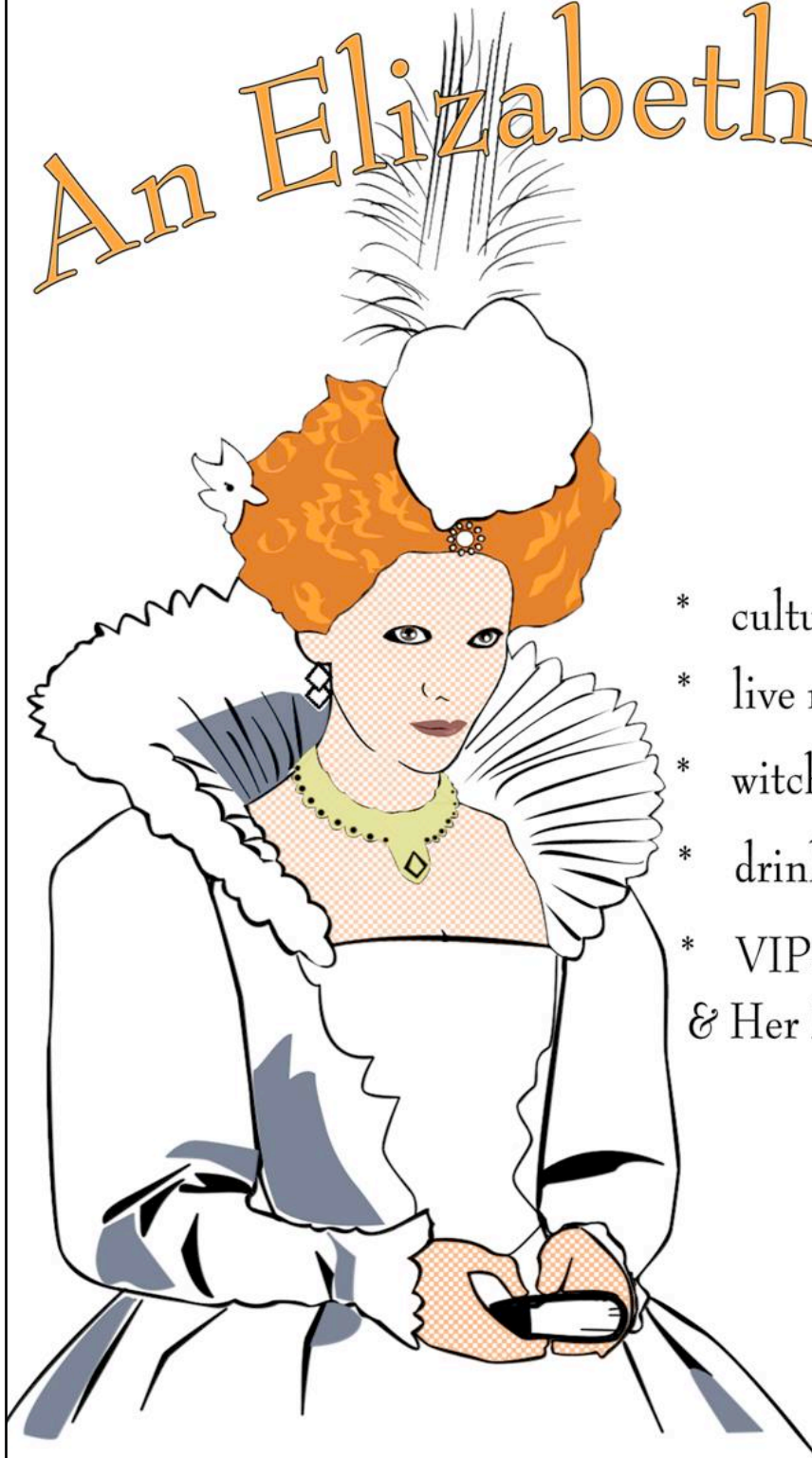


The Masters of the Revels Present

An Elizabethan Folly



- ❖
- * culture & performance
 - * live music: este
 - * witch drowning
 - * drinks and nibbles
 - * VIPs: King Philipp II of Spain
& Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I
- ❖

Thursday, 22nd May 2008 at 7.00 pm
Schönes Haus, Nadelberg 6, Basel
Free Entrance

Dear Guests,


Thank you very much for joining us tonight for our 'Elizabethan Folly'. This performance evening is the result of a teaching experiment. I taught a third year course on Elizabethan Culture, where we looked at different aspects of the period, such as world pictures, religion, magic and science, domestic politics, colonial expansion, the court, the country and the city, literature and the theatre and representations of the monarch creating the cult of the Virgin Queen.

The Elizabethan period is often seen as the 'Golden Age' of English history, because England developed into a nation state under the Tudors, experiencing a period of relative peace and prosperity after the chaos of the Wars of the Roses and rising to the status of a world power after the victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588. This development is associated with the long reign of Elizabeth I from 1558 to 1603. The cult of the Virgin Queen, expressed in court ritual, poetry, song and elaborate pictures, successfully stabilized the monarch's power and served to gloss over the more sinister aspects of the reign, like Francis Walsingham's secret service network. The cult is still surprisingly attractive to audiences today - among many evocations of the 'Golden Age' just think of the recent films starring Cate Blanchett (1998 and 2007, dir. Shekhar Kapur). Students worked together in groups to prepare presentations on various aspects of Elizabethan culture for their colleagues before they faced the challenge to transform their scholarly and detailed presentations into more accessible contributions suitable for a wider audience, i.e. to 'teach and delight'.

Our show begins in the year 1587, when Elizabeth has replaced her official intention to marry, expressed in notoriously lengthy marriage negotiations, with the cult of the Virgin Queen. She has successfully defended her power so far, but Mary Stuart, the exiled Catholic Scottish Queen with a claim to the English throne, is still alive, though held captive, to focus Catholic discontent and foster insurrection. At the same time, tension is rising between England and the Catholic marine superpower Spain ruled by King Philipp II. The Spanish are really getting fed up with English privateers stealing their colonial loot and sailing around under their very noses off the American coast. A storm is brewing...

The Masters of the Revels wish you a lovely evening - enjoy the show!

Prof. Dr. Ina Habermann



Programme

THE LECTURES:

- How to behave at court: introductory course
- Sir Francis Walsingham on domestic politics
- John Dee and the magic of science
- John White travels to the New World
- During the Break: Nibbles and drinks are available at the Bloody-Mary-Bar
- A how-to guide: 10 steps to immortality
- The Tudors (Guest lecture)
- Let's debate the satanic institution

- Life music from the formation este:
 - The lowest trees (John Dowland).
 - Coy dphne fled (John danyel).
 - Lacrimae (J. Dowland).
 - Galliard (John Smith).
 - Now oh now (J. Dowland).

A brief Who is Who on our VIPs:

John Dee and the magic of science

(1527-1608/9)

Position: philosopher and scientist (science then including mathematics, geography, engineering, astronomy just as well as astrology, alchemy and the 'occult' sciences.)

Among many great minds, he befriended Copernicus and Tycho Brahe whom he met at the court of Emperor Rudolf II in Prague.

Most famous today is probably the idiosyncratic symbol he named 'Monas Hieroglyphica':



He might have been the model for Shakespeare's Prospero (Dee owned a vast number of awe-inspiring books, that he made available to friends) and he appears in Umberto Eco's "Foucault's Pendulum".

John White (1540-1606)

Position: English artist and governor of the Roanoke Colony, on the new world colony of Virginia.

White was sent by [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) as artist-illustrator on his first voyage to the [New World](#) (1585-6). During his journey he made numerous sketches of the landscape, the original inhabitants, the animals and all sorts of plants. He was the father of [Eleanor Dare](#) the mother of the first English baby born in the [New World](#), White's granddaughter [Virginia Dare](#). (However, when the colony ran low on supplies the colonists requested that White return to England for provisions. His return to Roanoke was delayed by England's conflict with Spain and the [Spanish Armada](#), and when he at last returned to Roanoke in August of 1590 he found it deserted.)

A brief Who is Who on our VIPs continued:

Robert Devereux (10th November 1566 - 25th February 1601)

Position: 2nd Earl of Essex, a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I of England.

Devereux is the best-known of the many holders of the title "Earl of Essex". He was a military hero and royal favourite, but following a poor campaign against Irish rebels during the Nine Years War in 1599, he defied the Queen and was executed for treason in 1601.

Henry Carey (4th March 1526 - 23rd July 1596)

Position: 1st Baron Hunsdon of Hunsdon, cousin to Queen Elizabeth I

It is said that he might even be a son of Henry VIII and his mistress Mary Boleyn (later married to Henry's official father William Carey). Thanks to the Queen, who held her Boleyn relatives in high esteem, it was possible for Henry Carey to work his way up at court quite fast. He finally became Lord Chamberlain in 1585 and served in this position until his death.

Sir Francis Walsingham (1532-1590)

Position: Secretary of State

He began his career in 1563 by obtaining a seat in Parliament. From 1570 to 1573 he was ambassador to the French Court. After 1573 until his death he held the position of Secretary of State and was also known as "Elizabeth's spy master". As a devout Puritan he saw Catholicism as a danger to the state and Queen Elizabeth. With the help of his spy network that expanded all across Europe he was always well informed about potential conspiracies against the Queen. This also enabled him to uncover the Babington Plot against Queen Elizabeth. With the help of Thomas Phelippes, who forged Mary Stuart's letter addressed to Babington, he was able to strengthen the fake evidence of her involvement in the Babington Plot, which led to her trial and her ultimate beheading.

The Masters of the Revels are:

Bachmann, Isabel
Basler, Dominique
Burger, Ursula
Gloor, Madeleine
Goldenberger, Miriam
Gassner, Nora
Grassl, Andreas
Habermacher, Barbara
Habermann, Ina
Heiniger, Anna-Kathrina
Hertzog, Geneviève
Hynnen, Minja
Ingletti, Maria
Keller, Daniela
Küng, Melanie
Leanza, Giuseppe
Ludwig, Lilly
Meier, Stefanie
Meyer, Oli
Mosimann, Cäcilia
Müller, Bianca
Nussbaumer, Sonja
Roesle, Philippe
Rüegg, Sabine
Schneider, Esther
Siebenhüner, Steffen
Steffen, Ariel
Stöcklin, Christine
Sunda, Sibylle
Suter, Franziska
Tanner, Raffaella
Tschopp, Gabriela
Walder, Laura
Ward, Isla
Wyss, Sabine

All Participants

Performers:

Basler, Dominique (forger); Burger, Ursula (PR adviser); Grassl, Andreas (suitor); Habermann, Ina (fool); Heiniger, Anna-Kathrina (guard); Hynynen, Minja (Philipp II; suitor); Keller, Claudia (!!)(Sir Walsingham; John White); Küng, Melanie (the wall; guard); Meyer, Oli (Earl of Essex); Müller, Bianca (torturer); Roesle, Philippe (John Dee; the puritan); Steffen, Ariel (the Queen); Schneider, Esther (Steward); Siebenhüner, Steffen (town crier); Tschopp, Gabriela (the actor); Walder, Laura (witch);
The Gay Beggars, *Much Ado About Nothing* (2008 production)

On the Tudors:

Guest lecture by Dr. Susanne Gruss, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen

Musicians:

Eve Kopli (Sprano); Tomoko Mukoyama (Traversflöte)
Sven Schwannberger (Laute)

Frame group:

Basler, Dominique; Leanza, Giuseppe; Müller, Bianca; Siebenhüner, Steffen (powerpoint presentation); Steffen, Ariel; Ward, Isla; Stage Manager Laura Walder

Organisation group:

Habermacher, Barbara (sponsoring); Herzog, Genevieve (catering); Ludwig, Lilly (catering); Meier, Stefanie (poster); Tanner, Raffaella (programme)

Others:

Many thanks to Alex Van Lierde, Sabina Horber and the Department of English, University of Basel

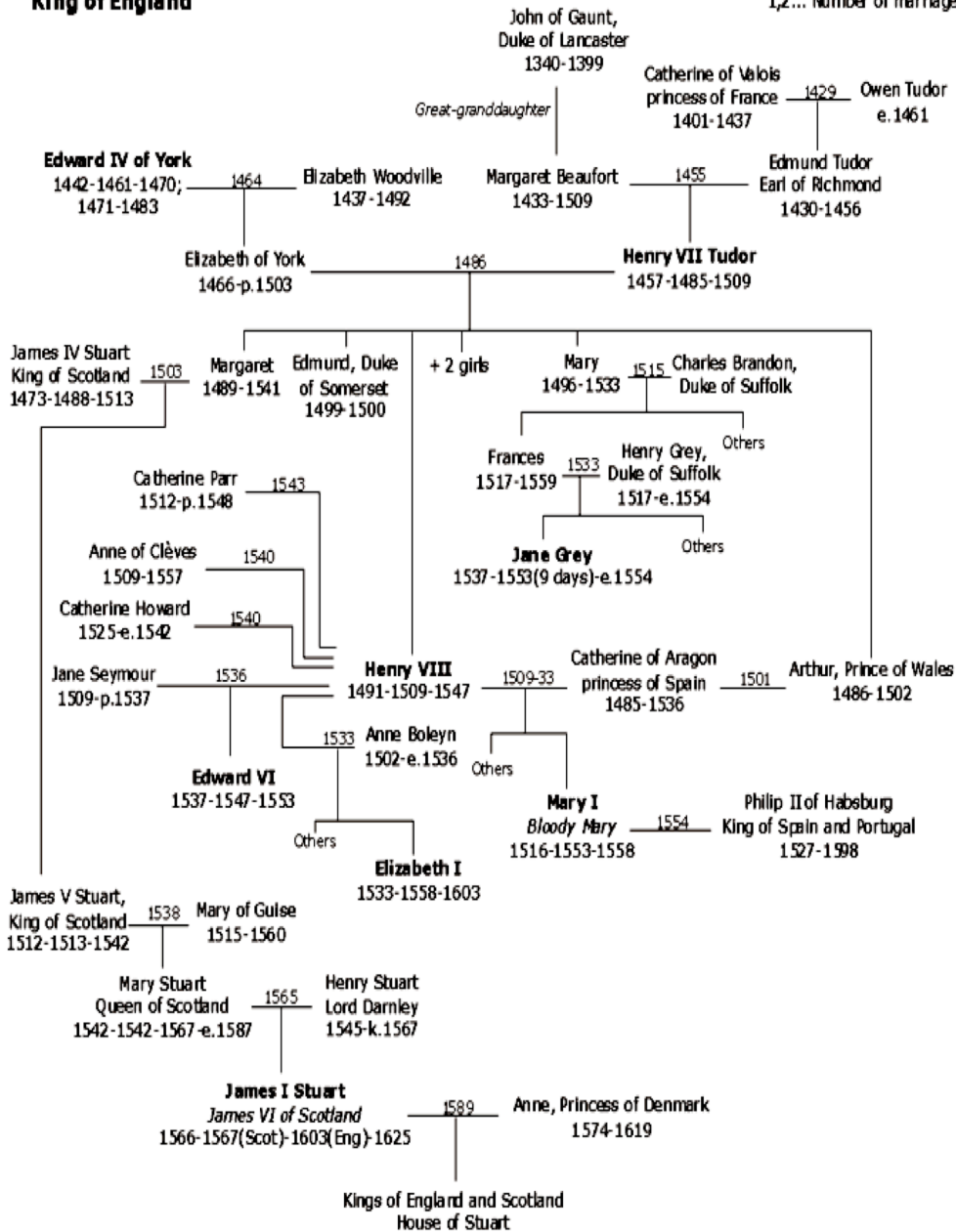
English Monarchs Family Tree

English monarchs family tree: House of Tudor
 Source: House of Windsor official site (www.royal.gov.uk)

- | Son/daughter
- ! Illegitimate son
- Marriage
- Liaison
- a. - killed in accident
- k. - killed
- kb. - killed in battle
- e. - executed
- b. - born
- d. - died
- p. - died in childbirth
- ~ - about
- 1,2... Number of marriage

Note: dates are birth and death; intermediate dates are accession to throne

King of England



(Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tudor_dynasty)

The Tilbury Speech

Here is an account of Elizabeth's famous speech to the Troops at Tilbury, Essex held on August 9, 1588

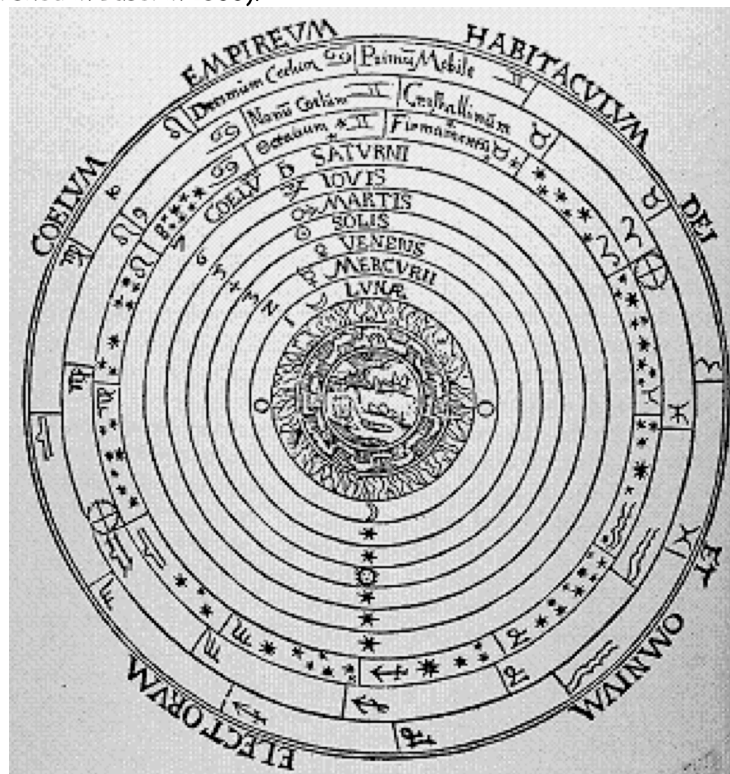
My loving people: We have been persuaded by some that are careful of our safety, to take heed how I committed myself to armed multitudes, for fear of treachery. But I assure you I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and loving people. Let tyrants fear! I have so behaved myself that, under God, I have placed my chief strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and goodwill of my subjects; and therefore I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved, in the midst of the heat of the battle, to live or die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom, and for my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which, rather than any dishonour should grow by me, I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field. [...]

(Source: The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 7th ed., New York/London: Norton 2000, 597.)



The Elizabethan World Picture

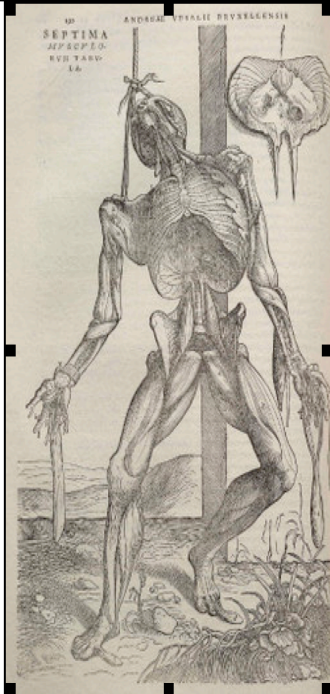
Elizabethan philosophy is based on Ptolemy's geocentric world picture with the earth in the centre and the celestial spheres around it in concentric circles. Nikolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), a Polish clergyman, had argued for the heliocentric world picture in *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (1543; 2nd edition published in Basel in 1566).



However, in Elizabethan times, although the new world picture had been accepted by scientists, people still tended to think along the lines of the older world picture. In this, everything is ordered according to degree, and different degrees are seen to be linked in a 'great chain of being' - God, Angels, Humans, Animals, Vegetables, Minerals. This is supplemented with a system of correspondences such as the microcosm/macrocosm-analogy, which means that the human body replicates the world in miniature.

For classic descriptions of this philosophy see E.M.W. Tillyard's *The Elizabethan World Picture* (London: Vintage 1959) and A.O. Lovejoy's *The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea* (Harvard University Press 1976).

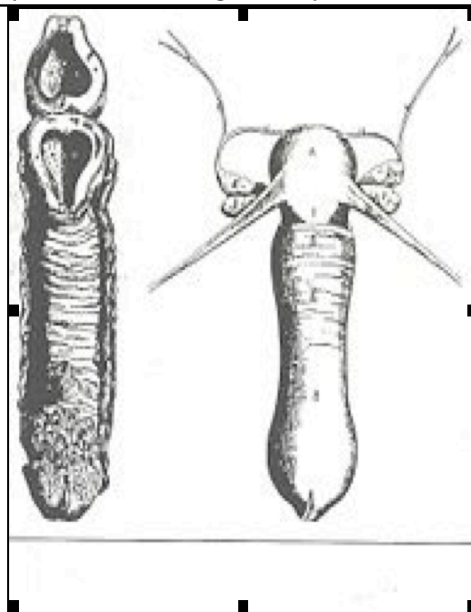
The Body in the Renaissance



New approaches to science in the Renaissance included an interest in the anatomy of the human body, and teaching medicine began to include new types of anatomy lessons based on dissection. The Belgian anatomist Andreas Vesalius (1514-64) published his pioneering work on anatomy *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem* in 1543 in Basel. Artists like Leonardo da Vinci also studied the body, producing detailed drawings and lifelike sculpture.

Some scholars focus on dissection as a central trope for early modern inquiry; see Jonathan Sawday, *The Body Emblazoned: Dissection and the Human Body in Renaissance Culture* (London: Routledge 1996).

Vesalius also includes images of reproductive organs and genitalia, and his depiction of a female uterus resembling a penis was used by some scholars, along with other visual material and textual evidence, to advance the controversial argument that early modern notions of sex were based on a 'one-sex-model'. In this model, women are seen as 'lesser men' with an inverted penis, situated in their colder bodies (according to a theory of humours and their properties of dry, cold, moist and hot) for childbearing, while male sexual organs needed to be at a distance from the heat of their bodies. See Thomas Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud* (Harvard University Press 1990).



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