

BRITISH NAVIGATION IN THE RENAISSANCE

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The Renaissance in Britain

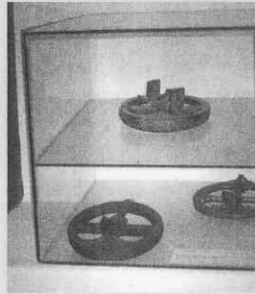
- * Occurred between the early 16th and 17th centuries
- * Often called the Elizabethan era
- * Increased desire for the expansion of scientific knowledge
- * Humanism
- * Literature is main art form in British Renaissance
- * Sir Thomas More's *Utopia* is a....

Ships, Tools & Customs

- * 1519- the British enter the pacific world
- * “Colour and ornamentation played a great role in many aspects of life, and just as jousts ... ships were equally magnificently decked out.” (Denvir, III)
- * incomplete hydrographic charts
- * advancement in astronomical devices for observation allowed navigators greater ability and control

Ships, Tools & Customs

- * Mariner's astrolabe



- * English Quadrant (Davis Quadrant) 1594



- * Hydrographic (Nautical) chart



- * Telescopes (very late, widespread in 1608 at the “end” of the British Renaissance)



- * Lunar Distance method

Goals

- * Exploration
- * Expansion
- * Colonization
- * Trade (Slavery & Goods)
- * Wealth
- * Power

Goals

- * Terra Australis Incognita
- * Expeditions “required venture capital from private persons” (Gough, 13)
- * Transatlantic slave trade
- * Powerful commercial motive and “pre-emptive impulse-
to forestall the ambitions of a rival by prior
control” (Gough, 14)
- * “Whosoever shall first possess it, it shall be found
unaccessible for any enemy” (Norton, 925)

What makes a navigator?

- * Juan Escalante de Mendoza argues for two classes of men who spend their lives at sea. Those with no choice
- * And “Those who would go to sea for pleasure would go to hell for pasttime.” (Herman, 24)

Important Figures

- * Sir Walter Raleigh
- * Sir Francis Drake
- * Martin Frobisher
- * John Hawkins
- * John Smith*

Sir Walter Raleigh



- * 1552-1618
- * Poet
- * Commanded Phillip Amadas and Arthur Barlowe in Britain's first voyage to Virginia in 1584
- * Unsuccessful in finding riches in Guiana
- * Beheaded in 1618 for crimes against the Spanish

Sir Francis Drake

- * 1540-1596
- * Most famous for circumnavigating the world between 1577 and 1580
- * Nova Albion
- * “There is no part of earth here to be taken up wherein there is not some probable show of gold or silver” (Norton, 935)
- * Pirate



John Hawkins



- * 1532-1595
- * Credited with being the “pioneer” of the transatlantic slave trade
- * Designed the faster ships that thwarted the Spanish “Invincible Armada” in 1588
- * “found it easy to pose as a convinced Catholic and faithful servant of the Spanish king, when doing so made it possible to earn a profit.” (Kelsey, 141)

The Virgin Land

- * Trend where the image of land that is pure, untouched, “virgin”, is used to make an appeals for exploration, colonization and plunder
- * *The Discovery of the large, rich, and beautiful Empire of Guiana, with a relation of the great and golden city of Manoa (Which the Spaniards call El Dorado)* Sir Walter Raleigh 1596, 1599
- * “Guiana is a country that hath yet her maidenhead, never sacked, turned, nor wrought” (Norton, 925)

Guiana (The Virgin Land)

- * Travel to Guiana was six weeks one way
- * “find there more rich and beautiful cities, more temples adorned with golden images, more sepulchres filled with treasure than either Cortez found in Mexico, or Pizzaro in Peru.” (Norton, 924)
- * This was not the case
- * Raleigh’s writings, along with similar accounts of treasure and virgin lands led to this pamphlet...

Description of New-England

- * Therefore I conclude, if the heart and entrails of those regions were sought, if their land were cultured, planted, and manured by men of industry, judgement, and experience; what hope is there, or what need they doubt, having the advantages of the of the sea, but it might equalize any of these famous kingdoms in all commodities, pleasures, and conditions: seeing even the very hedges do naturally afford us such plenty, as no ship need return away empty, and only use but the season of the sea, fish will return an honest gain, besides all other advantages: her treasures having yet never been opened, nor her originals wasted, consumed, nor abused" (Smith, 5)

Excellent choice!

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- * "find employment for those that are idle, because they know not what they do" (Smith, 5)

Influence on Literature

- * Appeals for colonization and expansion
- * Scientific Accounts/Documents
- * *The principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffics, and Discoveries of the English Nation* (1589) Richard Hakluyt
- * Sir Thomas More's *Utopia*
- * Traveler's Tales

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- * Images taken from Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org)

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or italicized.)