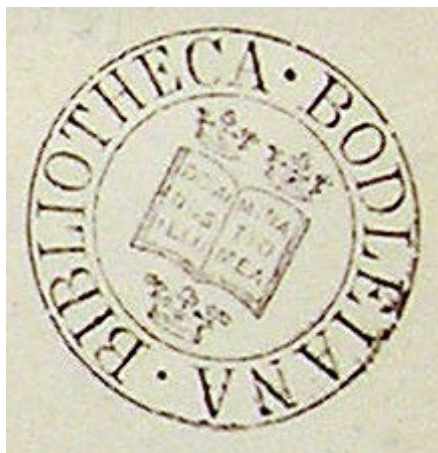


# colour our collections 2018

BLOCKBOOKS FROM  
THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES



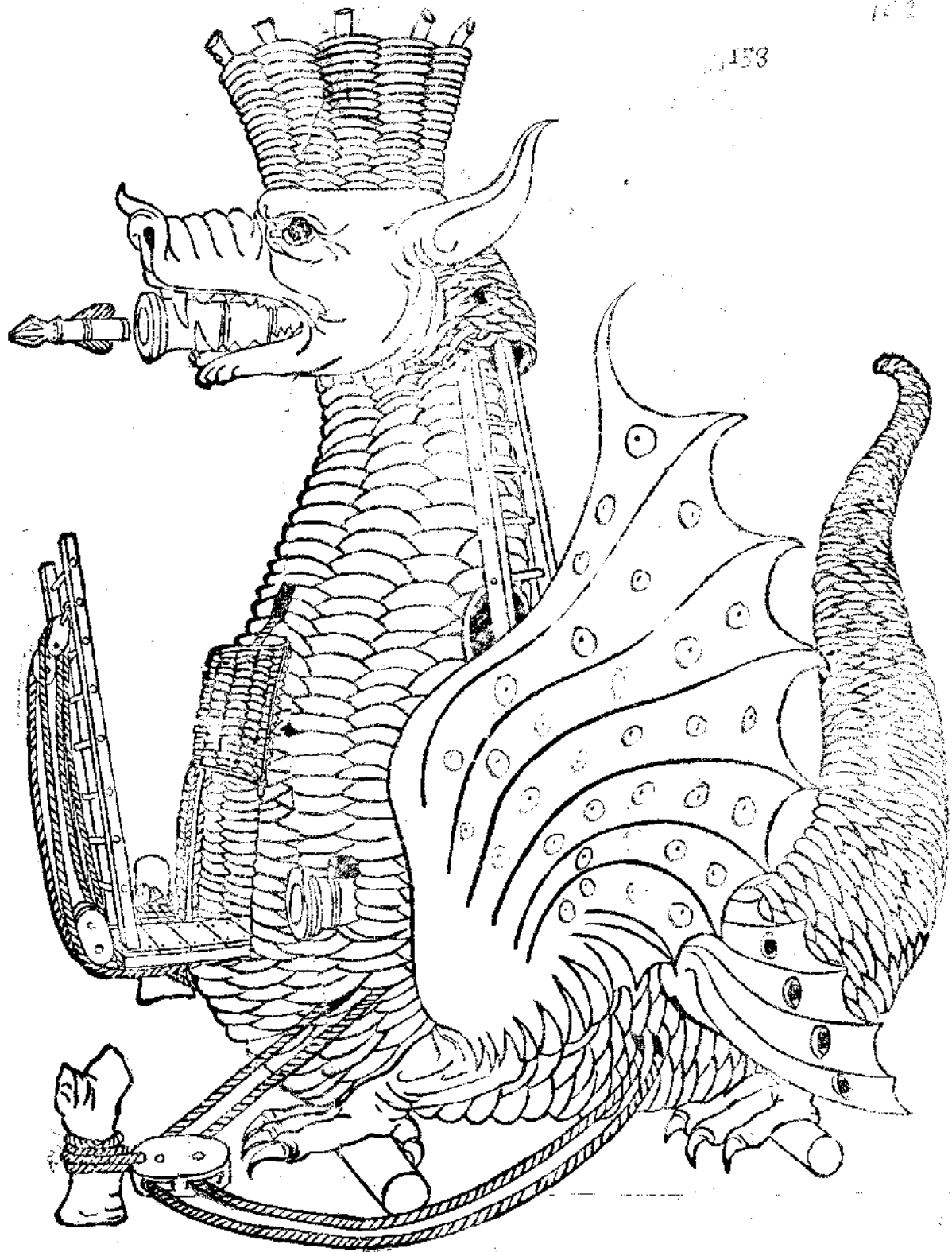
The images in this colouring book come from blockbooks and relief-printed images made in Europe during the earliest period of printing, in the mid-15th century to the 16th century.

We are presenting them in the order of their creation, from the earliest to most recent.

Some will test your crayons and felt-tips a little more than the others.

Have fun - and don't forget to show us your creations with the hashtag [#colourourcollections](#)





This image comes from Douce 289 and depicts a siege tower in the form of a fearsome dragon.

The 82 woodcuts in this work, dated to 1472, were considered to have set new standards for illustration in printed books.



The popularity of Boccaccio's *De Mulieribus Claris* (Book of Famous Women, 1361-75) was proven by the number of editions published during the era of early printing.

This one from 1487, with the shelfmark Douce 215, comes from Louvain.

This woodcut illustrates the story of Sappho. The Greek poet is depicted as a medieval woman with a lyre, and shown embracing a young man since, Boccaccio says, her poetry was not enough to win over her lover.







This illustration accompanies a ballad addressed to Charles VIII, King of France, and depicts the author presenting his ballad to the King in book form.

The book from which this woodcut comes (rather than the book within the book) has the shelfmark Douce 142 and dates to between 1490 and 1493. The ballad is just the opening - the book is largely an edition of *The Tale of Two Lovers*, a novel by Enea Silvio Bartolomeo Piccolomini, the man who later became Pope Pius II.

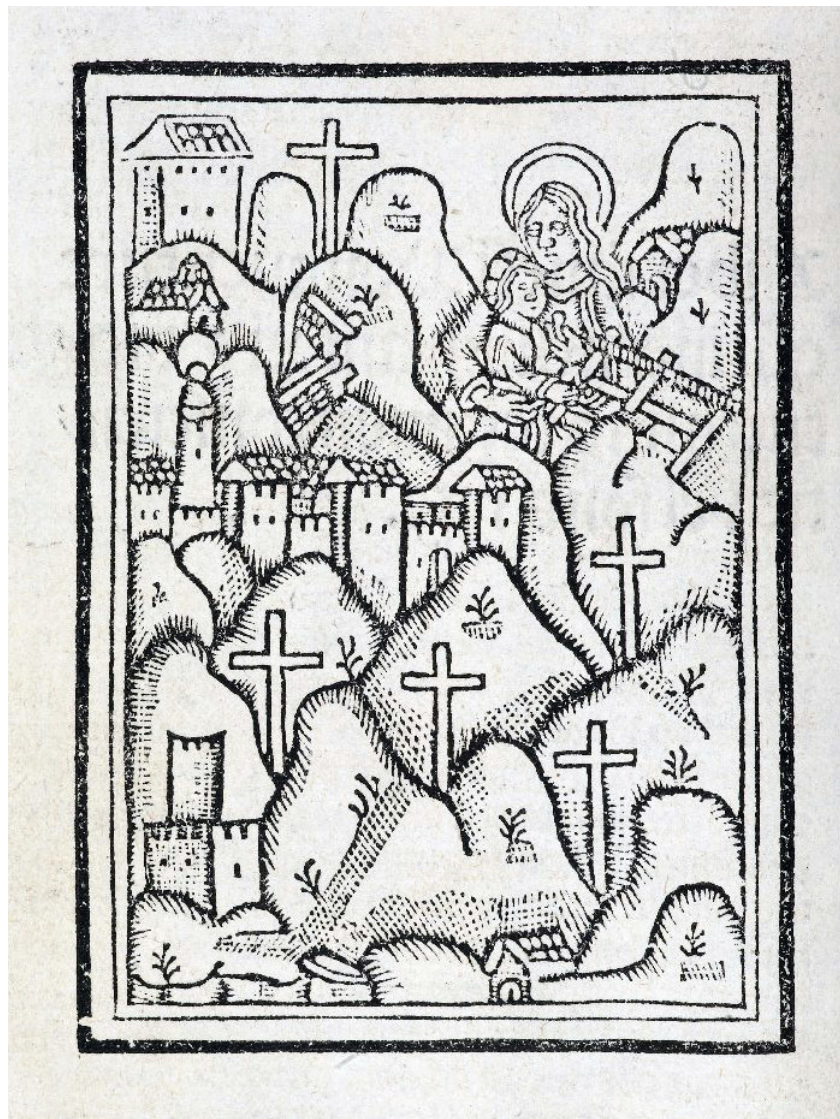


The Nuremberg Chronicle was one of the most popular books of the 15th century. It offers a paraphrase of biblical history, including the stories of several cities - but not Nuremberg. The book is so named because it was printed in Nuremberg, not on account of its content.

This woodcut comes our copy, shelved at Auct. Q sub. fen. 1.7b and depicts 'the dance of death.'







This image depicts Parsifal, or Perceval, of Arthurian Legend. It was made c. 1499 for the use of the monastery in Montserrat. We keep the book with the shelfmark Inc. f.S19.1499.1

Though he was later replaced by Galahad, Parsifal was the hero in early accounts of the Grail legend.

