

Renaissance People

Lives that Shaped the Modern Age

Robert C. Davis and Beth Lindsmith

Publication date: 12 September 2011

Price: £24.95

The Renaissance was one of the most creative and inventive periods in human civilization, and this book presents the vast range of achievements through the life and work of ninety-four individuals: men and women, saints and sinners, scholars and saints.

After germinating for nearly a century, the Renaissance burst forth in all its glory around 1500 with the inventions of Leonardo, the artistry of Durer and Michelangelo, the discoveries of Columbus, Vesalius and Copernicus. The re-discovery by northern Italians of their Classical heritage may not have expanded further through Europe had there not been another movement. The Florentines mastered Greek between 1400 and 1450 and launched a genuine European Renaissance, which spread across the continent.

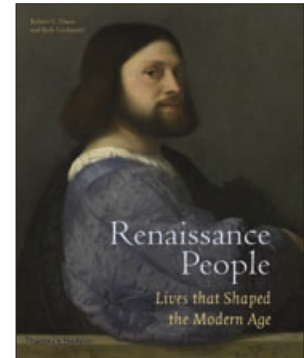
Robert C. Davis and Beth Lindsmith's portraits of people who shaped the era include wily politicians, eccentric scientists, fiery rebels as well as a pornographer, an acrobat and a star comedian. Many of the names are famous - Luther, Lorenzo de' Medici, Machiavelli and Raphael.

But among the notable geniuses of the age are some extraordinary people, including the aristocratic matriarch Alessandra Strozzi, who sneaked around Florence to spy on potential brides for her sons; the notorious criminal Catena, who wasn't satisfied with murdering his enemy, but also hamstringed his victim's goats; and the Inquisition's Heinrich Kramer, who insisted that witches could remove men's penises and hide them in birds' nests.

The centuries between 1400 and 1600 were embarrassingly rich with truly epochal personalities, from the great names to lesser lights who in their own way personified this glorious reawakening. This handsomely illustrated book brings this great period to life through their lives.

Authors

Robert C. Davis is professor of Renaissance history at Ohio State University. He is the author of *Christian Slaves Muslim Masters* and numerous books on Venice. For ten years, Beth Lindsmith edited and contributed to magazines at the Ohio State University, where she has also taught classes in composition and creative writing.



Extent

336pp

Size

24.6 x 18.6cm

Illustrations

200 illustrations, 180 in colour

Binding

Hardback

Price

£24.95

ISBN 978 0 500 251775

Press Office Contact

Rosalie Macfarlane

Thames & Hudson Ltd
181A High Holborn
London WC1V 7QX

T +44 (0)20 7845 5102

F +44 (0)20 7845 5050

E r.macfarlane@thameshudson.co.uk

W www.thamesandhudson.com