

Renaissance

Wednesday, August 24, 2005

08:18

- LOCATION

- **Italian City States**
 - Birthplace for the Renaissance
 - Rich and wealthy
 - Trade
 - Crossroads of ideas
 - Golden Age of arts
 - Only when there is extra wealth to invest in the arts
 - Each had different governments
 - But mostly ruled by *Merchant Oligarchies*
 - Merchants = most powerful / ruling class
- **Later spread North**
 - **Hanseatic League** (the Hanse)
 - Group of Germanic trading cities
 - Trading states in the north
 - Ports
 - Because of trade as well

- IDEAS AND BELIEFS

- **Secularism**
 - Ideas outside the church
 - "Here and now"
 - Paintings still carried certain religious themes
- **Individualism**
 - Applauded differences
 - Personal credit for achievement
 - Portraits, autobiography
 - "*Renaissance Man*"
 - Spend money to enjoy life
- **Classicism**
 - Interest in the culture of the ancient Greeks and the Romans
 - Renewal of arts and sculpture
 - Rejection of the Middle Ages
 - *Scholasticism* = philosophy of the Middle Ages, reason to prove religious ideas
- **Humanism**
 - Interested in the 7 liberal arts (rhetoric, etc....)
 - Outlook of philosophical schools of the Renaissance
 - Away from scholasticism
 - *Man is the measure of all things*
 - Man as opposed to God
 - A theme of the renaissance
 - **Petrarch**
- **Worldliness**
 - Interest in material rewards
- **Education**
 - Grades in school, age groups
 - Rejected universities due to scholasticism
 - Book of etiquette
 - Custiglione and *The Book of the Courtier*

- POWER

- **Pope**

- Was weak
- **The Medici's**
 - Wealthy merchant family
 - Bought influence
- **ARTS**
 - Artists were supported by wealthy paintings
 - Artists became "worthy"
 - **Paintings**
 - Recognizable backgrounds
 - Clear space and time
 - Showed volume
 - Oil painting
 - Perspective: foreground, background, vanishing point
 - Humans were anatomically correct
 - Portraits / Self-portraits became popular
 - LESS Classical influence than other arts
 - Religious themes remained but expressed secularly (looked real)
 - **Architecture**
 - Classical style was copied
 - Symmetrical, domes, arches
 - Rejected the Gothic style (Middle Age, pointed arches, towers, etc..)
 - Public Buildings (libraries, town halls) = civic emphasis
 - Wealthy wanted grand houses that reflected their wealth
 - **Sculpture**
 - Free-standing
 - Walk around 360°
 - Classical themes (historic, myths, nudes, busts = just the upper-body)
 - **Literature**
 - Writers became writers by occupation
 - To entertain others, to be read
 - Secular literate men = not in clergy
 - Wrote about daily life
 - Biographies / Auto-biographies
 - Beginnings of humor and sarcasm



Northern Renaissance

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

09:19

- **Christian Humanism**
 - o Wanted the church to reform, but did not reject it
 - o Did not break with the church
 - o Much more religious than the regular humanists

- **Erasmus**
 - o The greatest Christian Humanist
 - o Copied the style of the Latins
 - o Rejected Middle Ages
 - o Interested in behavior and morality
 - o Used satire in writing - to expose weaknesses of church
 - o Talked about peace, education
 - o Critical of hypocrisy
 - o NEVER totally rejected the church
 - o *In Praise of Folly*
 - Criticized clergy
 - His most famous book
 - Satirical, makes fun of church values

- **Sir Thomas Moore**
 - o Englishman
 - o Northern Humanist
 - o Wrote *Utopia*
 - o Refused to give Henry VIII a divorce and got executed

- **Niccolo Machiavelli**
 - o 1st political scientist
 - o Reacting to chaos in Italy
 - City-states were losing power
 - o Admired and studied successful rulers
 - Ideal = Cesare Borgia
 - o Separated politics and religion
 - What strong rulers do, not what they should do
 - o *The Prince*, 1513
 - Most lasting book of the Renaissance
 - o Strong rulers
 - Act in their own self-interest
 - Both ruthless and merciful
 - Both forthright and sly
 - Both feared and loved
 - Break promises and treaties
 - ★ o Significance of Machiavelli
 - 1st political scientist
 - Paved way for absolute monarchs
 - Similar to *realpolitik* of 19th century
 - Interested in the ends and not the means

- **Custiglione**
 - o The Book of the Courtier
 - How men should behave
 - Book of etiquette