

## Pope and Emperor, Lords of Christendom (1493)

### Abstract

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This woodcut has both a symbolic and a familiar reference. It shows the Holy Roman emperor and the pope as the co-rulers of Christendom, and it gives them the faces of Emperor Frederick III (r. 1440-93) and his former secretary, Enea Silvio Piccolomini of Siena, who became Pope Pius II (r. 1458-64). The woodcut was published in one of the best-known printed books of the era. Written by Hartmut Schedel and published in 1493, the book had no official title but is known as either the *Nuremberg Chronicle* (after its city of publication) or the *Book of Chronicles* [*Liber Chronicarum*] (after a phrase that appears at the beginning of the book). The book is known in German as *Schedelsche Weltchronik* [*Schedel's World Chronicle*]. In it, Schedel offered a history of the world from creation to the last judgment. The illustrations were produced by Michael Wohlgemut (1434-1519) and his stepson Wilhelm Pleydenwurff (c. 1450-1494).

### Source

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Source: Woodcut by Michael Wohlgemut, *Schedelsche Weltchronik* [Nuremberg Chronicles], Sheet CCLXVIIv, c. 1493. Original: Benoit College. Online available from Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nuremberg\\_Chronicles\\_-\\_Aeneas,\\_Pope\\_and\\_Frederick\\_3rd,\\_Emperor\\_\(CCLXVIIv\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nuremberg_Chronicles_-_Aeneas,_Pope_and_Frederick_3rd,_Emperor_(CCLXVIIv).jpg)

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