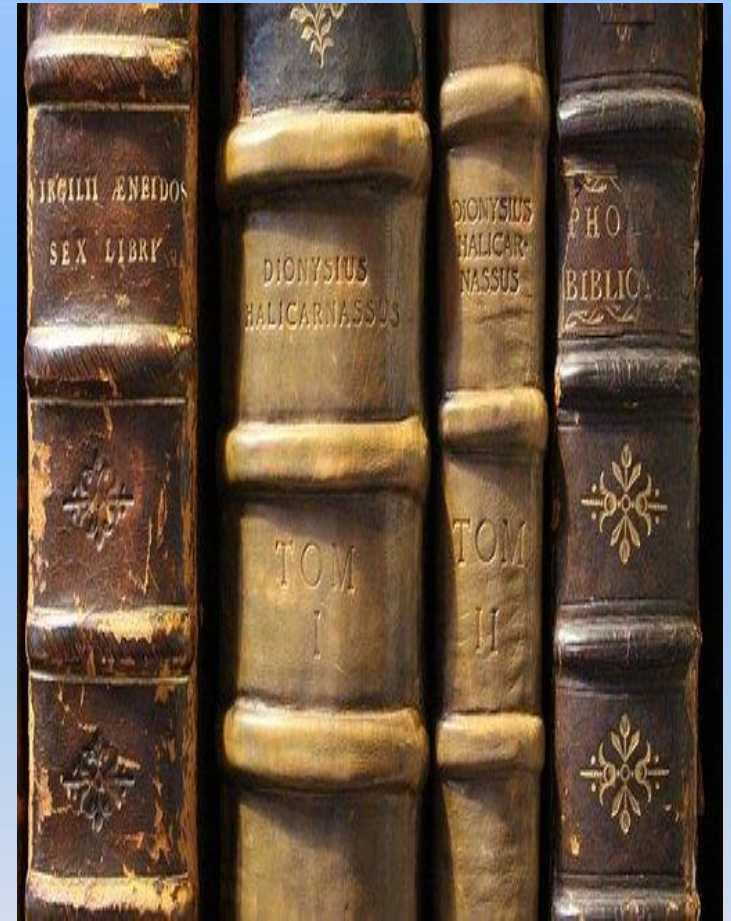


monasteries and temples. They were placed in libraries and archives. These manuscripts and documents provide a lot of detailed information to historians but they are also difficult to use.

✚ There was no printing press in those days so scribes copied manuscripts by hand.

As scribes copied manuscripts, they also introduced small changes - a word here, a sentence there.

- These small differences grew over centuries of copying until manuscripts of the same text became substantially different from one another. We are totally dependent upon the copies made by later scribes. As a result, historians have to read different manuscript versions of the same text to guess what the author had originally written.



- ✚ On occasion, authors revised their chronicles at different times. For example, the fourteenthcentury chronicler Ziyauddin Barani wrote his chronicle first in 1356 and another version two years later.
- ✚ The two differ from each other but historians did not know about the existence of the first version until the 1960s.

WE HAVE DISCUSSED TODAY

Historians and their sources:-

- ✦ Textual records
- ✦ Scribes

**IN THE NEXT SESSION WE WILL
DISCUSS ABOUT:-**

New Social and Political Groups: