codes and rigid social standards were losing their grip on society, and as the world was shaken by World War I, excessive displays of grief began to be seen as both both insensitive and gauche. Meet the surrealist behind fashion's most memorable images"The elaborate traditions of mourning were really reconsidered in the face of great loss of life," Regan explains. "Elaborate mourning dress came to be seen as putting more attention on the mourner and a showy display, rather than focusing on the loss of the deceased."The changing role of women also led to mourning's demise. As women became involved with the war effort and joined the work force outside of the home, the periods of seclusion expected in Victorian society were no longer compatible with their lives.This tradition continued for a few more decades before finally giving way to the looser practices of today. Black is still worn (as it has been since the Middle Ages), but grief has become a much more personal experience, rather than a social obligation."The standards have become much looser in favor of individual judgment," Regan says.Death Becomes Her: A Century of Mourning Attire runs from October 21 to February 1 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.One hundred years since the 'Golden Age' of posters beganWhat we can learn from the tattoos of our ancestorsThe enduring allure of steam trainsDivine photos of America's most epic churchesLoading weather data ...

3.2. Gold mine of cheeky medieval doodles show ancestors just as silly as us

(CNN) -- My personal favorite is this. At the top of a page of angular medieval text -- full of theological extrapolations and religious devotion -- is a cartoon of a deadpan dog."It's amazing to think that people doodled in medieval times in a similar way to how they doodle today," says Dr Erik Kwakkel, a book historian at Leiden University, Holland."When you see the monks expressing their personalities, their sense of humor, it makes you feel like you're traveling back through time. It's like you're going through the keyhole and sitting right next to them."Indeed, that dog would not be out of place in The Simpsons.READ: The spacesuit inspired by medieval armor'Medieval eye candy'Dr Kwakkel is making an unlikely name for himself on the internet by posting "medieval eye candy" that he comes across during the course of his research.And the doodles are by far the most popular."Normally, scribes would doodle or write snatches of lettering after cutting their nibs, to make sure they were the correct width," he says."These pen-tests ranged from the sort of scribbled lines that people still do today to words, names, full sentences, or simple drawings. Sometimes we even find pretty good drawings."These include funny faces with long beards, big hats or noses, as well as animals, unidentifiable creatures, and even caricatures of teachers and colleagues.In the majority of cases, the doodles were never intended to be seen. They were drawn on the outside of the first and last pages of a book, which were later glued to wooden covers.But although the glue has obliterated a great many doodles and pen-tests, a variety has survived the test of time."They offer a rare glimpse into the informal or private world of medieval monks," says Dr Kwakkel."Personally, I love the thumbprint, which was left by a careless scribe who spilled ink on his work. It seems so fresh and human, yet it happened 700 years ago."Read: World's coolest bookstoresHidden meaningsFor modern scholars, doodles and nib-tests can be more than mere curiosities.When the scribes were trying out their quills, they often wrote in their own handwriting, rather than the heavily prescriptive styles demanded by their work.This allows academics like Dr Kwakkel to identify individual scribes -- who were rarely credited for their work -- and track their careers, including when they migrated across Europe.Sometimes, they can also tell us about the classroom environment."I found one that is obviously a drawing of the face of a schoolmaster. You