



MEDIEVAL MIND

Aims

- To explore the following areas
 - *Knowledge of the world*
 - *Madness*
 - *Birth of Bedlam*
 - *Four Humours*

Knowledge of the World

- Medieval Monstrous Races
- Demons
- Mappa Mundi
- Knowledge



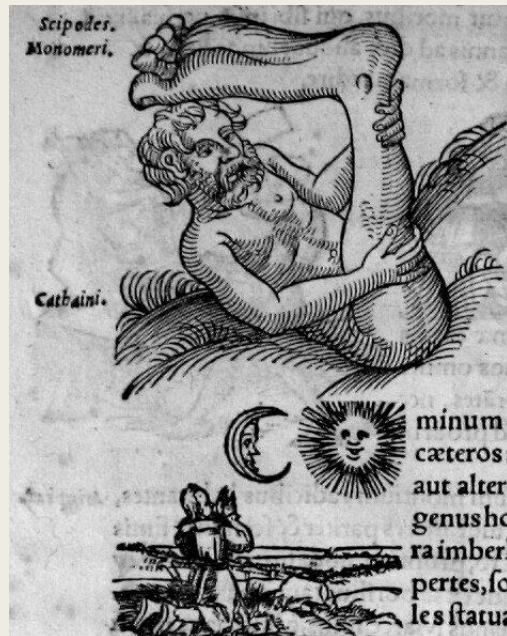
Cynocephali (dogheads)



Blemmyae



Panotii (all ears)



Sciopods

Medieval Monstrous Races

Demons in the Middle Ages



For they were ferocious in appearance, terrible in shape with great heads, long necks, thin faces, yellow complexions, filthy beards, shaggy ears, wild foreheads, fierce eyes, foul mouths, horses teeth, throats vomiting flames, twisted jaws, thick lips, strident voices, singed hair, fat cheeks, pigeon breasts, scabby thighs, knotty knees, crooked legs, swollen ankles, splay feet, spreading mouths, raucous cries. For they grew so terrible to hear with their might shriekings that they filled almost the whole intervening space between earth and heaven with their discordant bellowings.



Hereford Mappa Mundi

- The map is constructed on a single sheet of calf skin (vellum)
- It was made around the year 1300 and shows the history, geography and destiny of humanity as it was understood during the middle ages.
- Jerusalem is in the centre, east is at the top – where the sun rises and where the medieval Christians looked for the second coming of Christ.
- The British Isles are at the bottom left.



Hereford – Mappa Mundi Jerusalem

- Jerusalem, represented by a circular battlemented wall enclosing eight towers or gates, is the place of the crucifixion and the centre of the map. The book of Ezekiel in the Old Testament of the Bible says: 'Thus says the Lord God: This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the centre of the nations', and the Hereford map is just one of a number of medieval maps that show Jerusalem as the centre of the known inhabited world.



Who had the knowledge at this time?

■ Priests, Clerics and monks

- *Texts were copied out by hand.*
- *The religious orders were the interpreters of the world*
- *Knowledge and knowing was jealously owned and controlled by the religious*
- *The world was created by God and only those with holy orders could possibly interpret God's will and order.*



New Class....

- Tutors were congregating in Oxford
- Young boys were coming to Oxford to learn, not to become more religious, but to learn and improve their chances in life.
- Oxford Riots: 1209
- University Foundations



Toledo

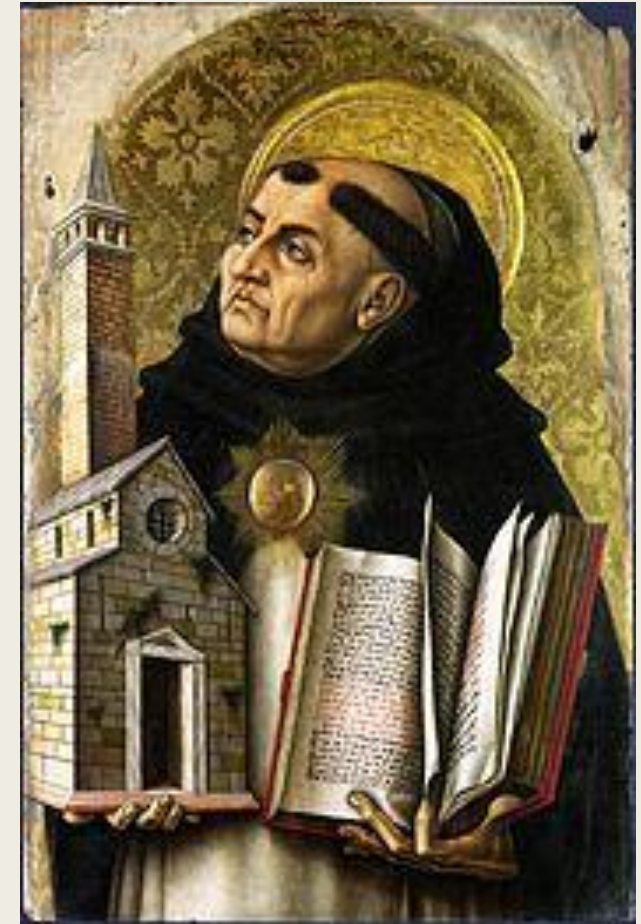
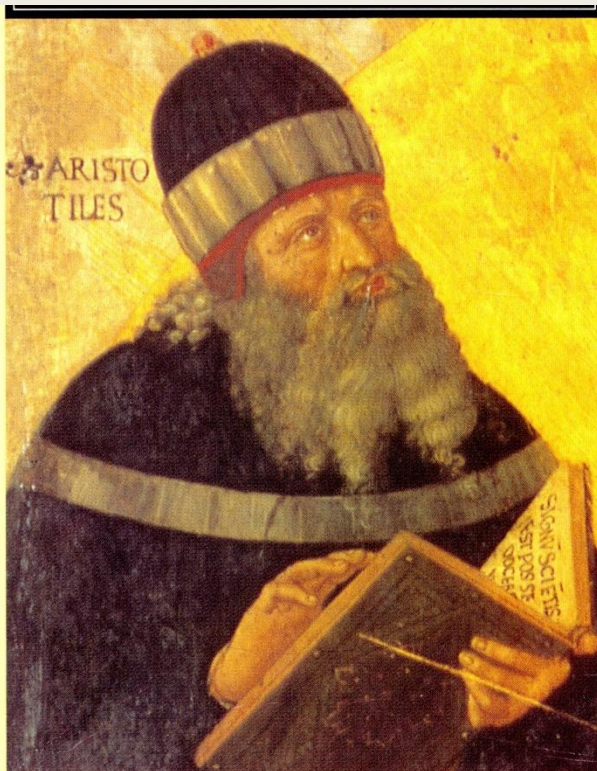
- An Outpost of the Christian Kingdoms fighting the Moors
- It has over 2,000 years of history – “Imperial City” and “City of Three Cultures”
- 1085 – Alfonso VI of Castile took Toledo



Toledo Libraries and the change of ideas

- Translation of the Greek texts of Aristotle, Galen, Hippocrates.
- Scholars began to question the idea that God had made the universe.
- The Greek texts had no idea about Christianity, and they suggested that the universe had always been there and always would.
- The Greek texts debated psychology without any understanding or knowledge of Christianity.
- The response by the church was immediate

‘The books by Aristotle are natural philosophy and the commentaries on them shall not be read at Paris, in public or in private under pain of excommunication!’



Scholasticism

- The system of theology and philosophy taught in medieval European universities, based on Aristotelian logic and the writings of the early Christian Fathers and emphasizing tradition and dogma.



Roger Bacon

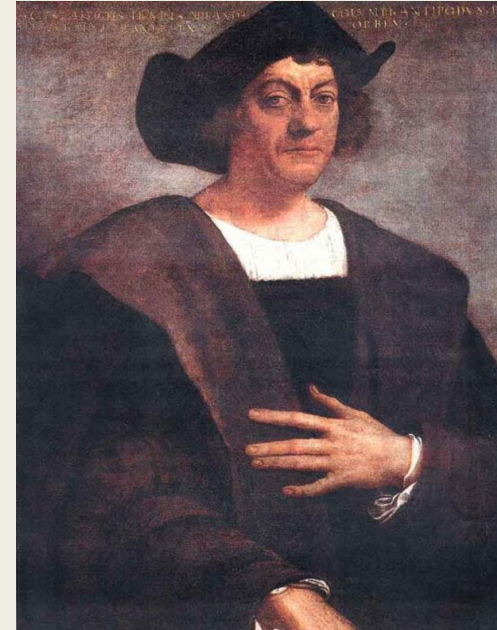


- Study of nature through empirical methods.
- All things must be verified
- The importance of testing and testing again.
- Father of modern science.

Marco Polo and Columbus



1270 travelled from Venice to China.
In his book 'The Travels of Marco Polo'
he introduces Europeans to Central
Asia and China,
Silk Road



1492 the Voyages of Columbus.
He wanted to find the fabulous East, but
ended up finding the Americas.
His voyage marked the end of the
medieval age and the birth of the modern
era.

Madness during the Middle Ages

- Madness was believed to be derived from:
 - *Divine, diabolical, magical and transcendental*
- Application of Galen's Four Humours (Black bile, yellow bile, blood and phlegm)

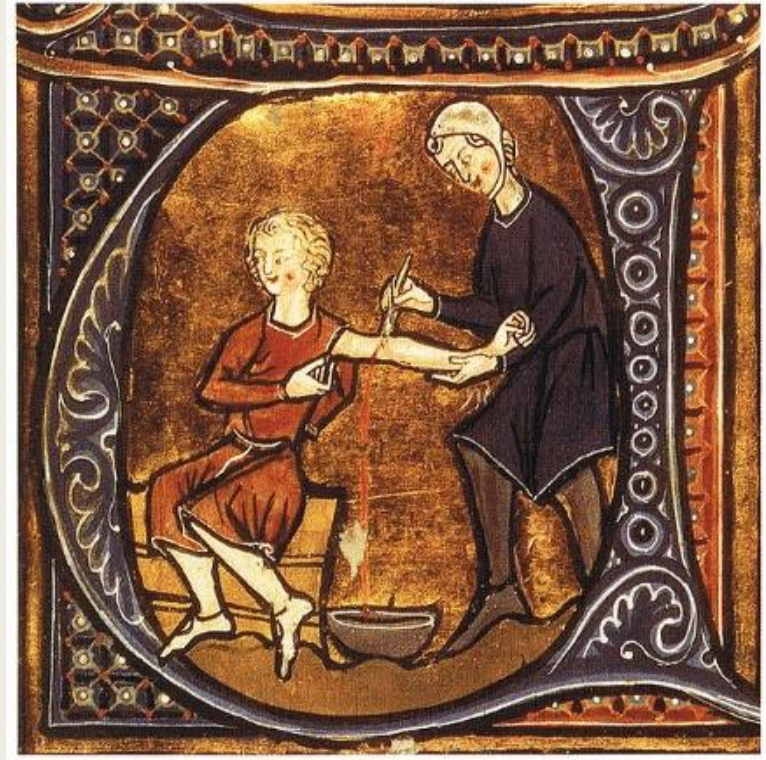
Arnaldus de Villa Nova

- Ca.1235
- Alchemist, astrologer, physician
- Studied chemistry, medicine, physics and Arabic philosophy
- He is credited with translating a number of medical texts from Arabic, including works by Ibn Sina (Avicenna) and Galen



Cures for Madness

- Purges
- Bloodletting
- Whipping
- Madness was often seen as punishment for a sin, or a test of faith.
- Christian theologians suggested fasting and prayer and exorcism for those possessed by a demon



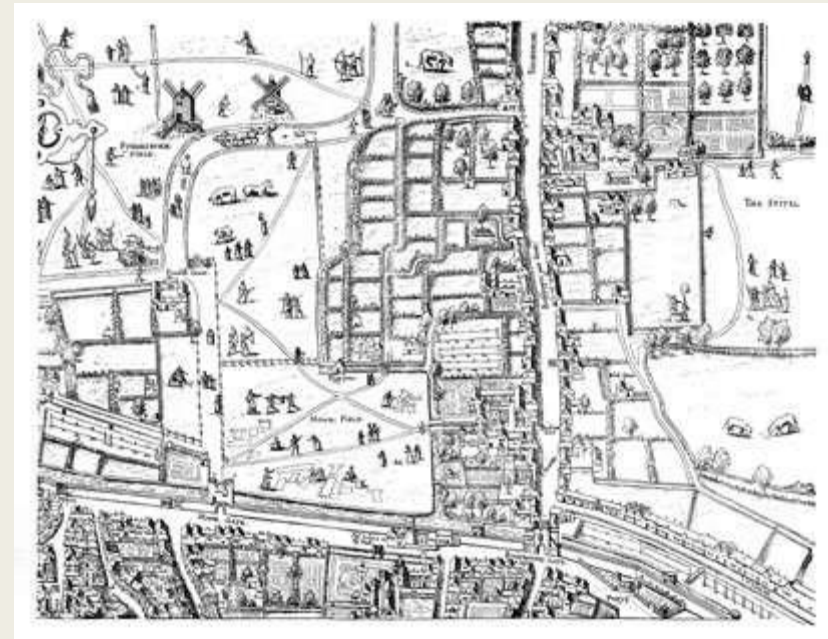
Dancing Plague of 1518



- Strasbourg, 1518.
- Around 400 people danced for days without rest, over the period of one month some died of a heart attack, exhaustion and stroke
- Historical notes are clear that people danced, but there is no clear indication why.
- Local physicians ruled out astrological and supernatural causes, instead blaming it on hot blood.
- Modern theories suggest food-poisoning caused by a particular fungi, which grows in grains of wheat (it is structurally related to LSD)
- Was it a stress-induced psychosis?
- 7 other cases of the dancing fever were said to have occurred during the middle ages.

Priory of Saint Mary of Bethlehem

- England's first hospital for the mentally ill.
- 1247 the Priory of St Mary of Bethlehem was founded, devoted to healing sick paupers.
- It became known as Bethlehem hospital, later abbreviated to 'Bethlam' and often pronounced Bedlam



Layout of the Hospital

- Covered just two acres
- Centred around a courtyard, it had 12 cells for patients, staff accommodation, a kitchen and an exercise yard.
- It remained in Bishopgate until 1676 when it moved to Moorfields, London.
- Started to specialise in mental illness (insanity, madness, lunatics). By 1403 'lunatic' patients formed the majority of Bethlem's clients.



Cures for madness during the middle ages

- Diet: use of spices in cooking: pepper, cumin, cardoman, cinnamon and cloves: all essential regulators of the four humours.
- Insanity was treated by changing the balance.
- Galen's Four Humours

Galen's Four Humours



The Four Humours

