

## Bonaventura (d. 1274)

Known as the "seraphic" doctor, he was a godly mystic and a hymn writer but is better known today for the basketball team that bears his name. There are aspects of true piety and devotion in his work and he offers one of the more refreshing spirits of the time. He is still marked with plenty of sacerdotalism and not a little superstition.

These are all representative schoolmen. To make the list complete we would need to add notes on Marsilius of Padua and the St. Victorians in particular and many lesser ones as well. But I almost forgot:

Roger Bacon (d. 1292)

Entitled the "wonderful doctor", Bacon was interested in all sorts of stuff. He was knowing in science, mathematics, medicine and theology. He was an advocate of observation, experimentation, and the study of Scripture in the original languages. Working with scientific media he was under suspicion for some years but spent the last twenty years of his life continuing research and writing in England...he was an English Franciscan, in relative calm. Inventive and speculative thinking marked his manner and you must not confuse him with Francis Bacon of the 17th century.

The Baconian method in science, etc., derives its name from Roger Bacon.

It is hard to offer an adequate assessment of the Scholastic movement in the detail needed to show its real contributions. It certainly over-speculated in theology and the lack of the schoolmen to be content with the Bible and its teachings led them into some wild philosophical jungles from which none returned unharmed. Setting aside the total authority of Scripture, the scholastic movement allowed the continued development of sacerdotal and sacramental thrusts in the church. Yet it contributed a freedom in scholarship that is almost necessary for any real progress and it also addressed itself to some of the important issues of life. So I suppose it is another of those cases where we weigh the positive and the negative and discover that every scholar comes to a different conclusion.