

Collation: 20 preliminary leaves, containing the title of the register, verso blank, and the alphabetical table of the work, in double columns; text of the chronicle, leaves 1-cclxvi, verso blank; "De Sarmacia regione Europe," etc., 5 unnumbered leaves, and one blank leaf; continuation of the chronicle, leaves cclxvii-cxcix, with a double-page map of Central Europe filling the verso of this leaf and the recto of the next (unnumbered) leaf, which has the colophon on the verso. No signature marks.

The Nuremberg Chronicle, as this work is generally called, contains upwards of 2000 woodcuts designed and engraved by Michael Wolgemuth and Wilhelm Pleydenwurff. Folios cclviii, cclx and cclxi were purposely left blank on both sides, the reason for which is given in a passage on the verso of folio cclviii: "Causas aliquas sine scriptura pro sexta etate deinceps relinquere conuenit. iudicio posteritatis. q̄ emendare addere. atq; gesta principum ⁊ priuatorum succedentium perscribere possunt." A double-page map of the ancient world is on folios xii and xiii. On the verso of folio cxcix is a brief account of the Portuguese voyage of discovery along the coast of Africa in 1483 [1484], under the direction of Diego Cam and Martin Behaim of Nuremberg, which has been used as a basis for the unwarranted theory that the expedition reached America.

"In 1484 King John sent an expedition under Diego Cam, as Barros calls him, Cano according to others, to prosecute discoveries along the coast of Africa. In this expedition Behem sailed as cosmographer. They crossed the equinoctial line, discovered the coast of Congo, advanced to twenty-two degrees forty-five minutes of south latitude, and erected two columns, on which were engraved the arms of Portugal, in the mouth of the river Zagra, in Africa, which thence, for some time, took the name of the River of Columns. ... The assertion that Behem had discovered the western world previous to Columbus, in the course of the voyage with Cam, was founded on a misinterpretation of a passage interpolated in the chronicle of Hartmann Schedel, a contemporary writer. This passage mentions, that when the voyagers were in the Southern Ocean not far from the coast, and had passed the line, they came into another hemisphere, where, when they looked towards the east, their shadows fell towards the south, on their right hand; that here they discovered a new world, unknown until then, and which for many years had never been sought for except by the Genoese, and by them unsuccessfully. ... These lines are part of a passage which it is said is interpolated by a different hand, in the original manuscript of the chronicle of Schedel. De Murr assures us that they are not to be found in the German translation of the book by George Alt, which was finished the 5th October, 1493. But even if they were, they relate merely to the discovery which Diego Cam made of the southern hemisphere, previously unknown, and of the coast of Africa beyond the equator, all which appeared like a new world, and as such was talked of at the time. ... This interpolated passage of Schedel was likewise inserted into the work *De Europa* sub Frederico iii., of *Aeneas Silvius*, afterwards Pope Pius ii., who died in 1464, long before the voyage in question. The misinterpretation of the passage first gave rise to the incorrect assertion that Behem had discovered the New World prior to Columbus; as if it were possible such a circumstance could have happened without Behem's laying claim to the glory of the discovery, and without the world immediately resounding with so important an event. This error had been adopted by various authors without due examination; some of whom had likewise taken from Magellan the credit of having discovered the strait which goes by his name, and had given it to Behem."—IRVING'S *Columbus*, Appendix xiii. See also Major's "Life of Prince Henry of Portugal," pp. 326, 327, and Winsor's "Narrative and Critical History of America," ii. 34, 35.

[SCHEDEL.] Liber cronicarum | cum figuris et yma|ginibus
ab initio mū|di vsq; nūc temporis. | [Colophon:] ... *Impressum*
ac finit 3 | in vigilia purificatiōis Marie in imp|iali vrbe Augusta
a Iohanne Schen-|sperger. Anno ab incarnatiōe domini | M.CCCC.XCVII. |
Folio.

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