Vincent of Beauvais Encyclopedia Article

Vincent of Beauvais

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Vincent of Beauvais

c. 1190-c. 1264

French encyclopedist who compiled one of the most wide-ranging reference works of the Middle Ages, with information on psychology, physiology, and other sciences. A Dominican who served in Paris, Vincent wrote a number of works, but none was on the order of his massive encyclopedia, *Speculum majus*. The work consists of 80 books divided into nearly 10,000 chapters, and addresses a variety of topics, including botany, zoology, psychology, physiology, and other scientific subjects, as well as history, philosophy, and theology.