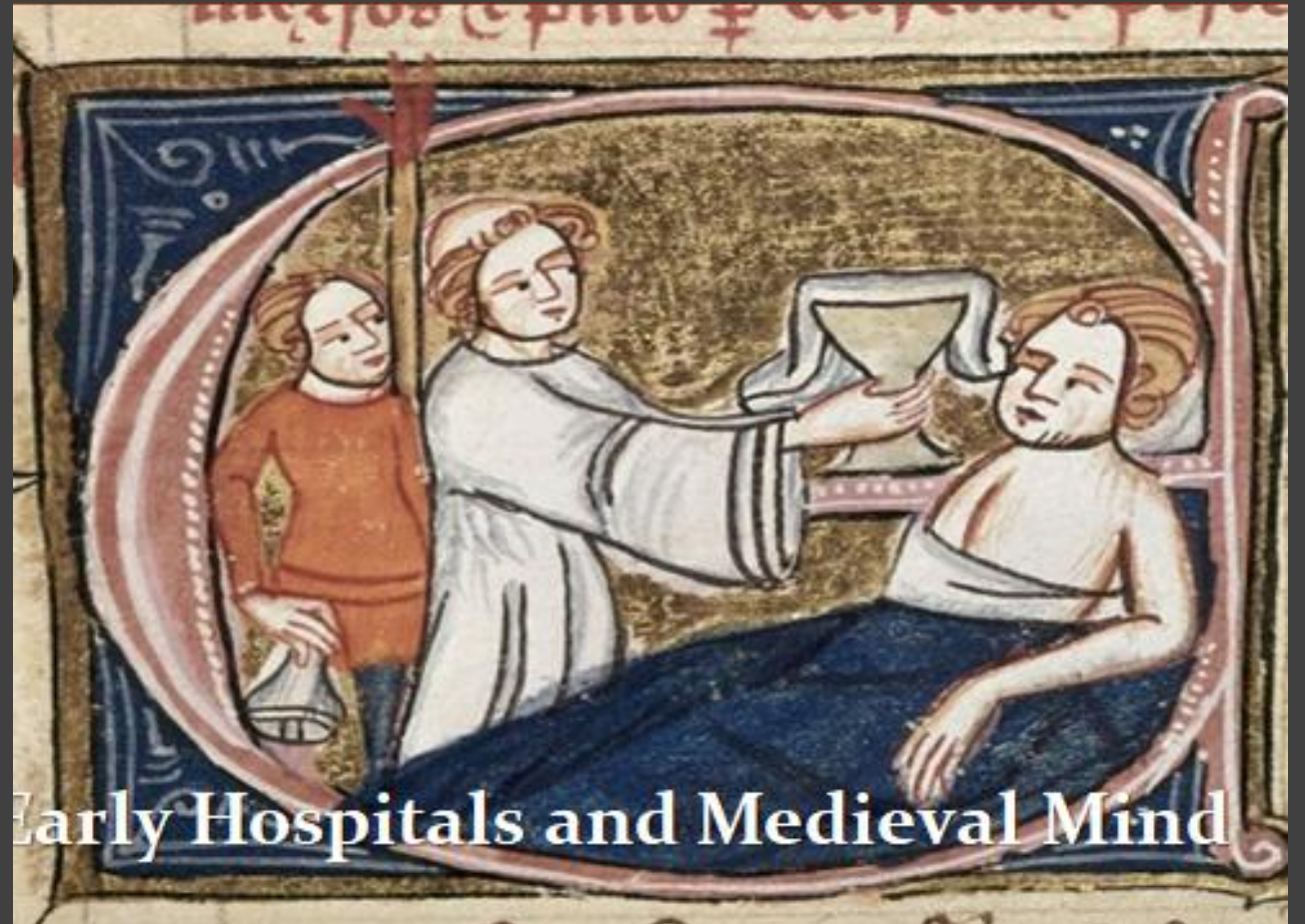


EARLY HOSPITALS AND THE MEDIEVAL MIND



Early Hospitals and Medieval Mind

Lesson Aims

- The aim of this lesson is to explore an early understanding of madness and to consider approaches to care of the mentally ill during the middle ages



Recap

- What do we know so far?
- Spend a moment to consider your knowledge and understanding of mental illness and treatment in ancient and medieval times.
- What are the key themes that have stood out for you?
- What has surprised you most?





Earlier times

- Belief that madness was caused by possession of evil spirits and demons.
- ‘Spiritual Healing’ through religious interventions
- The idea that the mind and moral weakness was the source of madness.
- ‘Blame the victim’
- The view that sinners and the insane were best locked away from society to avoid contamination

Care of the Mentally ill

- The expectation was that the rich would provide for and support the poor .
- Men and women taken care of in the home, the most violent being cared for in hospital.
- Victims were ostracised, demonised and excluded from society
- The 'mad' were cruelly treated: whipped, beaten, starved and treated like animals
- No differentiation was made between the mentally ill and the criminally insane
- Or the socially disruptive!!!!



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



Cures for madness during the middle ages

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





MEDIEVAL HOSPITALS

- Medieval hospitals provided care for the sick, poor, and pilgrims, but they were not always medical institutions
- Most hospitals were actually Almshouses.

Almshouses

Ewelme (Oxon). Founded in 1437

- Hospital of St Oswald in Worcester founded circa 990. Considered to be the oldest Almshouse. The foundation is still in existence..
- Believed that the then Bishop of Worcester (St Oswald) created this sanctuary where the brothers could “minister to the sick, bury the dead, relieve the poor and give shelter to travellers who arrived after the city gates had closed at night”.





Early Hospitals

- The first hospitals were developed by the Byzantine empire around the 8th century.
- Christian and Islamic Hospitals
- By the 12th century many of the larger Islamic towns had a hospital within its walls.

LEGEND OF DYMPHNA

- Born in Ireland in the 7th century
- Fled to Geel in Belgium where she was executed by her father
- Patron saint of mental disorders, epilepsy and victims of incest and domestic abuse.
- Geel and its centuries old 'community centred' tradition in caring for those with mental illness



56.

S^{te} Dymphna. Virgo et Martyr. O.P.D.

Standaard-Vereniging - Brussel - België



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 'Bethlem' 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.

The Ars Moriendi

("the art of dying")

Two related Latin texts dating from about 1415 and 1450 which offer advice on the protocols and procedures of a good death, explaining how to "die well" according to Christian precepts of the late middle ages



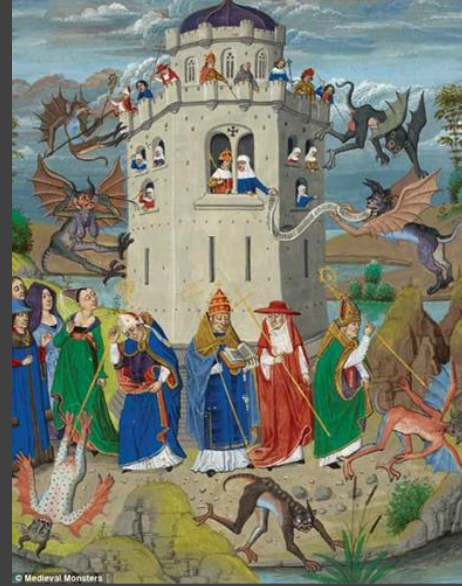
MEDIEVAL MIND





Medieval Monstrous Races

- Cynocephali (Dogheads)
- Sciopods (one leg)
- Panotii (All Ears)
- Blemmyae (eyes in the chest)



DEMONS IN THE MIDDLE AGES



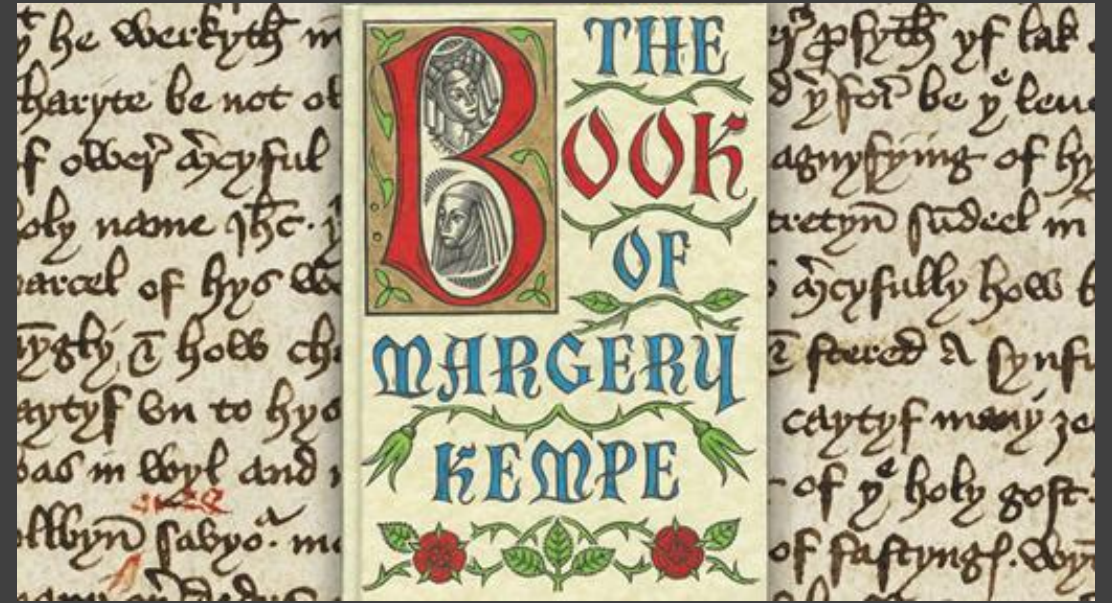
Hereford Mappa Mundi

- 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’



The mysticism and madness of Margery Kempe (1373 – 1438)



Saints and Miracles

- • Benedictine Monastery in Abingdon, Oxfordshire
- • Remains of Thomas Becket were placed in a gold and bejewelled shrine in Canterbury Cathedral





Magic and Miracles

How does this view compare with today?



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



ARNOLDI DE NOVA VILLA

Arnaldus de Villa Nova (CE1235)

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

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 Christian Church and the Scholar

- ‘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
- Emphasis on tradition and dogma.



Roger Bacon

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



Marco Polo and Columbus

- In his book 'The Travels of Marco Polo' (1270) Introduces Europeans to Central Asia and China,
- Silk Road
- The Voyages of Columbus (1492)
- In search of the fabulous East, instead ended up in America.
- His voyage marked the end of the medieval age and the birth of the modern era.





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.



Renaissance (14th & 15th Century)

- Period of 'Rebirth' and individual thinking.
- Reaction to the authoritarianism of the church
- Expression through the classics.

'Enlightenment Era' (17th & 18th Century)

- ❖ Age of Reason 'Enlightenment'-
autonomous rational self
- ❖ (Liberal Humanism)
- ❖ In his essay "What Is
Enlightenment?" (1784),
- ❖ The German philosopher Immanuel
Kant summed up the era's motto in
the following terms: "Dare to know!
Have courage to use your own reason!"



Thoughts?

- Pause for a moment...
- •Having explored the Greek and Islamic attitudes towards Madness and the treatment and care of patients, we have now moved into the Western Medieval World.
- •Explore these early interventions and begin to consider why understanding the historical perspective can help us to understand the treatment of Mental Health patients in the 21st Century.

