

Medicine, History and Art (1)

Queen Isabel the Catholic Dictating Her Last Will and Testament (1504)

Dr Lam Tat Chung, Paul

(林達聰醫生)

FRCP, FRCPsych, FHKAM (Medicine),
FHKAM (Psychiatry)
Specialist in Psychiatry (Private Practice)
President



Eduardo Rosales (1864), Museo del Prado, Madrid

Introduction

Medicine has been practised since mankind existed, and Man's passion for art was shown by the discovery of cave paintings that originated from over 40,000 years ago.

When these two facets of human activity interact, there can be tantalizing creations that can last through the ages.

Isabel is one of the most influential monarchs of the 15th century and her legacy lasts to modern times. Together with her Husband Ferdinand of Aragon, they unified modern Spain, driving out the Muslims in the Reconquista and kept Spain firmly as a Catholic country. She

supported Columbus on the voyage to America and discovered and colonized the New World, bringing vast amount of wealth.

In her 30 years of governing Castile, the country had become rich and orderly. She was diligent and hands on in the running of the country. She was adept in expanding her political power through arranging the marriages of her children. Her eldest daughter Isabel became Queen of Portugal. Her only son, Juan of Astauris, was married to Margaret, Archduchess of Austria. Her second daughter Juana was married to Philip of Burgundy, a Hapsburg. Her third daughter Maria also later became Queen of

Portugal, and her youngest daughter Catherine was the first wife of Henry VIII of England.

She wrote a long Will setting out the arrangements of the affairs of the country after her death. She asked her heirs to live in harmony with each other, not to impose upon the people, and be benevolent to the subjects, including the indigenous Indians in South America. She ordered a very simple burial ceremony for herself. She died at the Medina del Campo near Madrid. Seated on the left is her husband Ferdinand, with her daughter Juana standing. Seated on the right is the scribe, and standing behind him with the cap is the famous Cardinal Cisneros.