

THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Handout

The Concept of Renaissance

Giorgio Vasari (1511-1574)

Cicero (106-43 BC)

renewal (*renovatio*)

Stoic philosophy

Petrarch (1304-1374)

Questions

- What was humanism?
- What was the rebirth of letters?
- What was the rebirth of the visual arts?
- Why was there a rebirth of antiquity?
- What is meant by Italy in the Age of the Renaissance?

What was humanism?

Modern definition: 'any system which puts human interests and the mind of man paramount, rejecting the supernatural, belief in a god, etc.'

The *studia humanitatis*: grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history, and moral philosophy.

Cicero (106-43 BC)

Petrarch (1304-1374).

The seven liberal arts: grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music.

What was the rebirth of letters?

Padua

Arezzo

Bologna

Verona

Virgil

Manual Chrysoloras (1350-1415)

Leonardo Bruni (1370-1444)

Poggio Bracciolini (1380-1459)

Ciceronian Latin

Angelo Poliziano (1454-1494)

Petrarch: 'Your Homer is dumb with me or rather I am deaf to him.'

Aristotle, *Politics* and *Ethics*

Livy (50 BC-AD 17)

Leonardo Bruni, *History of the Florentine People*

Francesco Guicciardini (1483-1540)

The Ciceronian dialogue

Leonardo Bruni, *Dialogues to Pietro Paolo Vergerio of Istria*

Marsilio of Padua (c.1275-1342)

Coluccio Salutati (1331-1406)

Sallust

Cicero, *De officiis*
 Cicero, *Familiar Letters*
 Livy
 Pliny the Elder (23-70)
 Tacitus (55-120)
 Leonardo Bruni, *Panegyric to the City of Florence*
 Aristides, *Panathenaious*
 Thucydides
 Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527)
 Plato (428-348 BC)
 Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499), *Platonic theology concerning the immortality of the soul*
 The Platonic Academy of Florence
 James Hankins, 'The Myth of the Platonic Academy of Florence,' *Renaissance Quarterly* 44 (1991), 429-475
 Jonathan Davies, *Florence and its University during the Early Renaissance* (Leiden, 1998)
 Gasparino Barzizza (1360-1430). Taught at Bergamo, Pavia, Venice, Padua, and Bologna.
 Guarino Guarini da Verona (1374-1460). Taught at Verona, Venice, and Ferrara.
 Vittorino da Feltre (1378-1446). Taught at Padua, Venice, and Mantua.
 Giannozzo Manetti (1396-1459)
 Niccolò Niccoli (1364-1437)
 Piero de' Pazzi

What was the rebirth of the visual arts?

Filippo Brunelleschi (1377-1446)
 Vitruvius (1st century BC)
 The Pantheon in Rome
 Leon Battista Alberti (1404-1472)
 Michelangelo (1475-1564)
 Donatello (1386-1466)
 Pisanello (active c. 1415-c.1455)
 Mantegna (active 1441, d. 1506)
 Lorenzo Ghiberti (1378-1455)
 Masaccio (1401-c.1428)
 Paolo Uccello (1397-1475)
 Piero della Francesca (active 1439, d. 1492)
 Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

Why was there a revival of antiquity?

Lordships (*signorie*)
 Carthage
 Poggio Bracciolini, *On Nobility* (1440)

'Classical literary learning became the essential attribute of the gentleman, and once more Florence was ahead of the rest of Italy and transalpine Europe.'
 [Black, 'Florence', p. 36]

Urbino

The Marche (central Italy)

Federico da Montefeltro (1422-1482)

Vespasiano da Bisticci (1421-1498)

Magnificence

Giovanni Pontano (1422-1503)

Condottiere (mercenary captain)

Why was there a revival of antiquity?

small lordships (*signorie*)

Evelyn Welch, *Art and Society in Italy 1350-1500* (Oxford, 1997), p. 241

Carthage.

Poggio Bracciolini's dialogue *On Nobility* (1440)

Robert Black has argued, 'Classical literary learning became the essential attribute of the gentleman, and once more Florence was ahead of the rest of Italy and transalpine Europe.'

Urbino was a papal fiefdom in the Marche (central Italy)

Federico da Montefeltro (1444-1482)

Vespasiano da Bisticci (1421-1498)

Piero della Francesca

Magnificence

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condottiere (mercenary captain)

Vittorino da Feltre

What is meant by Italy in the Age of the Renaissance?

Georg Hegel (1770-1831)

studia humaniora

Jacob Burckhardt (1818-1897)

The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy: An Essay (1860)