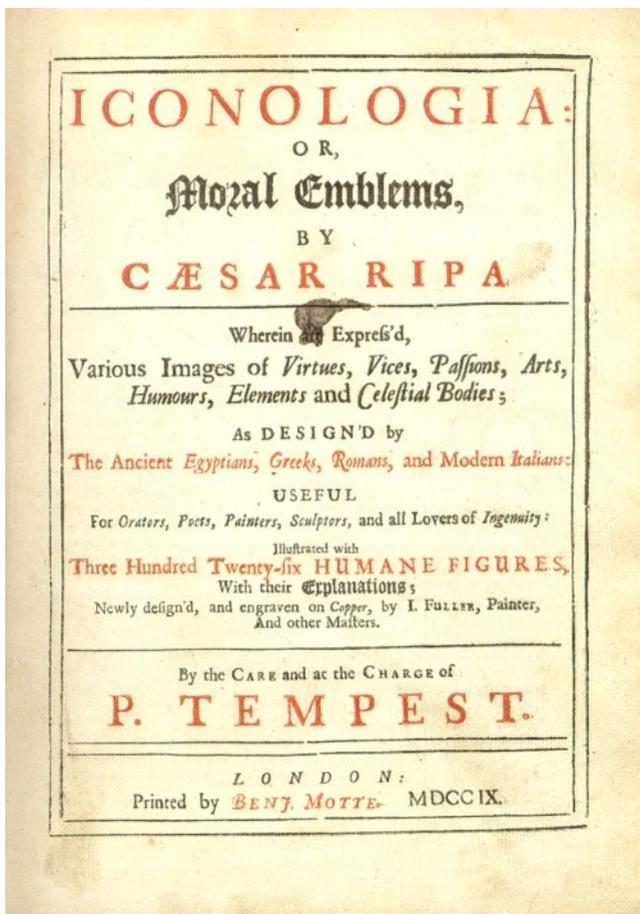


# Seeing Signs and Deciphering Symbols

Background Notes

Dr Antonia Whitley - 16 January 2013



**WAHG**

Winchester Art History Group

[www.wahg.org.uk](http://www.wahg.org.uk)



# Themes

1. The Four Evangelists
2. The Wheel of Fortune
3. Labours of the Months and Signs of the Zodiac
4. Saints' Attributes
5. Typologies
6. Flowers and Fruit
7. Types of Annunciation
8. Sacred and Profane Love
9. The Muses
10. The Virtues
11. Mythologies
12. Landscape as Symbol
13. *Vanitas* objects
14. The Seven Deadly Sins

# The Four Evangelists

## Ezekiel (1:4-10)

Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the colour of burnished bronze. The hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward.

As for the likeness of their faces, *each* had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.

## Book of Revelation (4: 6-9)

Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever

## **The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin:**

1. The Prophecy of Simeon
2. The Flight into Egypt
3. The loss of Christ in the temple
4. Mary finds Jesus on the route to Calvary
5. Jesus dies on the cross- and act of redemption for the sins of humanity
6. Mary receives the body of the lifeless Christ into her arms
7. The body of Christ is laid to rest in the tomb

## List of Images

1. Pesellino (workshop), The Liberal Arts, c. 1450, Birmingham, Alabama
2. Michelangelo, Creation, 1508-12, Sistine Chapel
3. Josse Lieferinxe, fl. 1493-1508, St Michael and Lucifer  
Gerard David, 1460-1523, St Michael and Lucifer
4. Prudence by Giuseppe Lironi, c.1725, St Peter's Portico, Rom
5. Misc.
6. St John the Evangelist: Chalice by Memling, 1470-75, NG, Washington and by El Greco c.1610, Toledo
- 6a Kilpeck portal
- 6b Ghiberti, Adam & Eve panel / Masaccio Expulsion (both 1420s)
7. Matteo di Giovanni, St Bartholomew, c.1480, Mus of Fine Art, Budapest
8. Gerard TerBorch, Genre piece, 1654, Amsterdam
9. Chapel of Nicholas V, Fra Angelico, 1448, Vatican
10. Various manuscript illuminations
11. Pisano fountain, Perugia, c.1275
12. St Peter by Marco Zoppo, c.1468, NG Washington; St John the Baptist, Jacopo del Sellaio, c.1485 Budapest Mus of Fine Art and St Lawrence, Lorenzo di Niccolo, 1404, Brooklyn Museum
13. St Anthony, Tommaso Manzuoli, c. 1550, York Museum Trust & by H Memling with donor, 1472, NG of Ottawa
14. St Apollonia, Francisco Zurbarán, 1636, Louvre and anon. 14C at St Michael's Barton Turf, Norfolk
15. St Dunstan, Macclesfield Psalter & St Apollinaris, anon.
16. Corona Redemption Window, c.1200, Canterbury

17. Portinari altarpiece, Hugo van der Goes, 1475, Uffizi
18. Signorelli Medici Madonna, c.1489, Uffizi
19. Madonna of Rose Garden, Stephano da Verono and Madonna of Quail, Pisanello, both 1420s, Castelvecchio Museum, Verona
20. Annunciation, Piero della Francesco, c. 1450s, S. Francesco, Arezzo
21. Martelli Annunciation, Filippo Lippi, 1440, San Lorenzo, Florence
22. Annunciation, Fra Carnavale, c. 1445, NG Washington
23. Annunciation, Baldovinetti, 1457, Uffizi
24. Annunciation, Fra Angelico, c. 1440, San Marco, Florence
25. Cestello Annunciation, Botticelli, 1489, Uffizi
26. Sacred & Profane Love, Titian, c.1514, Borghese Gallery, Rome
27. The Muses, Girolamo Romanino c.1540, NG
28. Muses on Mt Parnassus, Mantegna, 1497, Louvre
29. The theological virtues, Umbrian artist, 1500, Met N-Y
30. The cardinal virtues, Luca della Robbia, San Miniato mid 15C
31. Vices, Giotto, 1305, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua
32. Hercules at Crossroads, Annibale Caracci, 1596. Capodimonte Naples
33. Dream of Scipio, Raphael, 1504, NG
34. Discovery of Honey, Piero di Cosimo, 1499, Art Mus Worcester, MA
35. Jewish Cemetery, van Ruisdael, 1657, Detroit
36. Vanitas, Jacques de Gheyn the Elder, 1603, Met Museum, NY
37. Self-portrait with still-life, D Bailly, 1584, Stedelijk Museum, Leiden

38. L'Umana Fragilità, Salvador Rosa, 1656, Fitzwilliam Museum
39. Portrait of Young Man with vase, Memling, 1485, Thyssen, Madrid
40. Carthusian Monk, Petrus Cristus, 1446, Met N-Y
41. The Seven deadly Sins, H Bosch, c. 1500, Prado, Madrid

# Winchester Art History Group

## Forthcoming Programme

V	National Gallery visit	<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Jan
S	<i>William Morris and his Legacy</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Feb
S	<i>Art Nouveau 1900</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Feb
V	Winchester College visit	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Mar
S	<i>Art as politics in late medieval and Renaissance Sienna</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20 Mar
V	Royal Academy visit	<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Mar
S	<i>David, Ingres and Goya: art in the service of politics</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Apr
S	<i>Dada and Surrealism: radical avant garde art</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8 May
S	<i>Artists of Worldwide Revolution: the Utopian Globalists from Tatlin to Christo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15 May
V	Southampton City Art Gallery visit	<input type="checkbox"/>	22 May
S	<i>Art in the Open Air: Artists' gardens and sculpture parks</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Jun

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