

Bartholomew the Englishman Biography

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Biography

Bartholomew the Englishman (also known as Bartholomaeus Anglicus) was an English Franciscan monk during the thirteenth century, notable for his work as an encyclopedist. He was educated at Oxford, and later went to Paris at about 1220 as a lector, and then to Magdeburg. In 1250, he wrote a famous encyclopedia, *Liber de Proprietatibus Rerum* (*On the Properties of Things*), of which the scientific side is of particular interest, dealing with all the known branches of medical science, astronomy and geography. This encyclopedia, comprised of 19 books, quickly became an accepted work of reference for the natural sciences. In the fourteenth century, Bartholomew's encyclopedia was translated into several languages. However, only the French translation by Jean Corbechon in 1372 for King Charles V proved successful.