

VASILY SKRIPNIK, a taxi driver from Sverdlovsk, celebrates his children's birthdays (all nine of them) . . .

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. . . by working an extra shift
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U of A gets Nuremberg Chronicle

Fifteenth century volume is among the first lavishly illustrated editions

by Alex Shetsen

The University of Alberta is now the proud owner of one of the fifteenth century's most famous printed books: the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, a history of the world from Creation to the end of the 1400's.

Liber Chronicon (the proper Latin name for the Chronicle) was written by the Nuremberg physician Hartmann Schedel, who drew heavily from Biblical sources and other mythology for his history.

Published in 1493, the Chronicle is considered to be among the most lavishly laid-out volumes published during the first half-century of printing. Among the earliest illustrated books, it contains about 1800 woodcuts, some of full-page size, by Michel Wolgemut and Wilhelm Pleydenwurf.

There are also two colour illustrations, hand tinted and with stamped gold leaf, as well as a double page spread with one of the earliest known printed maps of Europe.

All in all, "it's a surprisingly sophisticated production," according to John Charles, Head of Spe-

cial Collections with the University's library system.

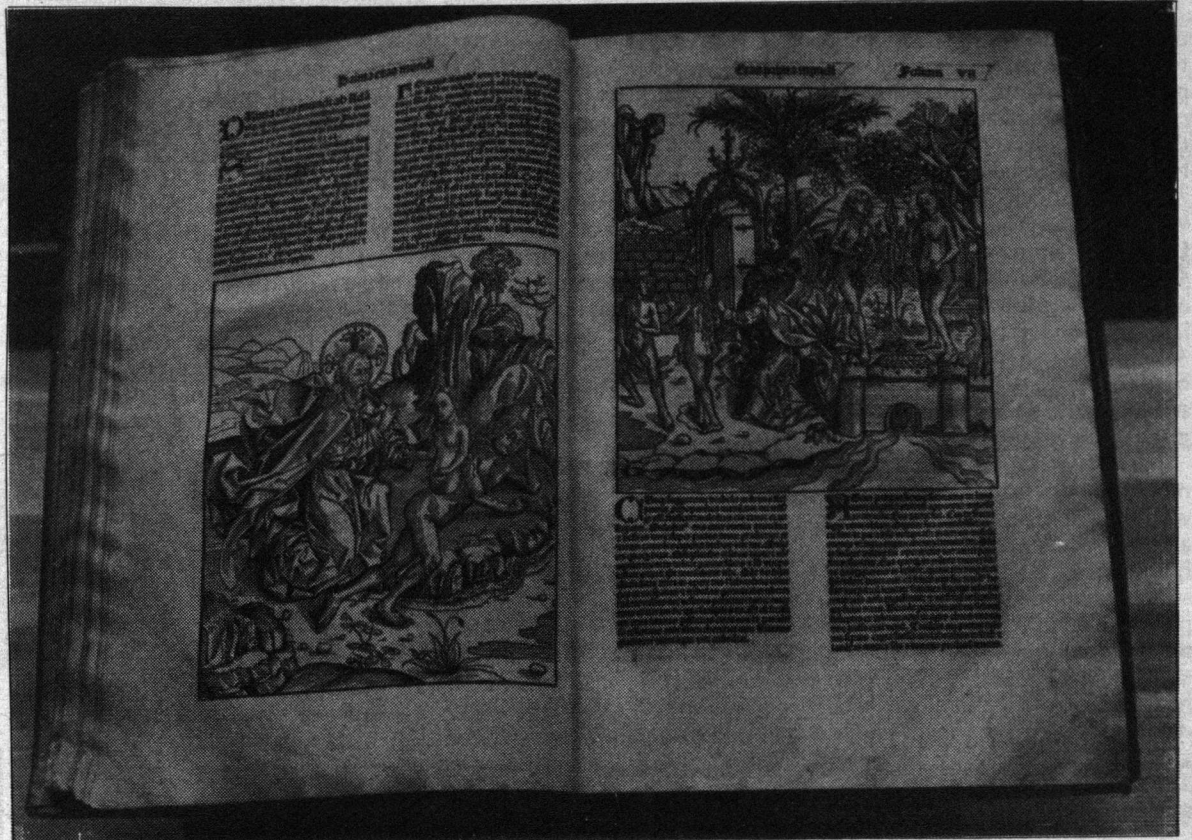
The Chronicle was published by Anton Koberger, an international publisher of movable type books ("the first big businessman of printing", says Charles). In an unusually large press run for such an early date, 2500 copies were produced. 1500 were in Latin, and 1000 in German, the probable original language of the book.

Of these, approximately 800 have survived.

This first edition is a large folio volume, bound in vellum. Although the truth is difficult to determine, Charles believes that the binding is in fact the original one. The title "Liber Chronicon" is hand inked on the binding.

The University has obtained the Chronicle through a donation by the family of Gregory Javitch, a Toronto businessman who died in 1980.

Over the last six years, much of Javitch's rare book collection has been acquired by the U of A, either through purchase or outright donation.



Chronicle Woodcuts. Left: God creates Eve from Adam's rib. Right: A sequential story of the Original Sin and its consequences.

photo Bruce Gardave

Grits national education plan?

OTTAWA (CUP) — A member of the Liberal Party's task force on post-secondary education is calling for a national council to address "an immense crisis" in the country's universities.

Newfoundland MP Bill Rompkey has introduced a private member's bill to the House of Commons to establish a Canadian Post-Secondary Education Council. The bill has received the first of three readings required before passage.

"A national strategy for education is absolutely essential," said Rompkey. He said following his cross-country tour with the Liberal task force, "I have no doubt in mind that there is a crisis in post-secondary education in Canada."

Rompkey's proposal would call for a national advisory body, with representation from the federal and provincial governments, administrators, faculty, and students.

Not surprisingly, Rompkey has received no support from provincial ministers responsible for post-

secondary education, who say the Council of Ministers of Education already deals with the same issues. Rompkey disagrees.

"I don't think anybody thinks their council is truly a national body," he said. "There is no participation from the federal govern-

ment or the university community itself."

Rompkey's bill is similar to one proposed by the Canadian Association of University Teachers, who called for a stronger and more influential body. CAUT president Allan Sharp said Rompkey's bill

may, however, pass because it is more "realistic."

"All one can really hope for right now is an agency that can at last carry on informed debate," said Sharp, who said the council should also have some capacity for research.

The federal government is planning to save almost \$2 billion over the next five years through limited growth in transfer payments to the provinces. Sharp said the federal record on education and research warrants a council.

"There is no mechanism for placing education on the federal agenda, and yet this is an area where the government spends billions of dollars," said Sharp.

The Canadian Federation of Students is initially supportive of the council. "In principle, we support the creation of such a council. It is a very wise idea," said CFS researcher Jean Wright.

Rompkey hopes the bill's second reading will come before spring.

Dial-a-course up

by John Watson

The U of A computer registration system is back on line and operating normally. After only one day the bugs have been worked out and the system is again being used by students for last minute course changes.

"Wednesday, January 14 at the end of the day, that will be it" for course changes, said Brian Silzer, University Registrar. The registration deadline was extended last Monday when the computer went

down.

"The system should be working just as satisfactorily as it was for September registration," said Silzer.

According to Silzer the problem arose because of changes made to the system in October.

The new system was tested and

worked fine. "It's never quite the same (in the field)," said Silzer.

The new system was implemented to avoid problems created by increased phone use. "It (computer registration) really put pressure on the phone system in September," said Silzer.

Coors campaign continues

MONTREAL (CUP) — A student referendum on whether Coors beer should be sold in Concordia University's bars may be held as early as this spring.

Although the Concordia student council voted against a Coors boycott in October, councillor Jon Jolivet presented a motion advocat-

ing 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns followed by a referendum to resolve the issue.

Since the problem rose because some members felt we shouldn't impose the decision of what beer students can drink, we should leave it up to the students to decide, said Jolivet.

Some councillors, however, voice concern about a potential loss of integrity if a referendum was held.

"It will be seen as a total about-face and we are going to be laughed at," said councillor Karen Penney.

Jock lockers still being broken into

by Brad Johnson

Fifty-two lockers were reported broken into during November at the Van Vliet Centre.

In a letter to the Gateway on Dec. 22, 1986, Director John Barry said the centre "accommodates between 15,000 and 20,000 people weekly and theft is becoming a serious problem." Items stolen included jewellery, cash, textbooks, and clothing.

Ralph Oliver of Campus Security said people think that because they have those inexpensive locks, they are safe from theft. "It's very impor-

tant that people be aware there are thieves in the area."

Oliver also said people should report all thefts to building staff or Campus Security.

Barry included a few tips for people using the locker rooms: lock your lockers, leave valuables in the coin lockers, and report suspicious looking characters to the equipment room staff.

There is also a "\$100.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of locker room thieves."

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