

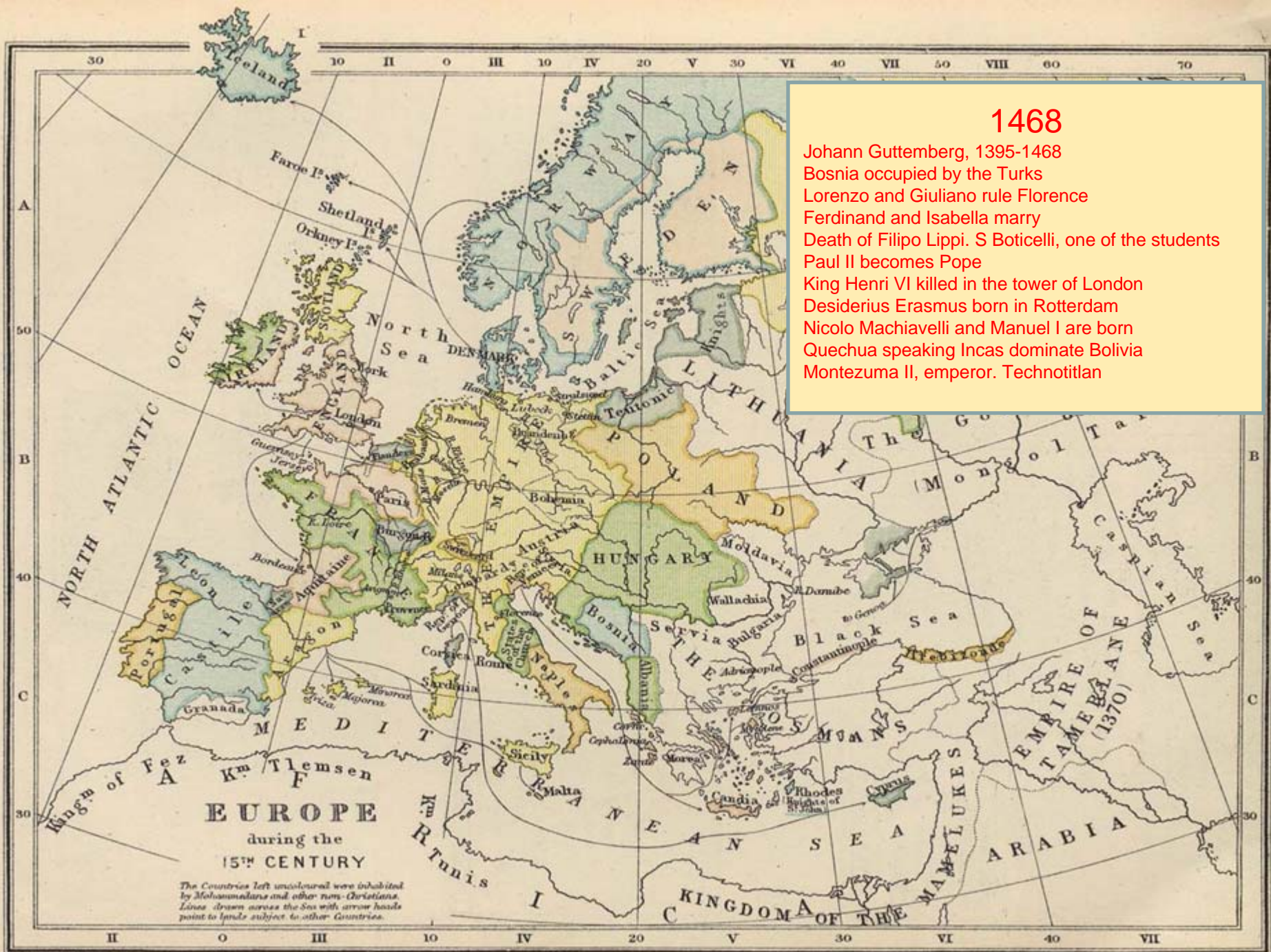
Saint George and the Dragon

Javier Garau

1st European Day of Fighting
Infection.

25th Anniversary of ESCMID Barcelona,
Spain, 23 April 2008





1468

- Johann Guttenberg, 1395-1468
- Bosnia occupied by the Turks
- Lorenzo and Giuliano rule Florence
- Ferdinand and Isabella marry
- Death of Filippo Lippi. S. Boticeelli, one of the students
- Paul II becomes Pope
- King Henri VI killed in the tower of London
- Desiderius Erasmus born in Rotterdam
- Nicolo Machiavelli and Manuel I are born
- Quechua speaking Incas dominate Bolivia
- Montezuma II, emperor. Technotitlan



Pere Nisard

He created the Sant Jordi altarpiece in 1468 by order of the Brotherhood of the Knights of Sant Jordi, to honour their patron saint.

The encounter of a mediterranean city with a foreign painter and his version of the most important event of the history of the city: the conquest of the oriental islands of AL-Andalus by King Jaume of Aragón in 1228





SAINT GEORGE

In Christian hagiography **Saint George** (ca. 275-281–303) was a soldier of the Roman Empire, from the then Greek-speaking Anatolia, now modern day Turkey.

Saint George is one of the most venerated saints in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

The patron saint of Aragón, Canada, Catalunya, England, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia, Russia, and Palestine, as well as the cities of Genoa, Beirut, Ljubljana, Freiburg, Ferrara and Moscow, as well as a wide range of professions, organisations and disease sufferers.

THE DRAGON

The dragon story is a relatively late addition to the legend of St. George.

The dragon-slaying story took off when it was mentioned in the version of the life of St. George included in the *Golden Legend*, a collection of saints' lives compiled in the late thirteenth century (Jacobus de Voragine).

One of the formative elements for his legend is Perseus and Andromeda. The story of the hero overcoming the monster to rescue the girl is in nearly all recorded cultures.

The story of St. George and the dragon can be understood as one, relatively modern, form of some very ancient ideas about gender roles, monsters and sexuality"





Rogier van der Weyden painted the legendary event as though it had taken place in his own country and in his own time.

The landscape in the background is the Belgian countryside as it looked in the early fifteenth century. We see a walled city that is surrounded by water, and a castle above it perched atop a fantastic mountain. Painters often changed settings to help their audience relate to a story.

Rogier van der Weyden, *Saint George and the Dragon*, 1432-1435, National Gallery of Art, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

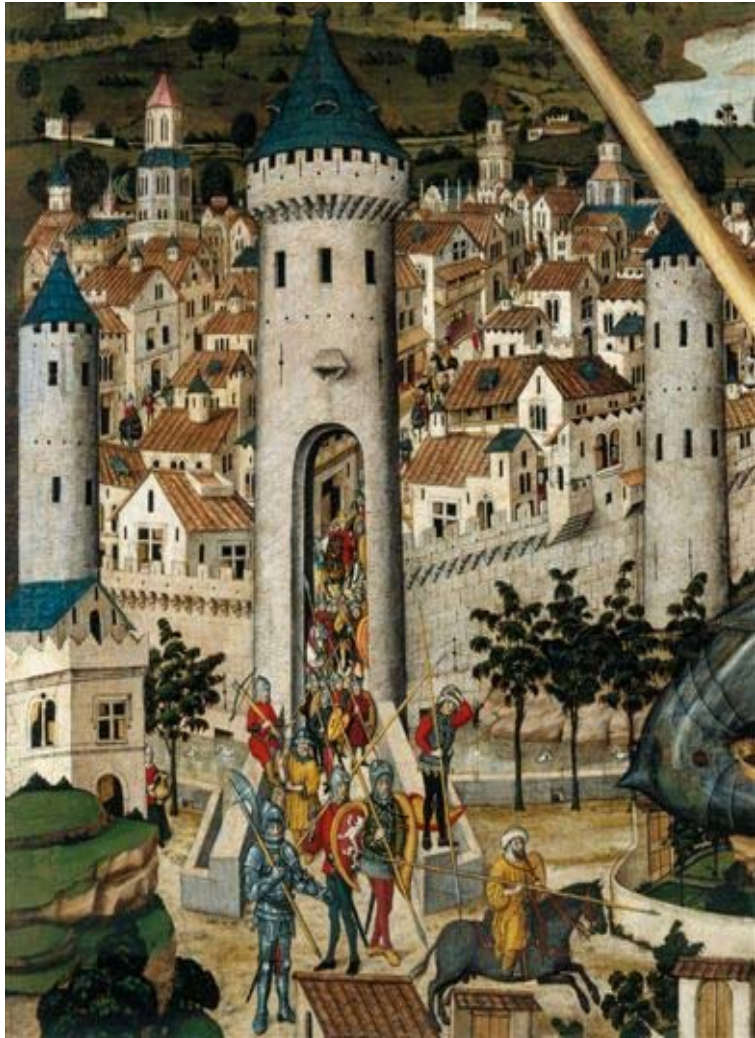


Pere Nisart, 1468



Roger van der Weyden, 1432-35







CASA BATLLÓ.

Much of the façade is decorated with a mosaic made of broken ceramic tiles (trencadís) that starts in shades of golden orange moving into greenish blues.





The roof is arched and was likened to the back of a dragon

A common theory about the building is that the rounded feature to the left of centre, terminating at the top in a turret and cross, represents the sword of Saint George- Sant Jordi-, (patron saint of Catalunya), which has been plunged into the back of the dragon

Sant Jordi's day in Catalunya

On Saint George's, a rose and a book

This tradition is the combination of two different events:

- the popular Catalan tradition consisting of offering roses on Sant Jordi's day (XV century)
- "The day of the book" to be celebrated the 23 of April, the day of the death of Cervantes (Royal decree, 1930)

World day of the book, UNESCO 1955