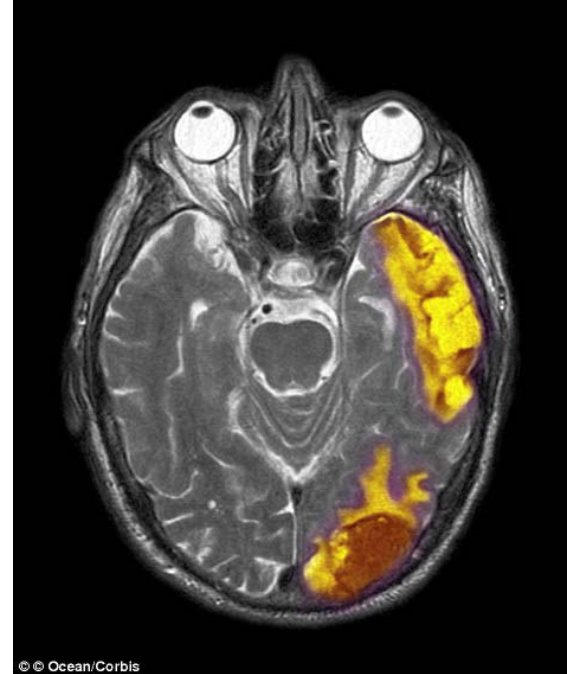


What Julian Saw: the re-examination of the bodily and ghostly sight in Julian of Norwich's "Showings"



© © Ocean/Corbis



Who was Julian of Norwich (and why should we care)?



Born 1342

Died after
1416

“Showings”
May 1373

Popularity
after 1901



M.F.
1906

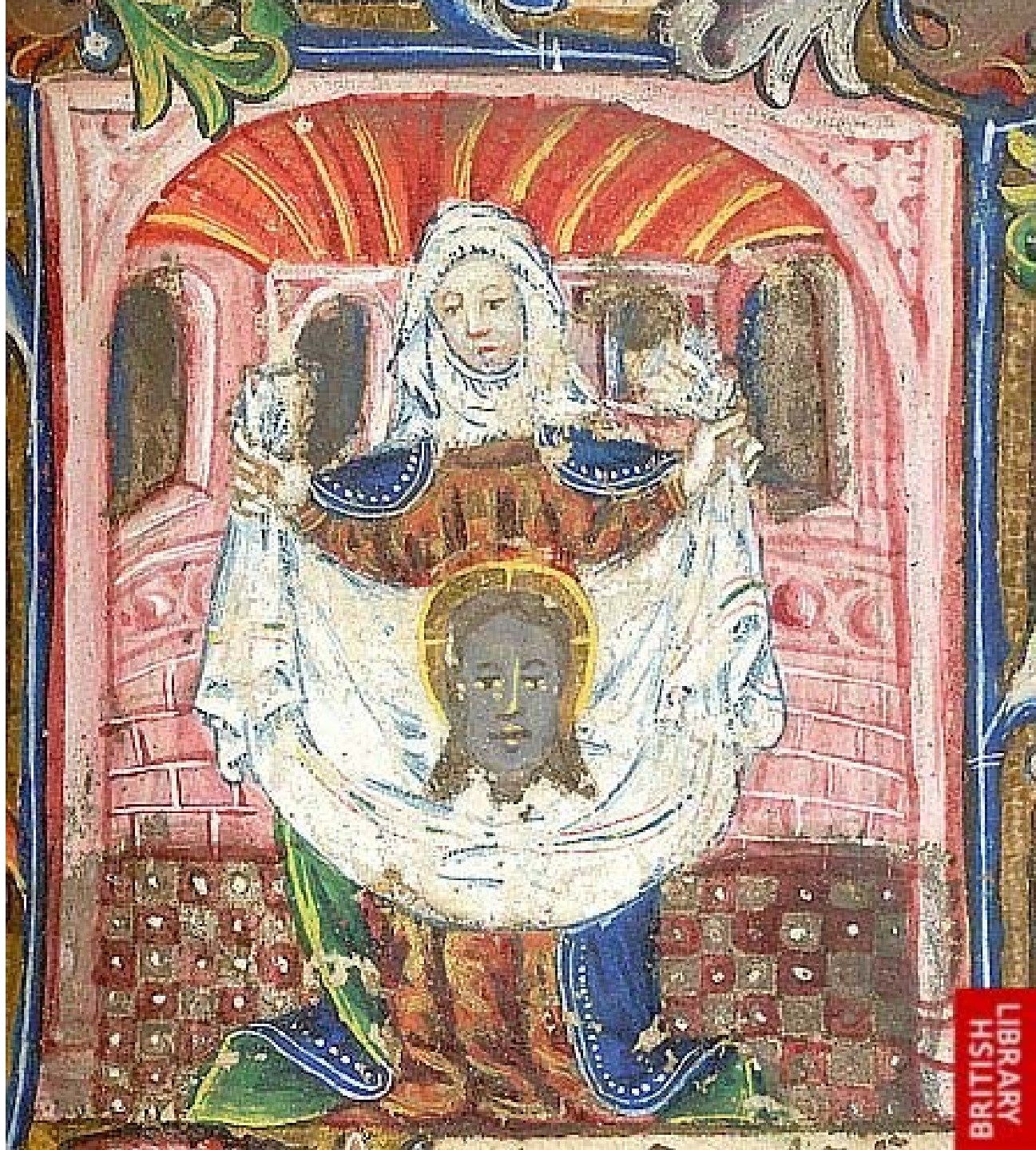
Potential sources of her visions:



Psalters and Books of Hours



Psalters and Books of Hours:
Example 1



Psalters and Books of Hours:
Example 2



Donec ponan
s: fabellum pedum
in virtutis tue emitt
pon: dominare in n
in tuorum
in principium in die

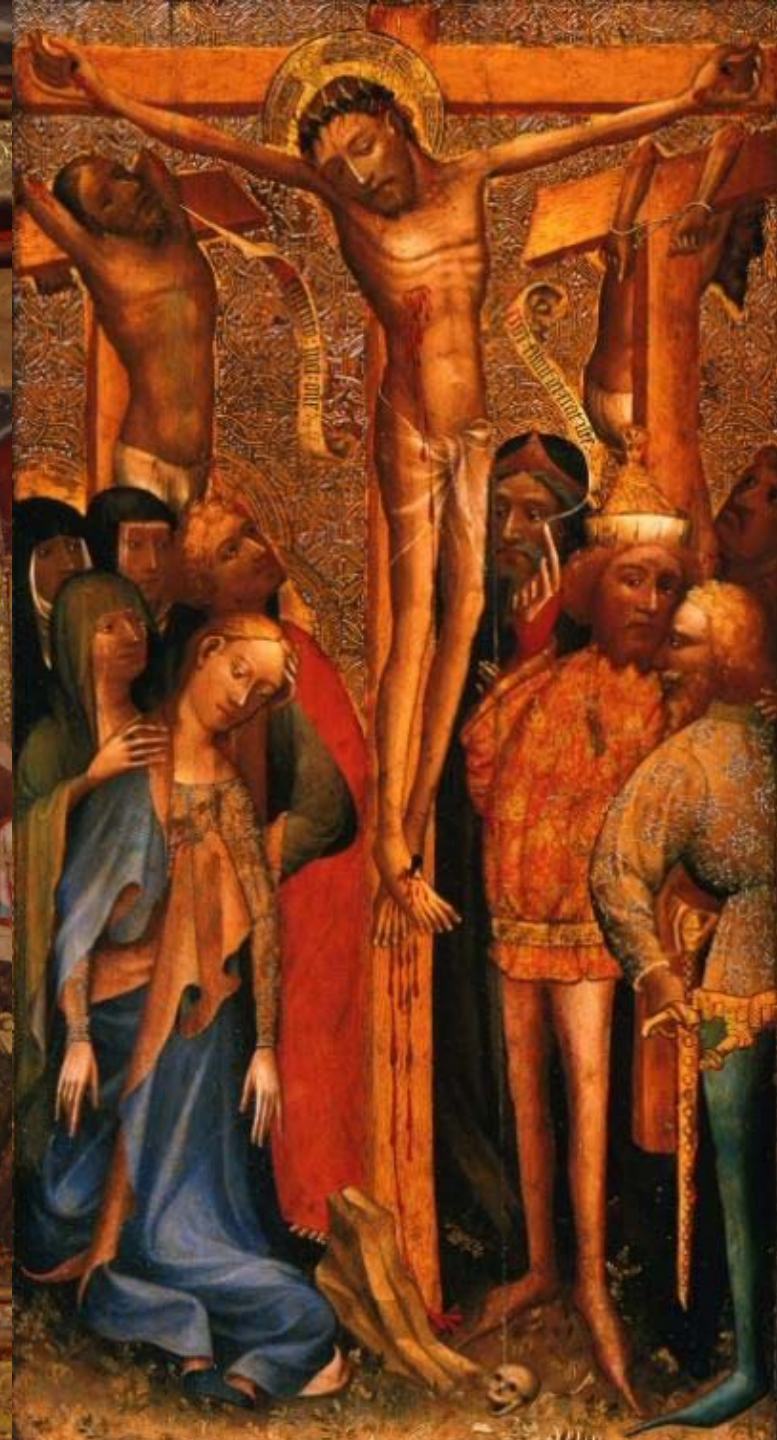
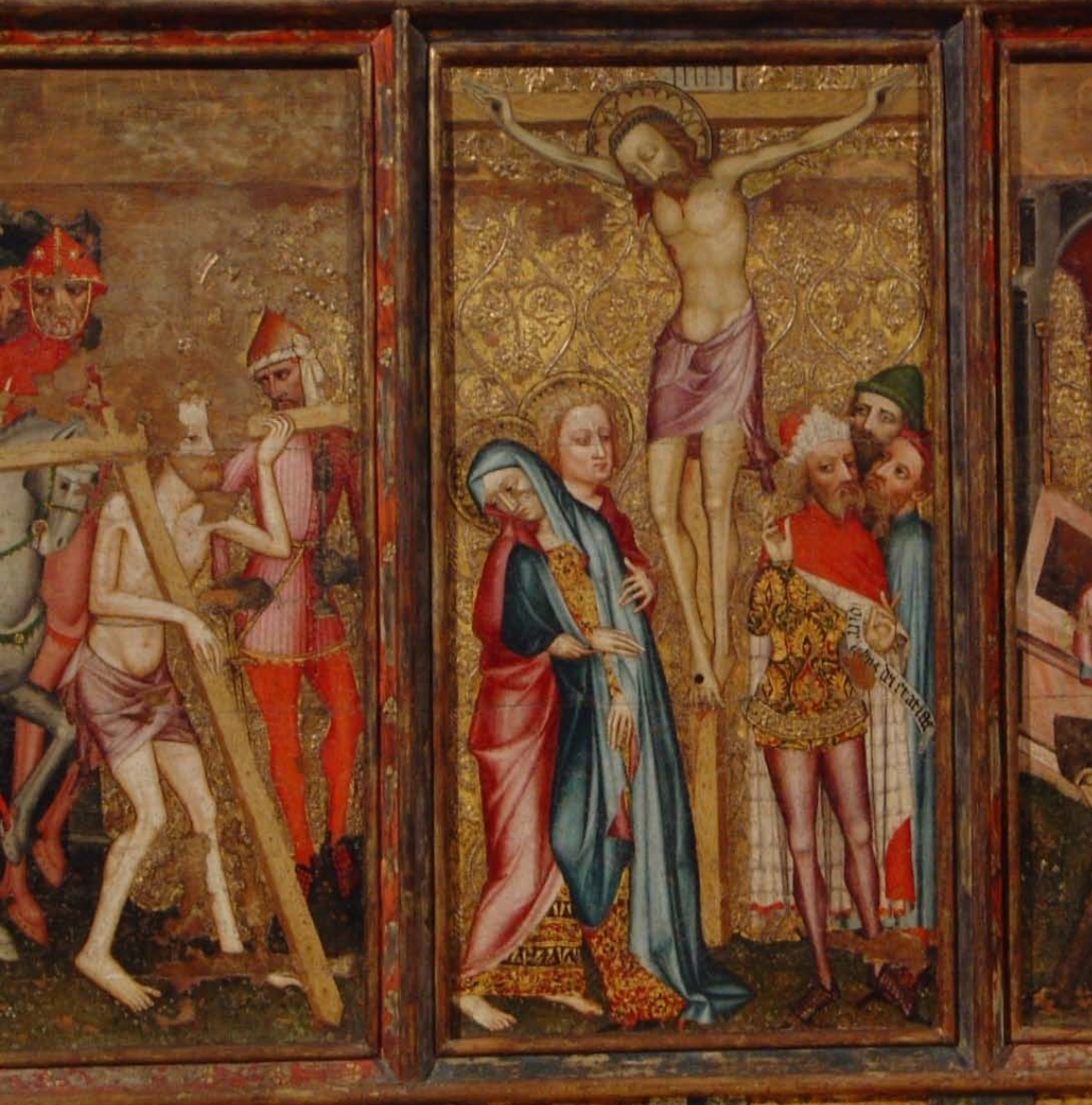
Psalters and Books of Hours:
Example 2 -- continued



Psalters and Books of Hours:
Example 3



Julian's doubts in her visions



Further use of neuroscience:
left and right hemispheres 1



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFs9WO2B8ul>

6:36-7:40

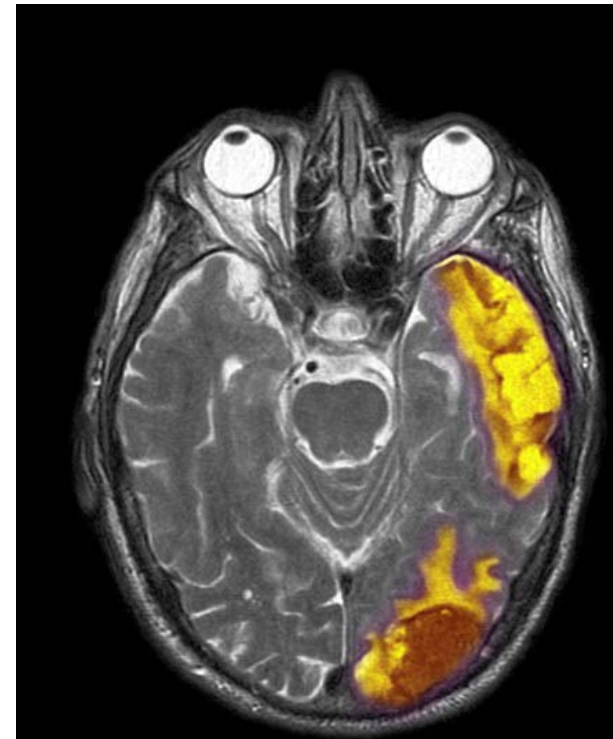


Further use of neuroscience:
left and right hemispheres 2

“Right-brain” characteristics

- “Religious” and, more specifically, “mystical” experiences (“Lalaland “ of Jill Bolte Taylor)
- The sudden leap of intuition (aka “inspiration” or the “working of divine grace”)
- Lack of predictability (“wise passivity”/ “beholding”)
- Even the organic nature of Julian's experience, shifting focus
- “The maternal comforting substrate”
- A few more, e. g. “gaining distance”; depth and colour, etc.

“The phenomenon must never be thought of as finished or complete, but rather as evolving, growing, and in many ways as something yet to be determined.”



What I do – let's do it together!

- I am interested in how we could use the findings and methods of Neuroscience and Neuropsychology in Humanities research;

- *Sixth Sense and Sensibility: Making Sense of Unusual Experiences in the Late Middle Ages;*

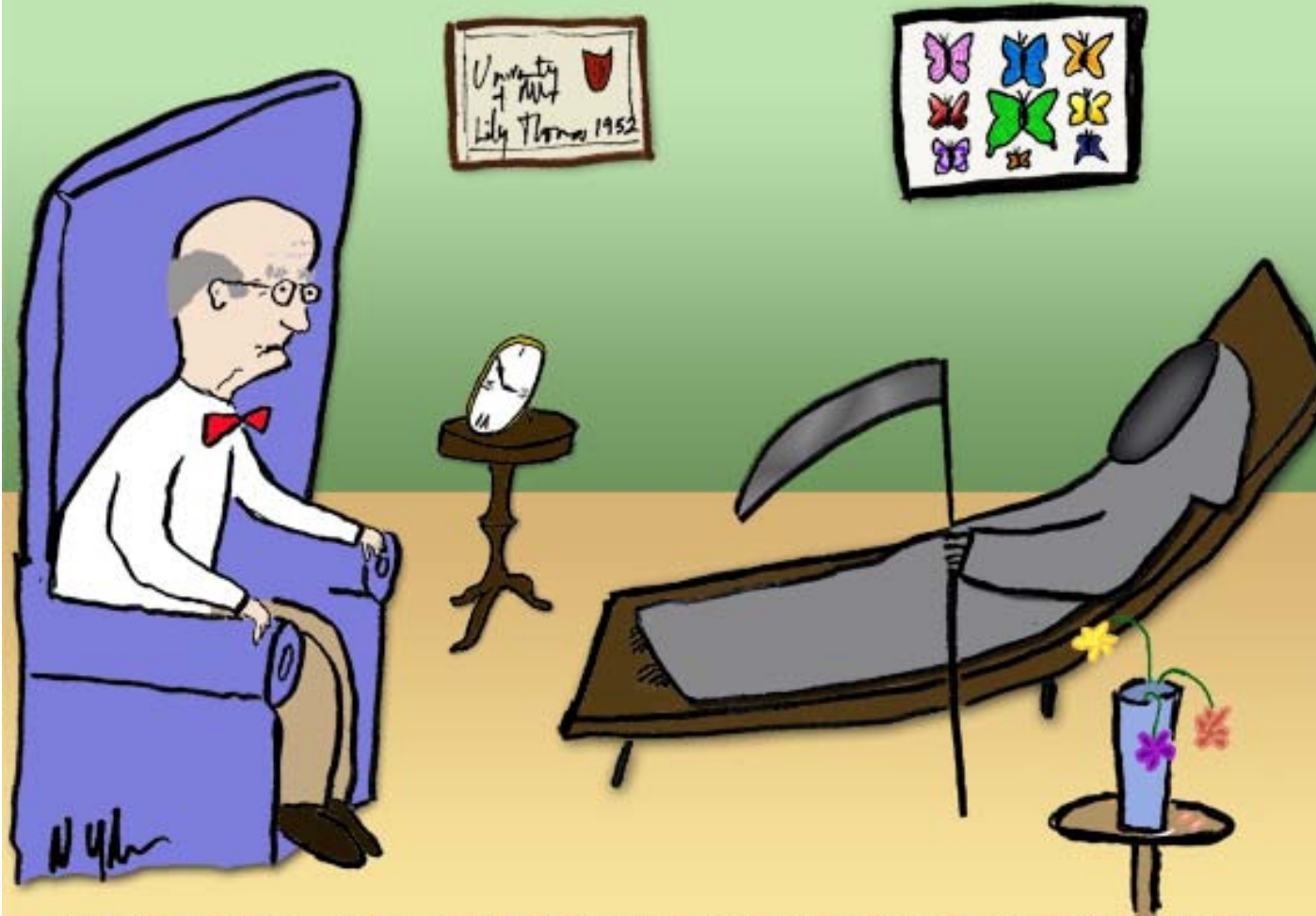
- Submitted a proposal for a volume of essays *Neuroscience and Psychology for Humanities* to the British Academy;

-If you think we could do something together, do get in touch!

Julie Dresvina, yd216@cam.ac.uk



"You're right, Gerald, if you look at it in the right way it begins to make sense."



“No Doc, I’m afraid it’s your time that’s up”