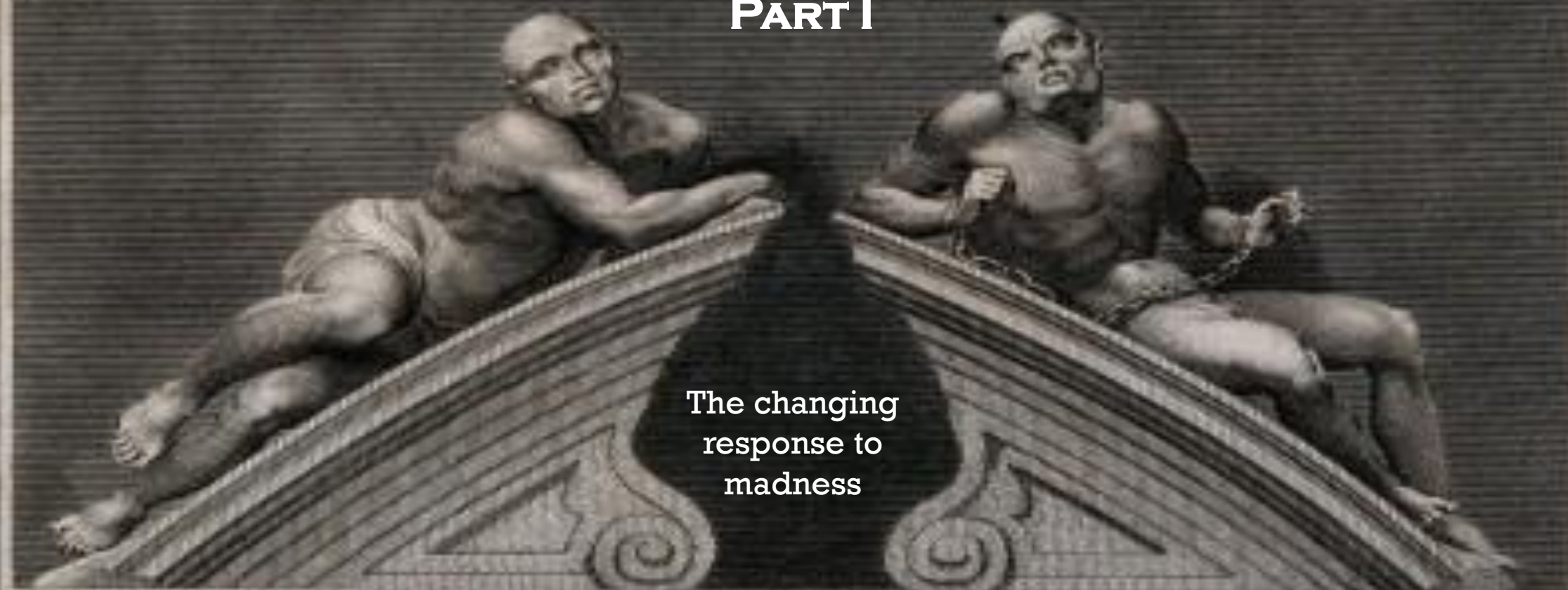


MADHOUSES AND MAD DOCTORS

PART I

The changing
response to
madness



Engraved by G. Brown

FIGURES *in front of* BETHLEM HOSPITAL.

sculpted by J. Angel at Bethlem 1822

The Bethlem Hospital Collection of Prints

AIMS

- To explore the changing response to madness into the 17th century and beyond
- To understand the European face of madhouses
- To become familiar with Bethlem Hospital, Moorhouse.



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT SO FAR?

- What were the beliefs relating to madness prior to the early modern age?
- How was madness treated?



CHANGES IN THE 17TH CENTURY

- From around the 17th century, the response to incapacity and poverty was starting to change.
- Why might this be?
- Northern Europe, including the United Provinces (Holland), Britain there is a move towards confinement



DUTCH MADHOUSES: DOLHUIZEN

- Started in the 15th century
- Were original small houses
- But expanded as communities sought to expel violent and hostile madmen.
- Idle and social non-conformers were seen as a threat and a danger to a calm and ordered society.



MISFITS OF SOCIETY

- Before long and across Europe, beggars, prostitutes and other misfits of society were finding themselves incarcerated.
- Anyone that might be a danger to a stable society would find themselves locked away.
- In theory, the idle, the degenerates of society would now have to work!



UNDESIRABLES

- Everything outside the 'normal' was soon considered 'insane' This included: epileptics, those who demonstrated anti-social behaviours, dementia, rioters, addicts etc.
- Dutch Madhouse: Reinier Van Arkel had a capacity for 45 patients by the 18th century.
- This was a progressive centre for a time, the inmates /patients were not incarcerated initially, but they were observed. The charge for admittance would depend on the patient's ability to pay.



HET DOL HUYS



FRANCE

- Bicetre and Salpetriere – two large asylums for men and women respectively.
- Any degenerates of society would be imprisoned. The idea was simply to remove society's misfits from the streets
- Eventually the inmates within these two asylums would rise to as many as 6,000
- A letter from the king was enough to imprison anyone for life, without right of appeal.



THE SALPETRIERE — PARISIAN HOSPITAL

The Salpetriere is the largest hospital in Paris and possibly in Europe: This hospital is both a house for women and a prison. It received pregnant women and girls, wet nurses and their nurslings; male children from the age of seven or eight months to four and five years of age; young girls of all ages; aged married men and women; raving lunatics, imbeciles, epileptics, paralytics, blind persons, cripples, people suffering from ringworm, incurables of all sorts, children afflicted with scrofula, and so on and so forth.

Jacques Tenon, French surgeon (1669-1760)

1788





MADNESS AND ENGLAND

- The Poor Relief Act 1601
 - Able-bodied paupers would now be consigned to workhouses, however parishes would also be obliged to look after lunatics.
 - Bethlem (1676) – Built from the ashes, following the Great Fire of London in 1666.
 - Moorfields, on the edge of the city of London. Designed by Robert Hooke, rival of Isaac Newton and friend of Christopher Wren.



TREATMENT OF THE INSANE - HOSPITALS

- Usually it would be the families that look after the insane, lunatics
- Often this might be chained up in attics, put outside, into out buildings
- If families could not be found, the insane would be locked up in jail, or poor-house, alongside notorious or seedy, untrustworthy members of society.
- For the better off, relatives might be placed in religious institutions, sometimes with a warrant bearing the king's signature
- Marquis de Sade (1740-1814)



REPRESENTATIONS OF MADNESS - ENGLAND

- Rake's Progress: William Hogarth



<http://www.soane.org/collections-research/key-stories/rakes-progress>





Bethlehem Hospital

HOMEWORK

- What is your understanding of Bedlam?
- What have you been able to discover relating to this particular madhouse?



BETHLEM

- However the face that Bethlem presented to the world was no more than a façade.
- Building had no foundations
- Erected on waste ground and six inches below ground its brick gave way to rubble.
- 'The outside is a perfect mockery to the inside' Thomas Brown (1699) making one wonder 'whether the persons that ordered the building of it, or those that inhabit it, were the maddest'



Raving and Melancholy Madness
(1676)
Caius Gabriel Cibber



These two figures would be seen crowning the main gates of Bethlem and would remain a landmark in London for generations.



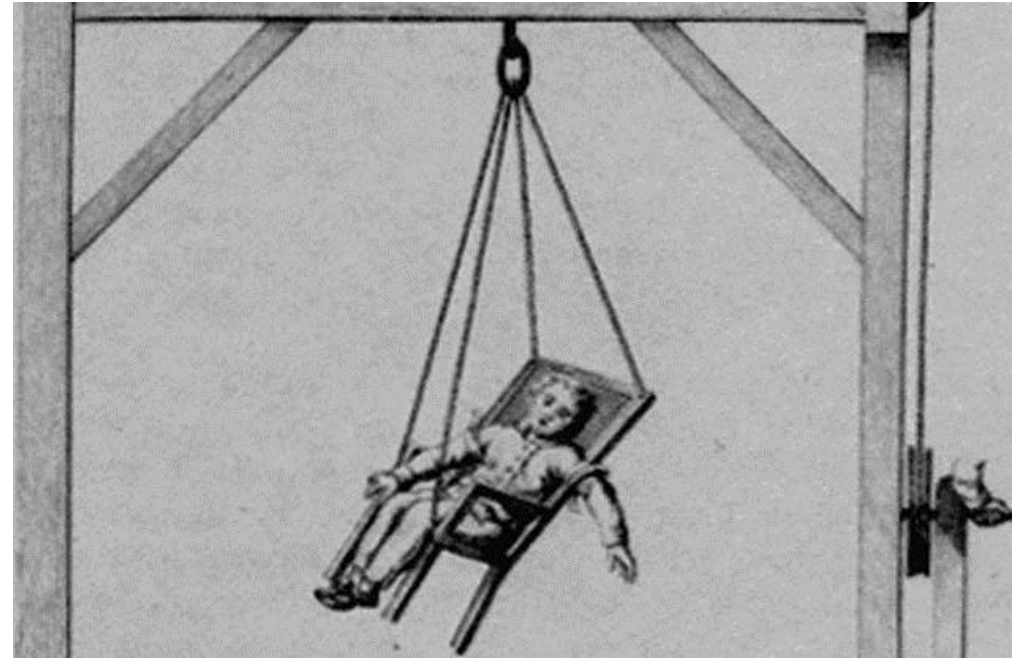
BETHLEM - BEDLAM

- Despite the magnificence of the exterior, the interior consisted of two galleries, one for women and one for men.
- These two images of Madness represented the types of people that would be confined to Bethlem: those who were a danger to society, violent and aggressive and those who wanted to withdraw and be alone.
- They also represented those that society wanted to lock away: Those that were too violent to be seen and those that were too mopish to do any good!



TREATMENT OF MADNESS

- 18th Century – Age of Reason
 - Electrotherapy
 - Restraints
 - Cold baths
 - Spinning Chairs
- Conditions of Bedlam



TRADE IN LUNACY

- The older Bethlem had been the sole institution that looked after the insane, they had the monopoly of care.
- Now however, it was competing with fashionable and rival funders. It became vogue to sponsor the building of these institutions.
- So whereas before the mad would be looked after by families or live homeless on the streets, the middle class would now have somewhere to incarcerate their relatives, those that were too difficult to support at home.



TRADE IN LUNACY

- Private madhouses would often share cleaners, nurses and medical staff.
- They offered the care and support that families would not be able to offer themselves.
- The new hospitals accepted fee-paying patients, who soon made up around one third of the inmates within a hospital.



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

- We have seen a significant shift from the early medieval period to what is being witnessed at this point.
- Think about the reasons for this..
- Consider why there might be a shift in the treatment of the mad
- What is society doing to those showing signs of madness (lunacy)
- Think, Pair, Share.



SUMMARY

- What have we learnt so far
- Next week..

