

Fall 2014 History & Heritage -- (P.S.)

Schoolmen --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 207-218)

This title identifies the scholastic philosophers of the medieval universities, men mostly determined to commend Christianity by reason? Their chief concern was directed to universal, transcendent ideals—metaphysical, moral, and political—upon which all earthly things were patterned and to which they bore resemblance, or so they believed. Their universal and transcendent aspirations, moreover, extended even to language and nationality: Latin served as their common tongue and all Europe their classroom.

Realism v. Nominalism --- (Kirk; *Roots*, pp. 207-218)

This philosophic controversy, subtle and yet profound, divided medieval schoolmen and rocked their universities in the 1300's? The older school, best represented by Aquinas (d. 1274), defended the truth of universal, transcendent ideals; the newer, championed by Ockham (d. 1349), dismissed universals as artifice and sought reality in particular things and their characteristics. The modern world went with Ockham, thereby losing touch with things above, while reducing to trivialities the things below.

St. Andrews University --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 207-218)

This Scots scholarly institute on the North Sea traces its origins to efforts to buttress by reason medieval Roman Catholic traditions in 1400's? Ironically, Catholicism would "give up its ghost" in those environs by the middle of the 1500's, first at St. Leonard's College, a deep well of Calvinist theology where early Protestant martyr Patrick Hamilton was a student. The medieval faith-reason synthesis nonetheless endured in Scotland, England, N. Europe, and later America, but with a decidedly Protestant hue.

Church v. State --- (Kirk; *Roots*, pp. 207-218)

This controversy in politics, following on the heels of inquiries into metaphysics and morals, riveted the attention of medieval schoolmen? It had to do with the "two swords," spiritual and temporal, by which men are ruled, most schoolmen perceiving a complementarity between them, as greater and lesser powers, for the common good. Some scholars, however, like Marsilius of Padua (d. 1343) and William of Ockham (d. 1349), equated the authorities or even inverted their relationship (Marsilius).

Universities --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 207-218)

These medieval corporations, largely independent scholarly communities in Europe beginning in the 1100's, ordinarily sprang up from cathedral and monastic schools? Directed by bishops along with priests and monks, the corporations integrated reason (Classical philosophy) and faith (Christian revelation), thereby preparing students for careers mostly in church and state. Oxford and Cambridge were numbered among them in England; Scotland could boast of St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen.