

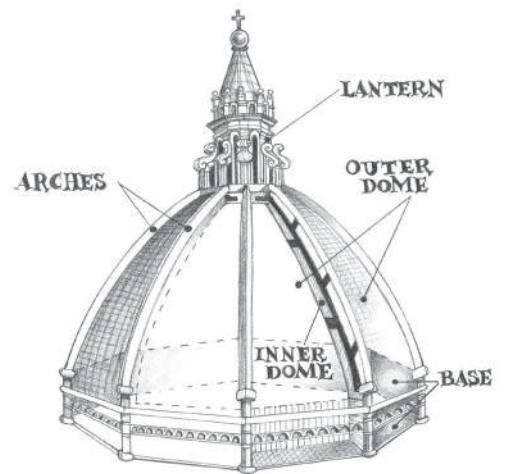
Site A: Advances in Architecture and Engineering



To construct a dome this large that would not collapse, Brunelleschi designed it to fit an octagonal (eight-sided) base.

The dome has eight massive marble ribs, or arches, that interlock at the top. The weight of these ribs is supported by hoops of oak, iron, and brick that bind them to the base.

Over and under the ribs are an inner dome and an outer dome. Between these two domes are eight large ribs and sixteen smaller ribs connected by bricks for additional support.



Site B: Advances in Painting



Adoration of the Magi by Sandro Botticelli

Site C: Advances in Sculpture



David by Michelangelo

Site D: Advances in Literature

***The Decameron* by Boccaccio—First Day Introduction**

Translated from Italian to English in 1903 by J. M. Rigg; modernized for this placard.

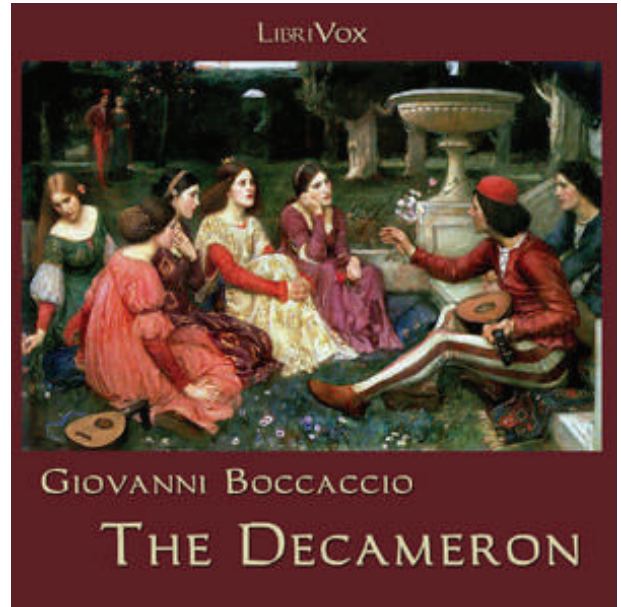
In the year 1348, in the illustrious city of Florence, the fairest of all the cities of Italy, there made its appearance that deadly plague, which—whether spread by the influence of the celestial bodies or sent upon us mortals by God in His just wrath by way of retribution for our iniquities—had had its origin some years before in the East. After destroying an enormous number of human beings, it had spread into the West.

In Florence, despite all that human wisdom and forethought could invent—for example, the cleansing of the city from many impurities by officials appointed for the purpose, the refusal of entrance to all sick folk, and the adoption of many precautions for the preservation of health—despite also humble prayers addressed to God, and often repeated both in public procession and otherwise, by the devout, towards the beginning of the spring of 1348, the devastating effects of the pestilence began to be horribly apparent.

The symptoms were not like those in the East, where an issue of blood from the nose was the clear sign of inevitable death. Rather, in Florence, in men and women alike, the plague first betrayed itself by the emergence of certain tumors in the groin or the armpits, some of which grew as large as a common apple, others as an egg, some more, some less. The common folk called them *gavoccioli*. From the two said parts of the body this deadly *gavocciolo* soon began to grow and spread itself in all directions. Then the form of the illness began to change, with black or dark purple spots appearing in many cases on the arm or the thigh or elsewhere, sometimes few and large, sometimes minute and numerous. And similar to the *gavocciolo*, which was a certain sign of approaching death, so also were these spots.

These symptoms defeated both the art of the physician and the virtues of medicines. It may have been that the disorder was of a kind that was immune to such treatment, or that the physicians were at fault, and—being in ignorance of its source, failed to apply the proper remedies. Or the problem may have been the many men and women who practiced healing without having the slightest knowledge of medical science. In any case, not merely were those that recovered few, but almost all died within three days from the appearance of the said symptoms, sooner or later, and in most cases without any fever or other symptoms.

Moreover, the harmfulness of the plague was the greater by reason that common interaction was all that was needed to convey it from the sick to the healthy, just as fire devours things dry or greasy when they are brought close to it. Nay, the evil went yet further, for not merely by speech or association with the sick was the malady spread to the healthy with consequent risk of death; but any that touched the clothes of the sick or anything else that had been touched or used by them, seemed thereby to contract the disease.



Site E: Advances in Science and Mathematics

Drawings from Leonardo's Notebooks

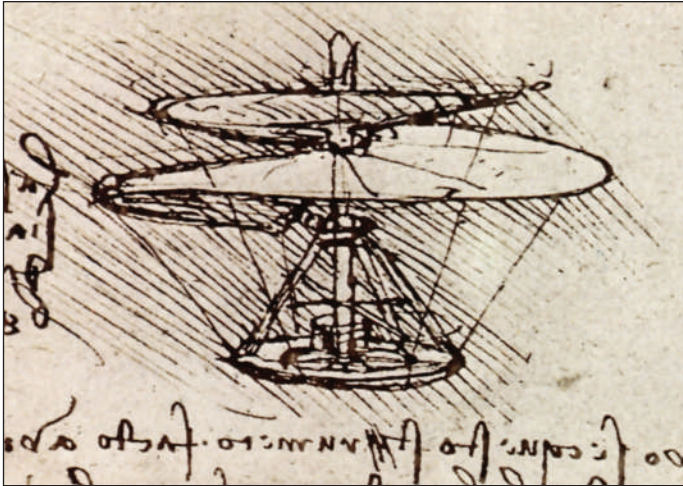


Image A

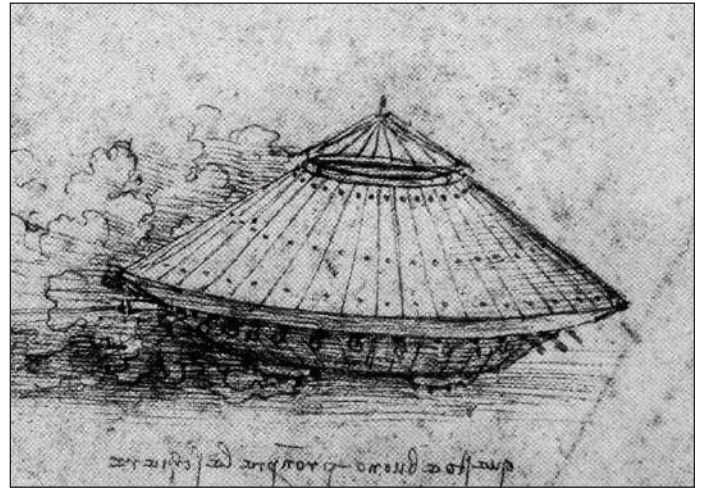


Image B



Image C

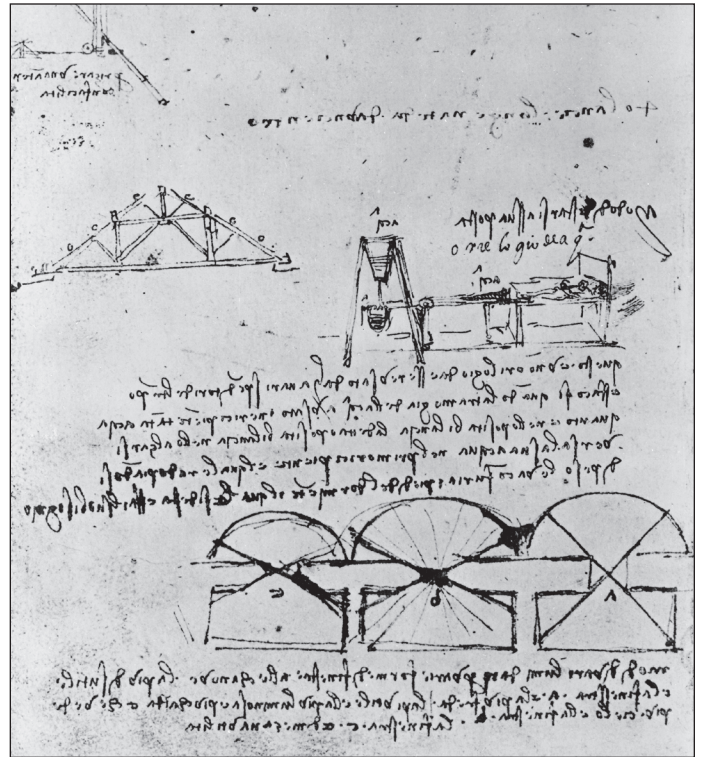


Image D

Site F: Florentine Politics



Niccolò Machiavelli, 1469–1527

Quotation 1

“For as we can have no better clue to a man’s character than the company he keeps, he who frequents worthy company deservedly obtains a good name, since there can hardly fail to be some similarity between himself and his associates.”

– Bk III, Chapter XXXIV

Quotation 2

“ANY one comparing the present with the past will soon see that in all cities and in all nations there exist the same desires and passions as have always existed. For this reason, it should be an easy matter for a person who carefully examines past events to foresee those which are about to happen in any republic, and to apply the type of solutions that the ancients used in like cases; or finding none which have been used by them, to try new ones, such as they might have used in similar circumstances.”

– Bk I, Chapter XXXIX

Quotation 3

“... it is the well-being, not of individuals, but of the community which makes a State great; and, without question, this universal well-being is nowhere secured save in a republic.”

– Bk II, Chapter II

Site G: Florentine Commerce and Trade

Florentine Money

<i>gold florin</i>	<i>lira</i> (plural, <i>lire</i>) 7 lire = 1 florin	<i>soldo</i> (plural, <i>soldi</i>) 20 soldi = 1 lira	<i>denaro</i> (plural, <i>denari</i>) 12 denari = 1 soldo
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Expenses from *Leonardo's Notebooks* 1535–1548

Clothing

4 pairs of hose*	7 lire 8 soldi
24 pairs of shoes	6 lire 5 soldi
3 jerkins**	6 lire
1 lined doublet†	5 lire
6 shirts	4 lire
1 cloak	2 lire
1 cap	1 lire
a pair of shoes	14 soldi
a pair of shoes	8 soldi

Household Items

bed and frame	30 lire
bed	7 lire
3 lbs of tapers	27 soldi
fuel	3 soldi 6 denari
crocery	2 soldi 5 denari
glasses	1 soldo
a lock	1 soldo

Personal Items

a sword and knife	21 soldi
a jasper ring	13 soldi
a sparkling stone	11 soldi
a jasper ring	6 soldi
a jasper ring	2 soldi 6 denari
a jasper ring	2 soldi 1 denaro
a jasper ring	2 soldi 1 denaro
a jasper ring	1 soldo 2 denari

Food (each item is enough for 1 day)

wine	9 soldi 4 denari
herbs	8 soldi
vegetables	8 soldi
bread	6 soldi
bran	5 soldi 4 denari
eggs	5 soldi
buttermilk	4 soldi 4 denari
good beef	4 soldi
mushrooms	3 soldi 4 denari
melon	3 soldi
mulberries	2 soldi 4 denari
soup	2 soldi
fruit	1 soldo 4 denari
salad	1 soldo

Art Supplies

20 lbs German blue	80 lire
60 lbs white	15 lire
40 lbs of oil	10 lire
6 lbs of green	3 lire 12 soldi
4 lbs of yellow	2 lire 8 soldi
20 lbs of black	2 lire
2 lbs of cinnabar	1 lira 16 soldi
canvas	30 soldi
paper	10 soldi 19 denari
1 lb of minium††	8 soldi
6 lbs of ochre	6 soldi

*man's leggings, worn instead of pants

**man's close-fitting, sleeveless jacket, worn over a shirt

†man's close-fitting, long-sleeved jacket, worn over a shirt

††mineral used to make a light, vivid red