

September 19th, 2013

The Pre-Hispanic World and the Colonial Scene

Office hours: 4-6 Mondays

Conquest of the Americas:

- 1492: re-conquest of Spain, and Columbus' first voyage
- 1494: Treaty of Tordesillas
- 1500: Pedro Álvares Cabral claims Brazil for Portugal
- 1519-20: conquest of Mexico by Hernán Cortes
- 1532: conquest of the Inca begun by Francisco Pizarro, which took 50 years

Upon reaching the Americas, Europeans tried to fit natives into the Greco-Roman categories and notions that they possessed. Things like native savages, the woman hunter, etc. in woodcuts are examples of this. Nakedness in particular became typical of depictions of Aborigines.

Albert Eckhout was an artist who visited Brazil while it was briefly under Dutch control. He wanted to present Tapuya people that were more dignified, because his paintings were meant to go inside a Brazilian council chamber that natives would pass through. He didn't want his images to be offensive.

European maps of Tenochtitlan appear, and people were surprised that such primitive people could create these. These maps usually looked like European cities.

The natives are depicted naked, linking them with Paganism.

The idea of building churches on top of and with materials from old temples came from Pope Gregory the Great. This happened at Cholula in Mexico and at the Coricancha in Cuzco.

Nomadic tribes were forcefully settled in European villages called 'reductions'. In this way, the Europeans wished to convert and civilize them. The Jesuit Reductions were the most famous. They contained churches, squares for outdoor ceremonies and rows of apartments.

Europeans tried to impress the Aborigines by imitating the 12 apostles when they arrived in the Americas.

Franciscan Utopianism was established in Mexico and eventually Quito. It concerned idealized villages, reductions, education, hospices. They wanted to replace the Aztec university (calmecac). They built cities based on Thomas Moore's *Utopia*. They also burned Maya artifacts, including artworks, texts, history, music, costumes, tapestries, etc.

Forced labour systems were used in both the Spanish and Portuguese empires. Natives were exploited as almost-slaves in mines. They did this through the Encomienda and Mita system. The largest mine was at Potosi in Bolivia. A huge variety of indigenous groups from all over the Andes were used.

Segregation of Spanish and Native Americans took place in villages and reductions.

Spanish idealism took an urban form. Many people had fantasies of the idealized city. This emerged during the Renaissance, and usually took the form of circles or grids. After the colonization of Americas, the Europeans had room to create new cities, many of which were

grids. They usually focused on a square that contained a city hall and a church. These plans were inspired by many local cultures, which had used grid cities. It reflected European utopian ideals.

Islam also had an influence on Latin American architecture, since Muslim occupation meant that many artists were used to this mode of architecture. There were a lot of columns, geometric shapes in wood, private balconies

A lot of the architects weren't trained in an academic sense. They relied heavily on architectural manuals such as *Regole generali d'architettura*, and *Nouvelles inventions pour bien bastir*.

The first painters to come to South American were Italian, and brought the current styles with them. The only thing the Aborigines weren't exposed to were images of martyrdom.

The first Africans came to America 1510-11. It was a very cosmopolitan society. Millions of Africans were brought to Mexico, Peru, Brazil and the Caribbean throughout the colonial period.

From 1573-1815, the annual Manila Galleon links Latin America to the Asian markets. It had a huge influence on Latin America. Biombo screens, for example, were brought by Japanese ambassadors and copied.

Tupinamba of Coastal Brazil

The Tupinamba were one of the major lowland tribes in South America. They were like the Inca, but were semi-nomadic and moved around a lot.

There are lots of feathered headgear, anklets and skirts, which are accurate.

Cannibalism did exist among the Tupinamba, but it became an exaggerated motif. The Europeans used it as an excuse to look down on the Americans and correct/Christianize them.

This is the impression that a lot of Europeans had of the Americas.

Parish Church over Inca Palace

Palaces were also religious sites, since the Inca themselves were descendants of the sun. This is where they were buried after they died.

Very religious town with a huge pyramid.

Spanish church is extremely poor quality when compared to the Inca masonry below.

Cathedral of Santo Domingo

There wasn't a unified idea on how to build structures in the Americas. Spain had a mix of styles, so buildings were done in whatever style the artist was trained in. Gothic art was still very popular in Spain.

Has a very Renaissance facade, since the interior and exterior were designed by two different groups.

Quito, San Francisco

Built by native Americans.

Used to be attributed to a Flemish architect, but it was originally discovered that it was built by Quechua.

Pastiche based on architectural manuals.

Built in a completely European style; very academically correct.

Proves that not everything that looks European is built by a European.

Quito was one of the first places to be subject to the utopian experiments.

This college was founded by a Franciscan. It taught trades, and eventually hosted Aboriginal teachers and apprentices. This gave Aboriginals control over their own architectural education.

Struggle Over the Body of Moses

Very well-known Italian painter who moved to Latin America.

Last fresco to be painted in the Sistine Chapel.

Very Michelangelo-like style.

Artist had mental health issues, and often destroyed his own work. He decided to go to Peru and started a school of painters.

His style changed dramatically when he came to the Americas, because almost all American painting was based on engravings. His figures became much skinnier and dainty when he came to the Americas, since he studied Flemish engravings.