

Die kint von ysrahel das sint die iuden
wurden vñ egipten lande gefüret. Exo-
di am. xij. capitel. .:

[illegible]

¶ So erledigete Abraham sein fū-
re 3. Maldea. Genesis am. x. Capitel.

High



from the

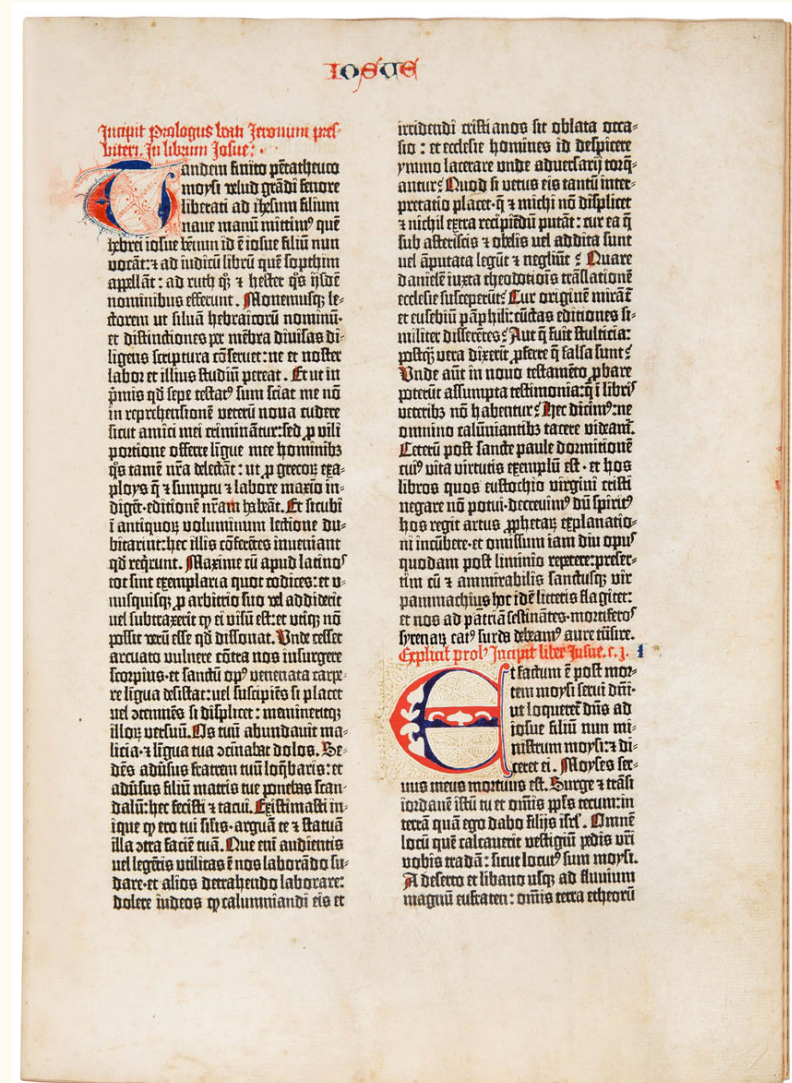
Collec
ein fure an das hieß hur für einen got-
fure zwolte abahā mit anbeten-do wu-
ren sū in das fure. **A**ber der gewore got
den er anbetete der erlöste in vñ dem fure
mit sinre erbernte. **V**nd also got abrahā
vñ enthielt on brünne. **A**lso enhielt er
uch die heiligen in der hellen on alle ver-
ung. **V**nd also got abraham erlöste vñ
in machte einen vatter großes volkes. **A**l-
so het er die al'tuāter vñ der hellen erlöset
vñ het hū zū gefüret den engliſchen ſchā-
ren. . . .

Die erlöschung des menschen was
ouch hie vor bezichtiget do lorch mit
den hinc wart erlöset von dem vñ
tergange der scten soboma vnd gomorra-
ren vñ de selbe fünf stete wurde nure
die güte erlöset vñ die bösen wurden alle
mit fure vñ mit schreyß verbrät. Also er
ist mit dem fure vñ der vorhelle aber
die bösen erlösete er der bösen
mit dem fure vñ sol nyemant spreden
das gott die helle hab zerbrochen. Vñ ist
nit zerbrochen. wem die von angange der
zweite dar in sine komen die erwidert nye
dar vñ gelöset. wenne sū müsten on end
dar inne belien. **D**o der engel gottes
die güten vñ der dar sodoma fure de ge-
tot er in vñ spach. Sū solen nit wider
hinderß sehen. Das gebot übergeng lo-
thes wip vñ sach wider hinderß. Dar
vnt wart sū zū emre saltzfülen verwant
delv. . . .

Most extensive fragment of the Gutenberg Bible in private hands

Biblia Latina – The Gutenberg Bible. Fragment. [Mainz: Johann Gutenberg and Johann Fust, 'c. 1454/55'; rather 1452-1454?]. First edition.

391 x 290 mm. 13 paper leaves from volume I, fol. 102-114, i.e. The Book of Joshua. The 'Gutenberg Bible', the first printed edition of the Latin Bible and the first substantial printed book of the Western World, is a work of art whose majestic craftsmanship has never been surpassed. From the number of lines per column this edition is named the 42-line Bible (or B 42), in order to distinguish it from the 36-line Bible, which appeared a few years later. The present fragment originates from the incomplete Bible of Mannheim Court Library, which was dispersed in the 1920s in single leaves or single books. The present complete Book of Joshua constitutes the largest connected fragment from the Gutenberg Bible in private hands.



The Zurich Bible including illustrations by Hans Holbein

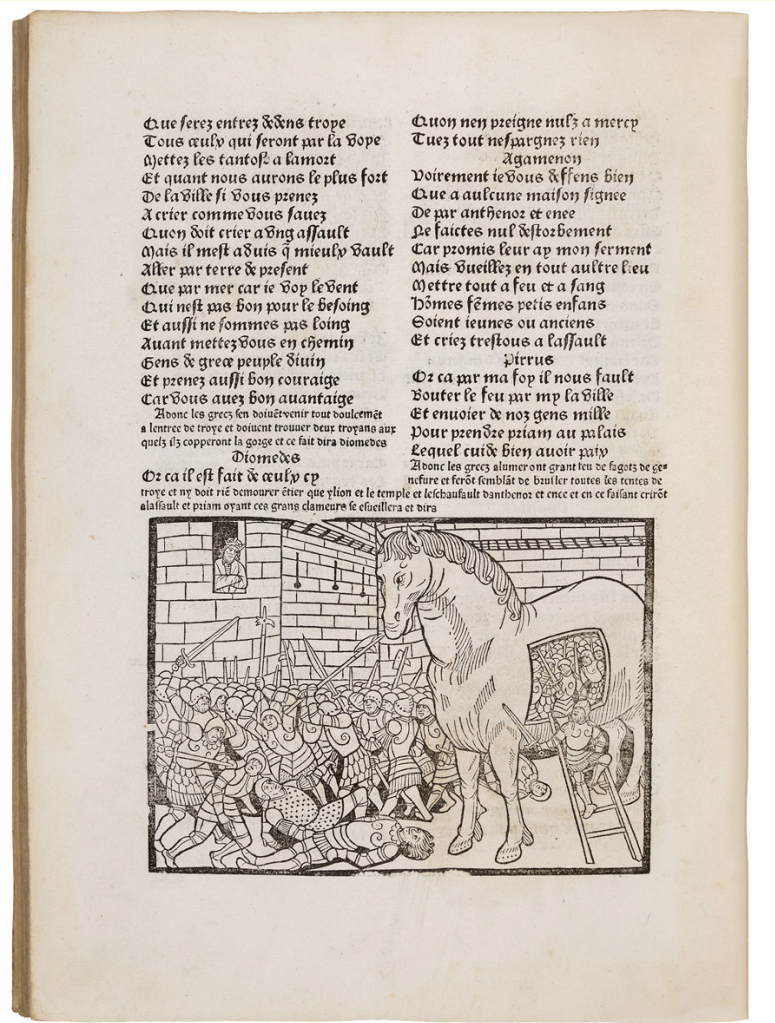


**Biblia Germanica – Die gantze Bibel der ursprünghlichen
Ebraischen und Griechischen waarheyt nach, auff's aller
treüwlichet verteütschet. Zürich: Christoph Froschauer, 12
May 1531. First edition of this version.**

352 x 241 mm. With illustrated woodcut title borders, woodcut device at end, and 197 woodcut illustrations after Hans Holbein and others, all in bright contemporary colouring.

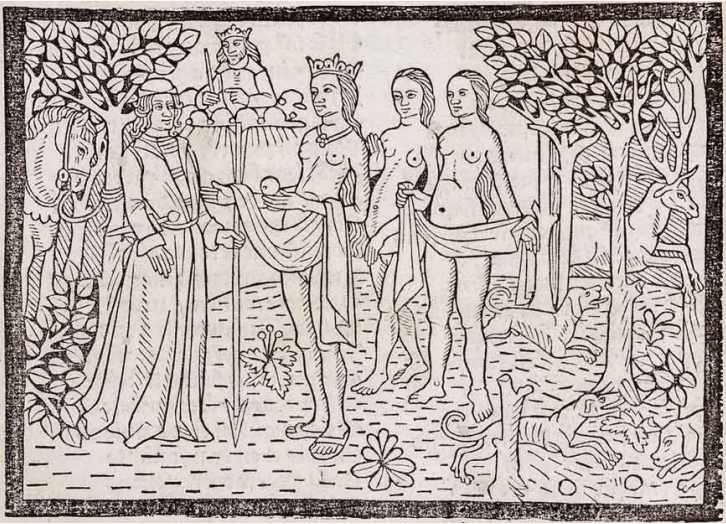
This reformed complete Bible was published in 1531, even before Luther had finished his translation of the Bible into German. The editors used his existing translations and adjusted them to the Swiss German language. The remaining texts were translated by theologians from Zurich, foremost by Ulrich Zwingli, the leader of the Reformation in Switzerland.

First secular printed play on the destruction of Troy



Jacques Millet, *La destruction de troye la grant.*
Paris: [Jean Bonhomme], 28 April 1490.

Fifth edition.
277 × 197 mm. 32 almost half-page woodcuts.
Unique copy of this edition, containing the
woodcuts of the first edition (1484), full of life
and movement, often abundant in figures set
within innovative compositions. Based on
Columna's Latin *Historia destructionis Troiae*,
Millet's mystery play was the first secular drama
in print.



Earliest printed classical play in vernacular language

Publius Terentius Afer, (*Eunuchus*, in German) *Ain Maisterliche und wolgesetzte Comedia*.

**Commentary by Aelius Donatus;
translated by Hans Neithart. Ulm:
Conrad Dinckmut, 1486.**

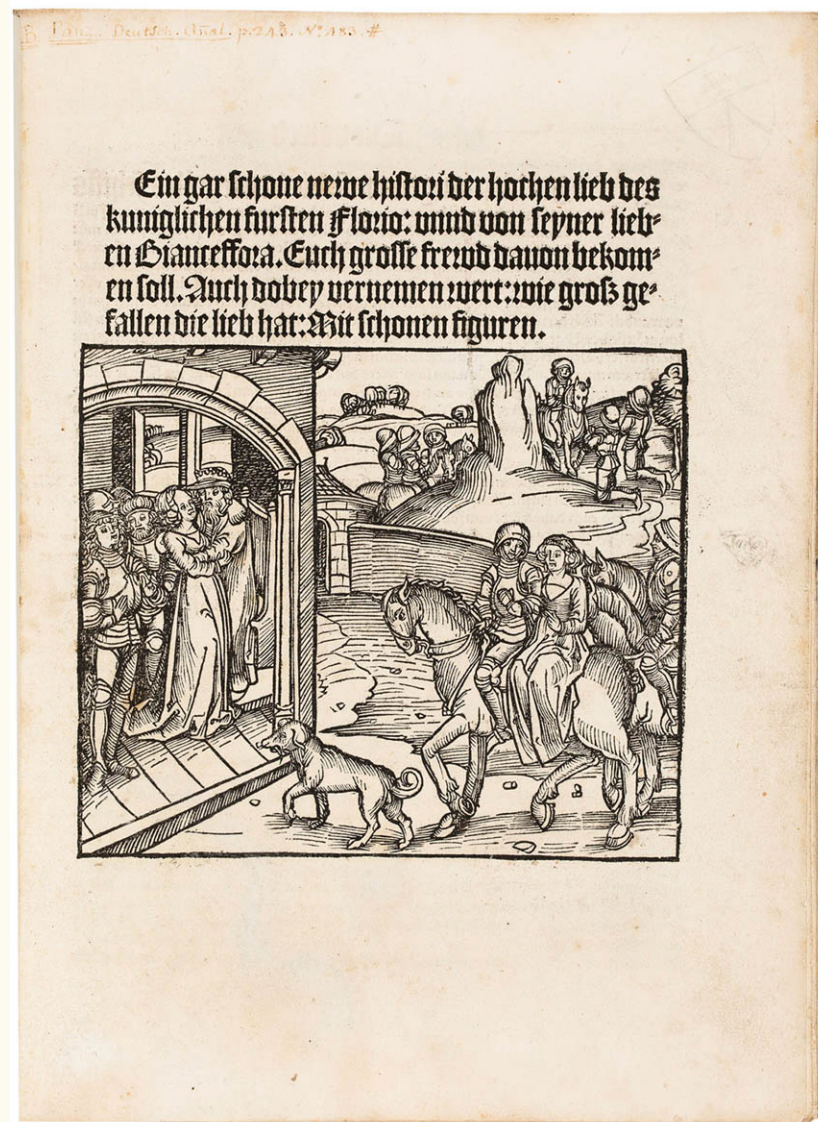
First edition. 288 x 207 mm. 28 almost full-page woodcuts.

This is the earliest printed classical play in any vernacular language, and the first illustrated edition of an ancient drama. The pride and glory of this edition are the fine woodcuts showing the 28 stage scenes. The anonymous artist is named 'Master of the Ulm Terence' from this edition.

Der erst teil des ersten vnderscheidts. Sedt der Jüngling vnd den
Knecht mit einander. Vnd Thais gat vß dem huf.



First literary work of Giovanni Boccaccio – First German Edition



Giovanni Boccaccio, (*Il Filocolo*, in German) *Florio und Biancessora*.

Metz: Kaspar Hochfeder, 26 August 1499. First German edition.

275 x 202 mm. 100 woodcuts. *Il Filocolo* was the first literary work of Giovanni Boccaccio, based on the popular French romance of *Floire et Blancheflore*.

This is the first translation of Boccaccio's text into German. Hundred spirited woodcuts of high quality, probably from a Nuremberg workshop, illustrate the adventurous romance.

First illustrated book printed in Mainz with rare metalcuts

Johannes de Turrecremata,
Meditationes seu contemplationes
devotissimae. [Mainz]: Johann
Numeister, 3 September 1479.

Seventh edition, the fourth illustrated.
264 x 195 mm. 34 metalcut
illustrations within ornamental frames.

This rare work is the first illustrated
book printed in Mainz. Moreover, the
use of metalcuts instead of the
common woodcut illustration seems
extraordinary, as this technique is
generally rare in German book
illustration.



Eliz vitis de cuius furculo tantū ger
mē reddat seculo celi vinū propināl

Johannes de Turrecremata



The images are based on a – now lost – picture cycle of frescoes in Rome which Turrecremata had commissioned himself.

This books was owned by illustrious bibliophiles, such as Ambroise Firmin-Didot, William Morris, John Pierpont Morgan, Otto Schäfer.

First edition of Boccaccio's work on famous women

Giovanni Boccaccio, *De mulieribus claris*. Ulm:

Johann Zainer, 1473.

First edition. 286 x 203 mm.

Large illustrated woodcut border and 81 woodcuts.
The great Florentine poet Giovanni Boccaccio wrote his biographical work 'On Famous Women' as a counterpart to his earlier collection 'On the Fates of Famous Men'.

quomodo cunq; de ceteris nro an crimine / aut fortuna
actum sit / nec germana rapacitas / nec gallicus furoz /
nec astucia anglica / nec hispana ferocitas / nec alicui
alterius nationis inculta barbaries vel insultus / hanc
tam gradem / tam spectabilem / tam opportunam / latino no
mini gloriam surripuisse potuit unquam / ut sui se iuris /
prima literarum possent aut auderent dicere elementa / et
longeminus suum comptum fuisse gramaticam / Quas
vni operimus ipsi / sic etiam dedimus vltio / nro tñ semp
insignita vocabulo / unde fit ut quanto longius feruntur /
tanto magis latini nominis ampliantur laudes et bo
niores clariusq; vetustissimi decoris nobilitatis et inge
nij testimonium deferunt / et incorruptum nre pspicaci
tatis seruant / etiam indignante nobis barbarie argu
mentu / Cuius tam eximij fulgoris / et si deo daton gra
cias agere debeamus / multum tñ laudis et caritatis et
fidei carmente debemus / Quāobrem ne a quoq; tanq; in
ingrati iure redargui possimus / ut illud p viribus in
eternam memoriam offeramus piissimum est,

De Proci cephal coniuge, Capitulum. xxvi.



The work combines the stories of both the revered and the reviled women of renown, offering exempla of behaviours that should inspire the reader to aspire to a virtuous life. The 'Master of the Ulm Boccaccio', one of the most important German illustrators of the incunabula period, was named after his work in the present book. Also noteworthy as the first fully-illustrated book printed in Ulm.

Third edition of the Bible in German

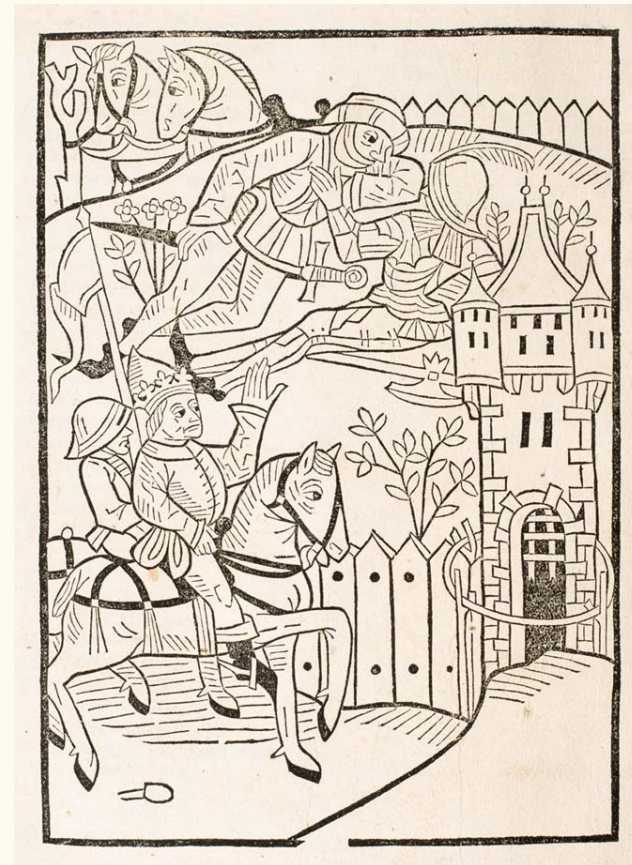
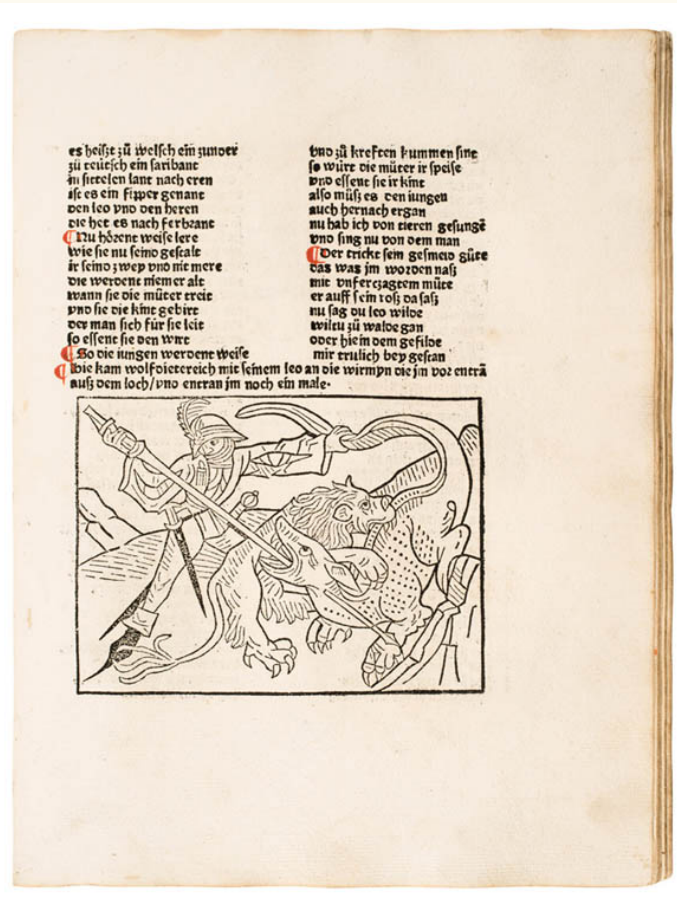


[Augsburg: Günther Zainer, between 1474 and 76]. 470 x 320 mm. 73 large historiated woodcut initials in contemporary colouring. Eighteen German Bibles were printed before Luther's great work. All were translations of the Latin Vulgate;



The first translation appeared as early as 1466. The present German Bible is the first illustrated Bible in the history of printing with movable type. The first two initials represent St Jerome in conversation with Paul, and God the creator.

First edition of Heldenbuch (book of heroes)



Heldenbuch. – Hie fahet an der helden buch, das man nennet den wolfdieterich (...) Auch sa gt es von dem rosengarten.
[Strasbourg: Johann Prüss, about 1479]. First edition.

290 x 205 mm. Three painted initials, 230 woodcut illustrations from 156 blocks.

The Heldenbuch is a collection of Middle High German epic poetry. The stories, some of which are related to the Nibelungenlied, deal with the heroes of the Germanic tribes during the Migration Period, as Ortnit, Hugdietrich, Wolfdietrich, Ermenrich, Etzel and Dietrich von Bern. The woodcuts were only used for this edition.

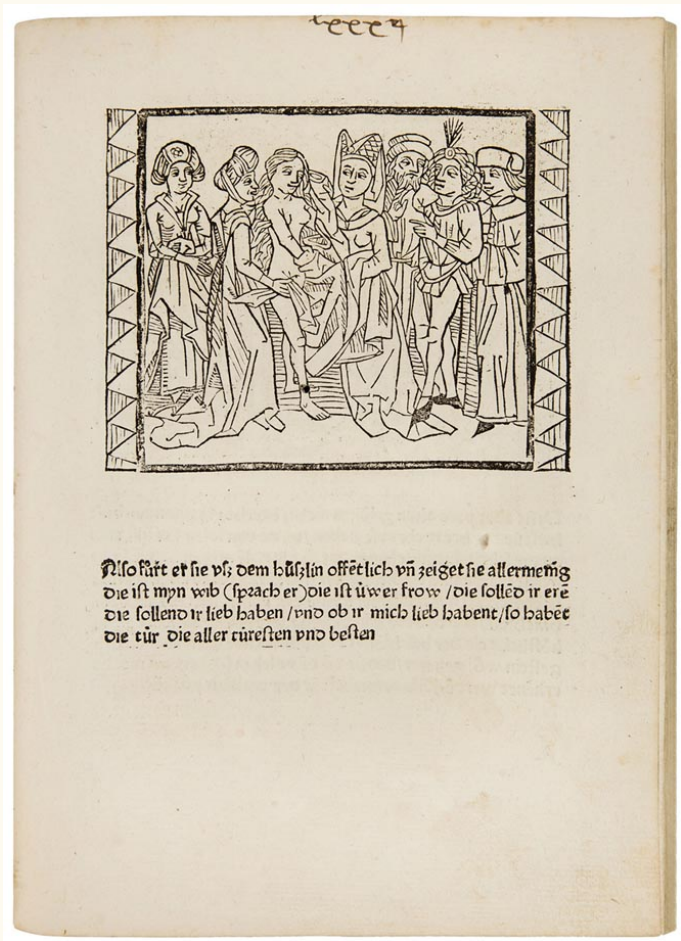
Six popular and extremely rare illustrated German Incunables in one Volume (Sammelband) all printed in Strasbourg. 261 x 191 mm.



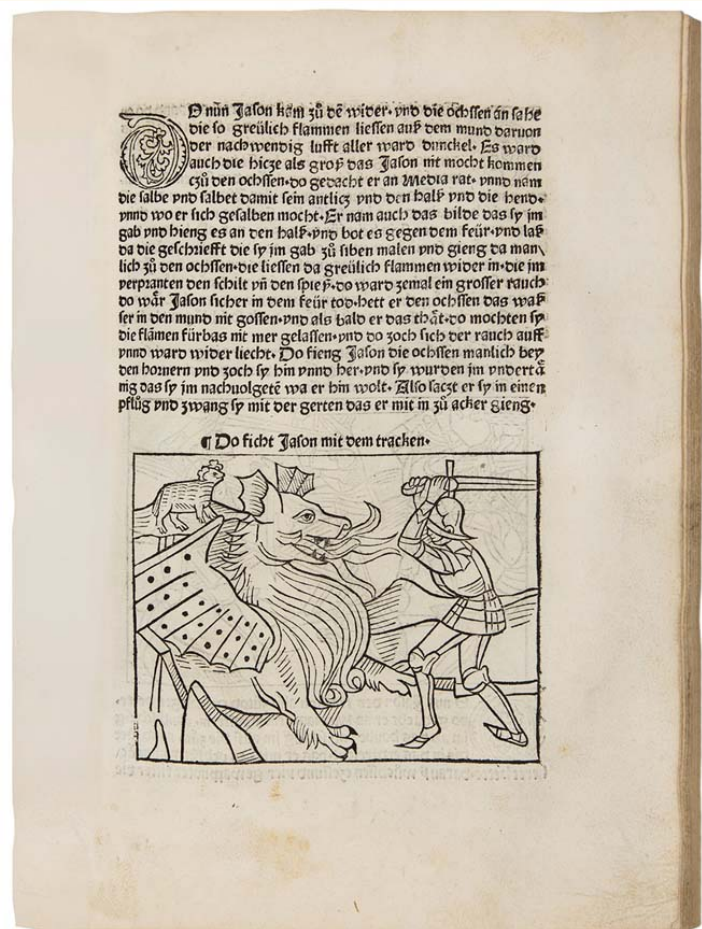
Couldrette, *Melusine*, German translation by Thüring of Ringoltingen. [Strasbourg: Heinrich Knoblochzer, c. 1477]. Third German edition. 67 woodcuts illustrate the adventurous tale of the fairy Melusine, who transforms into a mermaid every Saturday, and the knight Raymond.



Historia Alexandri Magni, German translation by Johann Hartlieb. Strasbourg: Martin Schott, 10 December 1488. Sixth edition in German. 29 woodcuts. The most popular German prose *Alexander* of the late Middle Ages. According to Hartlieb's introduction, the book was intended as a 'mirror of princes'.



Francesco Petrarca, *Griseldis*, German translation by Heinrich Steinhöwel. [Strasbourg: Heinrich Knoblochtrzer], 1478. Sixth or seventh German edition. 10 woodcuts. The popular story of *Patient Griselda* is based on the last novella of the *Decameron* by Giovanni Boccaccio.



Guido de Columna, *Historia destructionis Troiae*, German translation by Hans Mair of Nördlingen. Strasbourg: Martin Schott, 13 March 1489. Sixth German edition. 107 woodcuts. Based on the French *Roman de Troie*, Guido's Latin history of Troy played an important role in spreading classical antiquity into medieval Europe.

Jean de Mandeville. *Itinerarius*, German translation by Otto von Diemeringen. Strasbourg: Johann Prüss, 1488. Seventh German edition. Apocryphal or not, Mandeville's *Travels* around the Arabian peninsula, Palestine, India, Tibet, China, Egypt etc. set the stage for all published travel literature.



gefaerige zu wirff vñ sich mit re-
cht weren/Also hat die vor rede
ein end got helffe dz der fur satz
wolbrocht werde in synem lohe
vnd willen



llen cristen vñ recht glou-
bigen die do buwen den
glouben der heyligē crī-
stenheit die an sehent oder hören
lesen diß kurtz gedicht / Ein bü-
priester jacob von .Therās heyl
vnder de enpfelhen üwers gebet-
tes der sel vñ des libs in dem der
tod lebendig machet ablept ge-
gen der helle/herwider leyt gen
hymel got d offē üch üwer hertz
in siner ere vnd in sinem gebotte
vnd mach friden vnder vch vnd
erhöre üwer gebett vnd werde
vch versünen vnd verlosz vch nit
in disser 3pt leides vnd vñbels /

Wann wir vñ grossen verder-
ben von im synd erlöset des ha-
ben wir im gröslich zu danken
dar vmb das er sich hat gewo-
pent mit mechtikept vnd gestrit-
ten mit vnserm widerwart dem
tuffel/dz er vns gelidiget hat vñ
dem gewalt des königes der fin-
steris vñ der helle der mit sy-
ner trügnyisse vñ vngetrüwer be-
schepdenheit alle welt hat be-
trogen vñ ab gelept in die tieffe
der helle dar vñ syen wir erlöset
mit dem blüt vnser lieben herre
ihesu cristi des rich weren ist on
ende got helffe vns allen dar in .
Amen .



Jacobus de Theramo, *Belial*, in German.
Strasbourg: Heinrich Knobloch, 10
August 1477. Seventh German edition. 55
woodcuts. This book takes the form of a
lawsuit between Lucifer and Jesus Christ, with
King Solomon presiding as judge, in which the
Devil sues Christ for trespassing in his descent
into Hell. It was perhaps intended as a legal
case book exemplifying the canonical process
of a trial.

Mirror of Salvation – First illustrated printed book in Switzerland



Speculum humanae salvationis, in German: ein spiegel der menschlichen behaltnisze.
[Basel: Bernhard Richel, 31. August 1476.] Third German edition.
375 x 280 mm. 278 woodcut illustrations from 255 blocks. – The popular ‘Mirror of Salvation’ recounts the events of the Gospels and life of the Virgin Mary in juxtaposition to corresponding Old Testament prefigurations. This edition is the first dated printed book with illustration in Switzerland and a magnificent example of early woodcut printing in Basel. The cuts are graphically strong, expressive and focused on the essence of their subjects.

Mirror Of Salvation

Lutifers val
Lutifer sprach ich stige vff in den hym /
mel vnd wurde gleich dē obersten pfaie am
xiiij vnd apocalypsis am xij
Das erst capitel



In gottes nammen a/
men. Die ruhet an em
spiegel der menschlich
en behaltnisse. In dem
geoffenet wurd d valē.
des menschen. Vnd die
spise. Oder die maffe
des wider bringendes. In disem spiegel
mag der mēsche erkennē vmb was sache
der schöpfer alle zū rate wart den mēsch
en zū beschaffende. Vnd wie d mēsche von
des tūfels trūgnisse verdammēt wāt. Vnd
wie er mit der erbernde sū wider brachete
zū behaltnis. **L**utifer der überhūp sich
wider sinen schöpfer: den ewigē got. War
vmb wart er i eime augenblicke verworff
en von der höhede der hymmels in die hel
le. Vmb die sache wart got zū rote mensch
lich kind zū beschaffende. Was er mit
dem menschen möchete lutifers vnd sinre

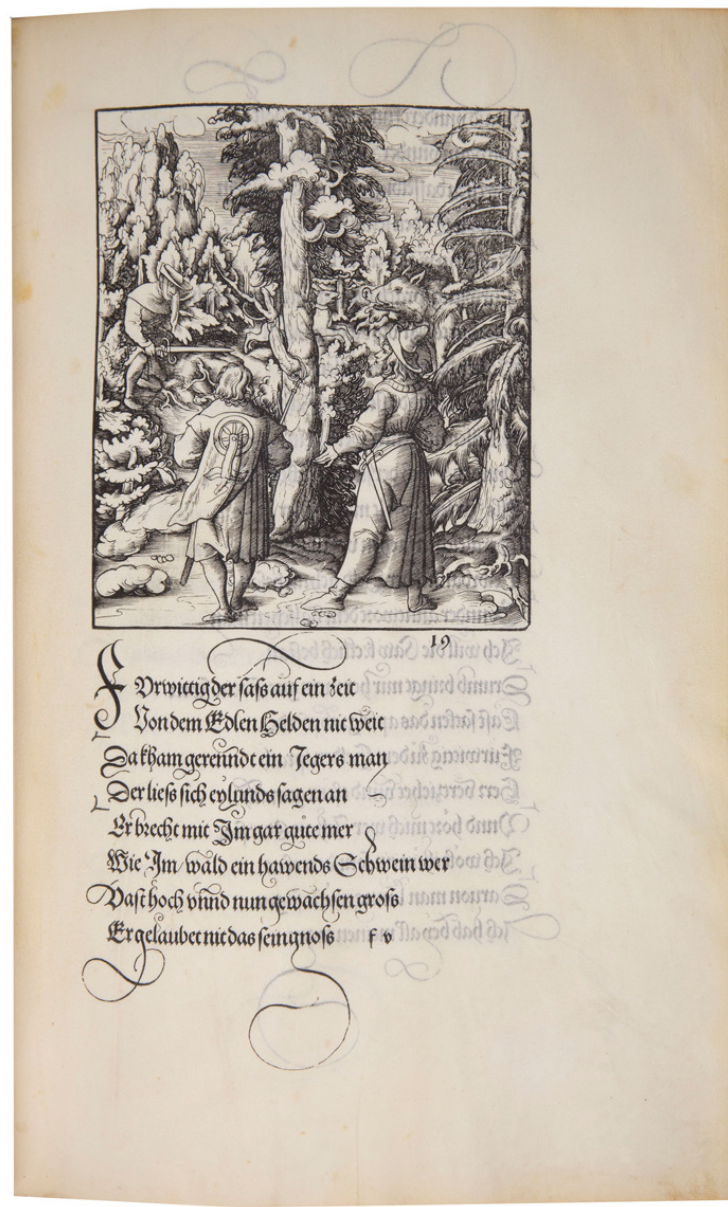
gesellen val wider bringē. War vmb neit
der tūfel den menschen vnd staltē sich dar
vff wie er in dar zū brechte das er gottes
gebot breche vnd überginge. **Z**u di/
sen sache er welte d tūfel imme selbes eine
slangen vs der to zū mole vffrecht ging
vnd einre mogte hoube hatte. In den slag
en sloss der tūfel vnd rette durch sine mūt
trügenliche wort zū der frowen eua. Wē
ne sū mynre fürsichtig was wen der man.
Vnd duchte in wie adā fürsichtiger wer
den das wip. War vmb ging er zū dem
wibe to sū alleine was on den man. Vnd
betroug vnser miter eua. Was sū über al
les menscheliches geschlecht den ewigen
tot brachte.

Adam vnd eua wurden geschaffen. Gene
sis am ij vnd am iij.



An sol nūn wissen das adam
wart geschaffen in eime acker
der heisset damascenus vs wē
dig des paradises. Vnd wart
vō got in das paradys gefürt. **A**ber d
wip wart in dem paradise geschaffen vs

Masterpiece of woodcut illustration and typography



Theuerdank: *Die ... geschichten des ... Ritters Tewrdannckhs*. Nuremberg: Johann Schönsperger, 1517. Printed on vellum, Melchior Pfintzing (ed.).

First edition. c. 370 x 245 mm. With xylographic title and 118 woodcuts.

This allegorical epic poem celebrates the feats of Emperor Maximilian (Theuerdank) on his journey to win his bride, Mary of Burgundy. It was drafted by the emperor himself, printed with a specially designed calligraphic type and illustrated with woodcuts by well-known artists as Hans Schäufolein, Leonhard Beck, Hans Burgkmair, and others.