CASE 1

The Medieval Context

The Reformation is often seen as marking the beginning of the modern era. Renaissance Humanism challenged many of the assumption of medieval thought and the invention of the printing press in the mid-15th century provided new ways of mass producing books and distributing new ideas quickly. There were also economic changes as the feudal society of the Middle Ages was transformed by increased urbanization and the growth of a middle class of skilled manufacturers and traders. Martin Luther was born in 1483 into a world that was in many ways both medieval and modern.

Vulgate Bible with Glossa Ordinaria (1498)


244 leaves; 30 cm (folio); a-y*8, z8, A6, B-L*8, M6; Hain 3172, Goff B609, GW 4284; initial letters rubricated in red and blue. Initial letter of each

In 1987 Richard and Martha Kessler donated their private collection of Reformation imprints and manuscripts to Emory University. These materials were combined with Reformation holdings at the Pitts Theology Library, and an effort was launched to enlarge and sustain a collection that documents the German Reformation with 16th century publications by Martin Luther, his friends and associates as well as his opponents. 30 years later the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection holds over 3,800 works—a mark approximated by only two other libraries in North America—including over 1,000 publications by Martin Luther himself, more than any other library in the United States. This exhibit presents some of the most significant pieces of the collection.
Gospel elaborately illuminated in gold; bound in blind-stamped leather over wooden boards. 1498 BIBL V.5

The Gospel volume of a Vulgate Latin Bible, with “glossa ordinaria,” a collection of glosses and commentary in the margins. From the Carolingian period on, this was the standard form of the biblical text throughout the Middle Ages. The text of the glossa is attributed to the 9th century monk Walafrid Strabo, but is more likely the work of the 12th century French theologian Anselm of Laon and his followers. Also included are the commentary by Nicolas of Lyra and others. This edition printed in 1498 was edited by the German humanist Sebastian Brant.

**German Bible (1477)**

_Hie vahet an das Register über die Bibeln des Alten Testaments._ [Augsburg: Anton Sorg, 1477]

[267], [275] leaves; 37 cm (folio in 10's, 9's, 8's, 14's and 11's); a-z10 (-r10) A-C10 D8, a-o10 p14 q-z10 A-C10 D12 (-D12); GW4301; woodcuts precede each book of the Bible; armorial bookplate of G. Libermore of Dana Hill, bookplate of G. Kloss, Francofurti ad Moenum. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1477 BIBL.

There were 18 printings of the whole Bible in German before Luther’s September Testament of 1522. These were all translated from the Latin Vulgate. They are today chiefly remembered as giving the lie to the often expressed assertion that the Catholic Church discouraged the circulation of the Bible in the vernacular. Many church authorities were not pleased to admit that it was necessary to circulate it in German. But they realized that a certain lack of education coupled with the people’s desire to know their religious heritage made it necessary to print in German. This is the first printing to include complete printing details in its colophon (printer’s statement at the end of the volume). The volume has no title page, and the gathering is not signed to show how it was printed and bound. The editors of the German Complete Catalog of Incunabula list 34 complete copies and 3 more defective ones of this printing. This bible was formerly owned by the nineteenth century book forger George Kloss and was #742 in the sale of his books at Sotheby’s in 1835. Samuel Leigh Sotheby catalogued Kloss’s library himself and in doing so became convinced, based on annotations in many of the books, that the Kloss collection contained many books from the library of Philip Melanchthon and so catalogued them. This was false, and Kloss himself wrote a letter repudiating Sotheby’s claims, but for many years these copies appeared in catalogues as being from Melanchton’s library.

**French Book of Hours (ca. 1420)**

_Les Heures de Nostre Dame._

136 leaves; 13 x 20 cm; bound in red velvet and enclosed in a brocaded book cover. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library, donated to the Pitts Theology Library by the Nat Sandler Foundation in memory of Nat Sandler.

Manuscript devotional, including a calendar, the four Gospels, the prayers to the Virgin, the Hours of the Virgin. With twenty-seven miniature paintings including St. John on Patmos, St. Luke, St. Matthew, St. Mark, the Virgin and Child, Descent from the Cross, the Visitation, the Nativity, Angel to the Shepherds,
Adoration of the Magi, Presentation in the Temple, Coronation of the Virgin, David and Goliath, the Crucifixion, Descent of the Holy Ghost, Job and his friends, the Trinity, Archangel Michael with balance and cross, John the Baptist with Lamb, St. Nicholas, St. Sebastian, St. Antony, St. Catherine, St. Barbara, St. Margaret, and St. Genevieve.

Illuminated Manuscript Leaf of Augustine’s Homilies (12th century)

St. Augustine, In Evangelium Iohannis tractatus, homilies XXV-XXVI.

RG 020-2


St. Augustine, In Evangelium Iohannis tractatus, homilies XXV-XXVI.

RG 020-2

CASE 2

Albrecht Dürer

Albrecht Dürer is perhaps the most famous German artist of the early 16th century. He was generally sympathetic toward the Lutheran Reformation and was personally acquainted with Philipp Melanchthon. He was also in communication with Italian artists like Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci and is generally seen as the most significant figure of the Northern Renaissance. Known for his paintings, his preferred medium was printmaking, including woodcuts and engravings

Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) - Small Passion (1509-1511)

5 woodcuts, 13x10 cm. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 406


Acquired through the generous subvention of Dr. Walker and Mrs. Nancy Ray
CASE 3

The 95 Theses

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther published his Ninety-Five Theses, a series of statements and proposals about the power of indulgences and the nature of repentance, forgiveness and salvation. Originally intended for academic debate, the document quickly gained popularity, garnering praise and condemnation alike, and is generally seen as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - The 95 Theses

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther published his Ninety-Five Theses, a series of statements and proposals about the power of indulgences and the nature of repentance, forgiveness and salvation. Originally intended for academic debate, the document quickly gained popularity, garnering praise and condemnation alike, and is generally seen as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Resolutio[n]es
disputationum F. Martini
Luther Augustiniani
de indulgentia[rum]
virtute, ; ab ipso ea[rum]
autore, a pluribus mendis
repurgatae, Wittenbergae.
Liber conditum & liberum
lectorem volo.

Lipsiae: apud Melchiorem Lottherum, 1519.
[118] pages; 20 cm (4to); A-B6 C4 D-E6 F4
G-H6 I4 K8 L4 (-L4, L3 blank); Benzing 208,
VD16 L5788; woodcut of the Deposition
from the Cross on title page, contemporary
manuscript marginia,

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts
Theology Library 1519 LUTH, gift of Richard
and Martha Kessler, 1987

This is Luther’s final authorized edition of his Ninety-five Theses in book form with his own commentaries. The edition published by Rhau-Grunemberg had been so full of errors, that Luther gave the printing of this edition to Melchior Lotter in Leipzig.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Sermon on
Indulgences and Grace

Ein Sermon oder Predig von
dem Ablasz vnd Gnade durch
den wirdigen Doctorem
Martinum Luther Augustiner
tzu Wwittenbergh gemacht vnd
geprediget. [Basel: Pamphilius
Gengenbach], 1518.

[8] pages; 21 cm (4to); A⁴; Benzing 102,
VD16 L6268; Richard C. Kessler Reformation
Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1518 LUTH I

An early sermon by Luther on Indulgences
and Grace. First published in 1518, this work went through fully fourteen printings in that year alone. Luther had intended this sermon to inform the German-speaking public of his view of indulgences. As such, it could be characterized as a popular, non-academic “version” of the Ninety-five Theses. The title page woodcut shows man entering church carrying a rosary and an indulgence.
Albert of Brandenburg, Archbishop of Mainz

Unused Indulgence (Leipzig: Melchior Lotter, 1515?)

1 sheet; 30.2 x 21 cm. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS085

In Catholic teaching, indulgences do not effect the forgiveness of sins but rather serve to reduce the punishment for sins that have already been forgiven. The sale of indulgences was initially intended to defray the cost of building the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome and was understood as a work of charity, because it provided monetary support for the church. Problems arose when Albert of Brandenburg – a cardinal and archbishop of Magdeburg – began selling indulgences aggressively with the help of Johann Tetzel in order to pay for expanding his authority to the Electorate of Mainz. This particular indulgence, believed to be the only specimen of its kind thus far recovered, was issued specifically to clergy, granting them liturgical benefits in exchange for their contributions. The printing of this indulgence was probably ordered by Johann Tetzel himself and carried out by Melchior Lotter, the Elder, who was also to print Luther’s ninety-five theses two years later. This is the only copy of this edition of this indulgence recovered. This copy was found within a book binding dated 1530, serving as an end paper, by the German bibliographer and Reformation scholar Fritz Beyer in 1937.

Apostolic Chancery and Apostolic Penitentiary - Taxation Tables

Taxe Cal[n]e[llarie Apostolice [et] taxe Sacre Penite[n] tiarie itide[m] ap[osto]lice. Venundantur Parisiis ... per Tossanu[m] Denis ..., 1520

[4], xlii leaves; 20 cm (4to); πa4 a-k4 l2; Moreau II, 2469, Brunet V, 682; printer’s device on title page, along with papal crest of Leo X and the French royal crest; includes index; on last page, relative values of various currencies, and errata.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 TAXE

Taxation tables for the Apostolic Chancery and the Apostolic Penitentiary, the latter of which was responsible for regulating matters of penance and the forgiveness of sins, including the sale of indulgences. The document was printed in Paris by Denis Toussaint, and the title page displays the printer’s device, featuring St. Denis, a 3rd century martyr and bishop of Paris, who is usually depicted holding his decapitated head. Also on the title page are the Papal crest of Leo X and the French royal crest.

Tetzel Responds to Luther


[30] pages; 19 cm (4to); A-D4 (-D4); VD16 L6269. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1518 TETZ
It was Johann Tetzel's sale of indulgences that had prompted Luther to publish his 95 theses. Here Tetzel responds for the first time to Luther, attacking in particular a sermon by the reformer on indulgences and grace.

**Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Defense of the Sermon Concerning Papal Indulgences and Grace**

Ein Freihait des Sermons Bebstlichen ablas vnmld gnad belangent Doctoris Martini Luther; wider die vorlegung, so zur schmach seyn vnd desselben/ Sermon erdichtet. Gedruckt zuo Augspurg: durch Jörgen Nadler bey Barfüsser Dor, Im MD vn[d] XX Jar.

[12] pages; 19 cm (4to in 6's); A6; Benzing 190, VD16 L4750; title within engraved, historiated, woodcut border (birds and flowers).

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 LUTH Y

Martin Luther's response to Teztel's critique of the Ninety-Five Theses.

**Martin Luther (1483-1546) - To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation**

An den Christlichen Adel deutscher Nation, von des Christlichen Standes Besserung D. Martinus Luther. [Wittenberg: Melchior Lotter. 1520]

[94] pages; 20 cm (4to); A-M⁴ (-M4); Benzing 683, VD16 L3758, WA6,397; bound in modern morocco, with gilt-tooled border. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 LUTH QQ

First edition and first printing of Luther's address “To the Christian nobility of the German nation” is the first of three great Reformation booklets Luther wrote 1520. This piece was completed in August and divided into three parts: (1) an attack on the Papacy and denial of its claims, (2) a list of abuses by the papacy and curia, and (3) a list of necessary reforms.

**Martin Luther (1483-1546) - On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church (Latin)**

De captivitate babylonica ecclesiae praeludium Martini Lutherti. Vuittembergae: [Melchior Lotter], [October 6, 1520]

[88] pages (final page blank); 21 cm (4to); A-L⁴ (L⁴ verso); Benzing 704, VD16 L4189, WA 6,489A; title within woodcut border by Hans Cranach. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 LUTH A

CASE 4

**Theological Tracts**

In 1520, Martin Luther wrote three works which came to be seen as the three major Reformation treatises. In them he outlined the theological basis of his critique of the papacy, corruption within the church and abuses by the clergy, his view of the sacraments and his position on salvation by grace and priesthood of all believers. Each of the three was printed numerous times throughout Germany.
First edition of Luther’s tract on the “Babylonian captivity of the church,” the second of his three great theological tracts of 1520. Here Luther focuses his critique primarily on the seven sacraments, of which he accepts only three as valid (baptism, eucharist and confession).

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church (German)

Von der Babylonischen Gefengknuss der Kirchen Doctor Martin Luthers. [Strasbourg: Johann Schott, 1520]

[140] pages (final page blank); 21 cm (4to); a-q⁴ r⁶ (r6 verso blank); Benzing 714, VD16 L4196; wood-engraved portrait of Luther on title page; printer’s device in colophon; printed marginalia. text rubricated. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 LUTH UUU

German edition of De captivitate Babylonica ecclesiae praeludium, first published in 1520. The translation was done by Thomas Murner, a Franciscan and a leading satirist of the Reformation period. An early opponent of Luther, Murner intent was to “expose” Luther as a radical revolutionary.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - On the Freedom of a Christian (German)

Von der Freyhayt aines Christen Menschen Martinus Luther. [Augsburg: Melchior Ramminger], 1520.

[24] pages; 20 cm (4to); A-C⁴; Benzing 737, VD16 L7194, WA 7,16D; title within engraved, historiated, architectural, woodcut border. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 LUTH II

This is the third of Luther’s three great reformation tracts of 1520. Addressed to Pope Leo X, this work is a discourse on the freedom of the will, turning on the paradox: A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - On the Freedom of a Christian (Latin)


[36] pages; 20 cm (4to); a⁴ B-C⁴ D⁰; Benzing 755, VD16 L4630, WA7,39. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 LUTH YY

First edition of the longer Latin version of Luther’s Freedom of a Christian. It is not clear whether Luther first wrote the German or the Latin text, but it is often assumed that the latter represents a later expansion of the former. Printed before it is a letter by Luther, addressed to Pope Leo X, in response to the Pope’s bull Exsurge Domine from June of the same year, which had asked Luther to recant 41 of his 95 theses or face excommunication.
Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560) - Theological Commonplaces

1521, Melanchthon wrote what proved to be the first Protestant attempt at a systematic-theology. His approach was to treat a series of topics (Loci) in a thorough and succinct manner, building up a complete overview of theology through logical steps. This is the first printing of the first edition of the work. It is so rare that some nineteenth century bibliographers believed that all copies had been lost.

Handwritten Dedication by Philipp Melanchthon (1551)

An inscription in Melanchthon’s own hand, typical of inscriptions he placed in books that he authored. He cites Col. 3:16 and proceeds to expound on the study of scripture. The note at the end states: C. S. V. R mit Golt, Bretten weiß gewundt 1551 mit Golt. The three lines were instructions to a bookbinder to bind the book in white (pigskin) with the initials C.S.V.R. [probably a nobleman with the initials C.S. from a town beginning with R] and the date 1551 tooled in gold.

Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560): Inaugural Address to the Faculty at Wittenberg

A full page woodcut of Philipp Melanchthon, produced by Lucas Cranach the Younger in 1561, and printed in memory of the Reformer in 1564. Melanchthon’s crest (a serpent on a staff, symbolizing the promise of salvation) is shown in the top, right corner. On the left is, Cranach’s symbol, a winged serpent.

Handwritten Dedication by Philipp Melanchthon (1551)

3 inscribed pages on 2 leaves (19 x 29 cm); Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 115

An inscription in Melanchthon’s own hand, typical of inscriptions he placed in books that he authored. He cites Col. 3:16 and proceeds to expound on the study of scripture. The note at the end states: C. S. V. R mit Golt, Bretten weiß gewundt 1551 mit Golt. The three lines were instructions to a bookbinder to bind the book in white (pigskin) with the initials C.S.V.R. [probably a nobleman with the initials C.S. from a town beginning with R] and the date 1551 tooled in gold.

Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560): Inaugural Address to the Faculty at Wittenberg

Philippi Melanchthonis Sermo habitus apud iuventuten[m]/ Academiae Vuittenberg[ensis]/ Basileae: Apud Io.Frobenium, Mense Ianuario, anno M.D.XIX.

[28] pages; 21 cm. (4to); A–B4 C6; VD16 M4234; title within woodcut architectural border; initials, woodcut border (A3 recto), full page woodcut of printer’s device (C6 verso); Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1519 MELA B
Melanchthon’s inaugural address to the Wittenberg faculty, delivered in 1518, calls for a reform of humanistic studies and a rebirth of classical studies and stresses the importance of studying Greek and Hebrew in addition to Latin. It is a good example of Melanchthon’s core convictions regarding university education. This is the second printing of the work, issued in 1519. Also included is a work by Rudolf Agricola, whose work on rhetoric and logic had a significant influence on Melanchthon.

Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536): In Praise of Folly

Moriae encomium nunc postremum ab ipso autore religiose recognitum una cum aliiis aliquot libellis, no[n] minus eruditis quam amoenis, quorum omni[m] titulos proxima pagella loquetur. Apud inclytam Basileam: Apud Io. Froben., An. M.D. XXII.

408, [16] pages; 19 cm. (8vo); a–z8 A–B8 C4 D8; VD16 E3193; title within ornamental borders, initials throughout. Printer’s device above colophon. Old marginalia and drawings. Bound in calf over wooden boards. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1522 ERAS

One of the best-known pieces of humanist satire is Erasmus’ Praise of Folly. Written in 1509 for his friend Thomas More, the Latin title, Moriae encomium, contains a play on Thomas More’s name, so that it could be understood as an encomium to More. In the book, Folly speaks as if she were a learned professor, lecturing on the evils and foolishness prevalent during Erasmus’ time. Folly also sets before the people the example of true Christianity in the guise of folly, as did Saint Paul in 1 Corinthians 1–3. The copy displayed here was printed in 1522 by Johann Froben. There is a manuscript ownership mark on the title page reading, “Ranulphi Bardai (Bondai?) liber 1567,” as well as marginalia and drawings elsewhere in the book. The figures in sixteenth-century clothing represent the various social orders described in the text.

Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536): Adagia


[52], 803, [5] p.; 34 cm. (fol.); 2a–2e6 2d8 a–z6 A–2U6 2X8; VD16 E1937. Preface and text printed in pages of one column of Roman type with extensive Greek citations. Indexes printed in three or four columns per page. Title within elaborate wood-engraved historiated border, displaying portraits of philosophers, with a walled garden containing a central tree in the lower panel. List of philosophers on verso of title leaf, initial leaf of preface within wood-engraved border (putti playing); colophon and printer’s device on last page surrounded by elaborate historiated border (female figures representing virtues and vices). Historiated initials and borders (a few decorated). Old marginalia; old provenance markings on title page. Half-bound
in alum-tawed pigskin over wooden boards, blind-tooled, with brass and leather clasps (one lacking); title and author statement inscribed on upper board: Chiliades Erasmi. From the library of Victor Stedingk, with his armorial bookplate. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1523 ERAS A

Desiderius Erasmus espoused a type of Christian humanism that included an agenda of active church reform, but one that also condemned what he saw as the excesses of those who distanced themselves from Rome. His was a reform that emphasized the Greek and Latin classics in education and the need to take the best ethical influences of the classics into the daily life of the Christian. This volume, illustrative of Erasmus’ educational and spiritual emphases, contains his collection of Greek and Latin proverbs. First issued in 1500, this collection enjoyed great popularity, and Erasmus periodically published updated versions throughout his life. This edition, printed in 1523 by the Basel printer Johann Froben, contains 348 proverbs and was seen as an appendix to an earlier edition.

Medallion portrait of Desiderius Erasmus from the first edition of his last and longest work, a treatise on preaching and the office of priesthood. Erasmus worked on this book off and on for twelve years and it reveals him as a deeply religious man.

**CASE 7**

**Catholic Responses**

**Pope Leo X (1513-1521) - Exsurge Domine (1513-1521)**

* Bulla decimi Leonis, contra errores Martini Lutheri, & sequacium. [Strasbourg: Johann Schott, 1520]

[42] pages; 20 cm (4to); a-d⁴ e⁶(e6 blank); VD16 K277, woodcut of papal coat of arms on title page. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection, acquired through the generous subvention of Munich American Reassurance Company - Pitts Theology Library 1520 CATH B

First printing of the first edition of Hutten’s edition of the papal bull *Exsurge Domine*, which condemns as heretical 41 statements by Martin Luther and offers Luther 60 days to recant. Hutten issued the bull with Pope Leo’s coat of arms on the title page and offers his own glosses, introduction and call to Leo to keep his bulls to himself and not to bother the German Protestants any longer.
The participants agreed to have the debate judged by the theological faculties of the Universities of Leuven (Louvain) and Paris. Shown here is the statement by the Theological Faculty of Leuven, which decided firmly against Luther. While Paris was more equivocal, they still declared several of Luther’s propositions heretical. Luther asserted that that he considered the judgment of the two universities no more than the rants of a drunken woman.

Johann Eck (1486-1543) – Defense Against Philipp Melanchthon’s Publication of the Leipzig Disputation

The participants in the Leipzig Disputation promised not to print their positions before the faculties of Paris and Louvain had issued their verdicts in the case. Both sides broke their promise. Melanchthon apparently got into print first, for this is Eck’s reply to Melanchthon.

Edict of Worms (1524)

A 1524 printing of the Edict of Worms, pronounced by Emperor Charles V against Martin Luther. The edict, composed by the Papal Legate Girolamo Aleandro, prohibited the reading, printing and selling of Luther’s writings and placed Luther under imperial ban. Published with it are two other documents, by Lorenzo Campeggi’s and Archduke Ferdinand I (the later Emperor Ferdinand I) calling on Catholic rulers to assemble in Regensburg to prevent the further spread of the Lutheran Reformation.

Letters to Raffaele de’ Medici Concerning the Diet of Worms (1521)

Raffaele de’ Medici (1477-1555) was a member of the Florentine Medici family and a relative of Pope Leo X. Shown here are two letter sent to Raffaele. The first is by Girolamo Aleandro, an Italian scholar and cardinal, who writes that it was he who composed the Edict of Worms,
which placed Luther under the ban of the Church and State. The second letter was written in French by Henry de Lesomet, from Worms, on 29 April 1521, and concerns the court and the leave-taking of Martin Luther. “… Luther left the day before yesterday, perverse and obstinate in his opinions. I could scarcely believe that he is not punished by God and the world. And with this I shall close, praying God to look after you. From Worms, the 29th of April 1521.”

CASE 8

Hans Holbein and Lucas Cranach

Beside Albrecht Dürer, Hans Holbein and Lucas Cranach were the most significant artist of the Northern Renaissance. Holbein was born in Germany and was active in Basel, Switzerland and in England. He painted well known pictures of Erasmus, Thomas More and of Henry VIII, but was also an accomplished printmaker, whose book illustrations and title page woodcuts were extremely popular. Lucas Cranach the Elder lived in Wittenberg, where he painted for the Electors of Saxony. He was a close friend of Martin Luther’s and the two were godfathers to each other’s children. The best knows portraits of Luther were painted by him and he illustrated many of the Reformer’s works, including his translation of the New Testament into German.

The Dance of Death (1542)

`Imagines de Morte, et epigram[m]ata à Gallico idiomate à Georgio Aemylio in Latinum[m] translata. Lvgdvni: Apud Ioannem & Franciscum Frellonios ..., 1542. [176] pages (final two pages blank); 14 cm (8vo); A-L⁸ (L⁸ blank); Mortimer, R. French 15th cent., 285; Hans Lützelburger’s monogram “HL” appears on the cut of the duchess on the recto of G²; bound in blind stamped pigskin over wooden boards.

First Latin edition of Holbein’s illustrations of “The Dance of Death,” cut by the block cutter Hans Lützelburger. The first French edition was published in Lyon in 1538, followed by this Latin edition and another French edition in 1542. Here, some of the French quatrains on the first edition have been expanded to six-line verses in the translation of Georgius Aemilius, Martin Luther’s brother in law. The second part contains “Medicina animae” and “Ratio consolandi ob morbi”, works of consolation regarding death, as well as sermons by Cyprian and John Chrysostom.

Title page of the First Collection of Martin Luther’s Works (1520)


[52], 542, [2] pages; 32 cm (folio in 6’s and 8’s); a-b6 c8 d6 A-2H6 218 2K- 256 2T4 2V-2X6 2Y8; Benzing 9, VD16 L3411; bound in an unfinished, wood binding with a parchment spine. The clasps are missing; former ownership mark: “Melchiori di Vio”. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library, acquired through the generous subvention of Mr, Jean and Mrs. Betty Mori in memory of Katherine and George Mori, Jackson, Mississippi. 1520 LUTH.
A richly illustrated title page by Hans Holbein, depicting the symbols of the four evangelists in the corners and Saints Peter and Paul above and below the title respectively. On the left are Pope Gregory the Great and Saint Jerome, on the right are Saint Augustine and Saint Ambrose. This is the first volume of a projected two volume edition (the second was never issued) of Luther’s major works. This edition represents an expanded version of an earlier collection, published in Basel by froben in 1518. The volume of Luther’s writing after 1518 precluded others from preparing collected editions before 1539, when the first volume of Luther’s collected German works was issued.

The Zürich Bible (1536)

The beginning of the book of Revelation in the Zürich Bible with illustrations based on Hans Holbein. The Zürich Bible was edited by Leo Jud, together with Ulrich Zwingli and others and was based, in part, on Luther’s High German translation, and on a translation of the Hebrew Prophets by Hans Denck and Ludwig Hätzer, two emerging leaders of the Radical Reformation.

Title Page Border by Lucan Cranach with Rose Designed by Martin Luther

Eyn brieff an die Christen zu Straspurg widder den schwermer geyst Martini Luther. Wittenberg: [Lucan Cranach & Christian Döring, 1524]
[12] pages; 19 cm (4to); A⁶; Benzing 1965, VD16 L4151, WA 15,385A; title within wood-engraved historiated and decorated border; from the library of Leon Baumgartner, with his armorial bookplate; half bound in modern vellum and black and white decorated paper over pasteboards, with marbled endpapers, and red leather spine label. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1524 LUTH ZZ

This striking historiated title-page border features the Luther Rose (designed by Luther himself) framed by the reformer’s initials and was apparently created for use in the Cranach/Dörring printing office. By means of the Luther Rose and the initials ML, this engraving shows that it was meant for an authorized edition. The work shown here is an open letter “To the Christians of Strasbourg,” warning them against the views of Luther’s former Wittenberg colleague, Karlstadt. Karlstadt began as an ally of Luther, but moved in a different direction, de-emphasizing infant baptism, and espousing the removal of images from the churches.
Martin Luther was a prolific composer with at least 43 hymns attributed to him, including the famous *Ein feste Burg ist unser Herr* (A Mighty Fortress is Our God), which has been called the “Battle Hymn of the Reformation.” For Luther, who also instituted many liturgical changes, hymns were important for developing and strengthening one’s faith. He oversaw the collection of hymns and the organization of hymnals published by Joachim Klug in Wittenberg and Valentin Bapts in Leipzig.

**Achliederbuch (1524)**

*Etlich Cristlich lider Lobgesang, vn[d] Psalm dem reinen wort Gottes gemess, auss der heylige[n] schrifft, durch mancherley hochgelerter gemacht, in der Kirchen zu sigen, wie es dann zum tayl berayt zuo Wittenberg in übung ist.* [Nuremberg: Jobst Gutknecht], 1514 [i.e. 1524]

[24] pages (final page blank); 21 cm (4to); A-C4; Benzing 3571, VD16 L4698, WA 35, 336; title within engraved woodcut border by Erhard Schön, (Luther, Titelinfassungen, 120, 124); 5 pages with music; bound in green morocco leather binding stamped with gold, with silver clasp and 8 corner nails. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1524 ETLI This volume was a gift of Richard and Martha Kessler, 1987.

This is the first volume of printed hymns for church use ever compiled. Jobst Gutknecht, the Nuremberg printer, gathered eight broadside hymns into one collection, thus making the world’s first church hymnal. Four hymns are by Luther, three are by Paul Speratus, and one is anonymous. The printer of this work made several errors on the title page, as the ornamental dolphins are printed upside down and the date of publication is missing a Roman numeral X, resulting in an erroneous publication date of 1514 instead of 1524.

**Magdeburg Enchiridion (1536)**


109, 3 pages; 11 cm (8vo); A-O8. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1536 ENCH

This hymn book is a unique copy of an otherwise unrecorded edition of Lutheran hymns translated into Low German for use in North Germany. It includes 75 hymns, of which 32 have tunes, and an index. It is not a reprint. Of interest are the hymns copied into the front and back of the volume. They include a contemporary manuscript of Luther’s Hymn “Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam” in low German. The full text is reproduced in “Enchiridion Geistlicher Leder unde Psalmen,” Magdeburg 1536, ed. by Stephen A. Crist, Emory Texts and Studies in Ecclesial Life, 2. Scholars Press, 1994.
Klug Hymnal (1544)

191, [8] pages; 15 cm (8vo); Benzing 3559, VD16 G850; bound in blindstamped pigskin over boards (Luther rose). Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1544 LUTH I

Joseph Klug printed the first collection of hymns that Luther prepared specifically for congregational use in Wittenberg in 1529. It followed the church year closely and was revised and reprinted several times. The renowned hymnal printed by Valentin Bapst (Geystlicher Lieder'; Leipzig, 1545) may be seen as a later edition of the Klug hymnal.

Klug Hymnal (1567)

219, [7] pages; 15 cm (8vo); A-Z⁸, a-e⁸; Not in VD16 (cf. VD16 G858, G865 and G867, which have Johann Eichhorn as printer); title in red and black within architectural woodcut border, 12 large woodcuts; bound in black morocco by Hans Asper, gilt tooling and dark green leather intarsia with bookplate of Bookplate of Gaspard Ernest Stroehlin (1844-1907), a Swiss minister and professor (specializing in church history) at the University of Geneva. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1567 GEIS

Joseph Klug printed the first collection of hymns that Luther prepared specifically for congregational use in Wittenberg in 1529. It followed the church year closely and was revised and reprinted several times. (Robin Leaver, “Hymnals,” in ‘The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation’ (1996) 2:286-89.) Variations of this hymnal were printed in Magdeburg (Lotter), Wittenberg (Klug, Stürmer), Leipzig (Schumann, Babst, Berwald) and Nuremberg (Petreius, Heyn, Neuber) as well as this edition printed by Johann Eichhorn in Frankfurt an der Oder.

Slüter Hymnal (1560)

Enchiridion geistliker Leder vnde Psalmen vppet nye gebetert Mart. Luth[er]. Wittenberch: gedrücket ... dorch Georgen Ruwen Eruen, 1560.
[504] pages; 16 cm (8vo); A-Z⁸, a-h⁸, i⁴; VD16 G946; 39 woodcut images of scenes from the Old and New Testament; each page within an ornamental border; bound in blind tooled paneled leather with segmented spine and clasps. Images of Judith and Jael in the front and back central panel. The name Iacob Hardeck is tooled on the front and the date Anno 1607 on the back. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection

1560 printing of a Low German hymnal, first issued in 1531 by Joachim Slüter, a pastor and reformer in the Northern German city of Rostock. The work contains a Low German adaptation of Luther’s Klug hymnal, including Luther’s preface, first issued with the “Wittenberger Gesangbuch” (Wittenberg hymnal) of 1524, as well as a number of other hymns collected by Slüter.
Bapst Hymnal (1567)


[400] pages; 18 cm (8vo); A-Z³ a-b⁴; includes metal-engraved borders on each page, as well as numerous large engravings illustrating various Biblical themes; bound in hand-tooled panel-stamped alum-tawed pigskin over bevelled boards with decorated brass and leather clasps and edges stained red; panels depict portraits of Luther (upper board) and Melanchthon (lower board), and are accompanied by Latin mottos; from the library of Hinrich Burmester, with his signature; from the library of Johann Christoph Schmigiel, organist at St. John’s in Lüneburg, 1758, with his signature; from the collection of the Ritterguts-Bibliothek, Nieder Topfstedt, with its stamp; from the library of Hermann Laut. Heinrich Nobbe, 1653, with his signature.

Includes manuscript indexes of hymns by categories on endpapers. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1567 GEYS

1567 Printing of the Bapst Hymnal, first published in 1545 and based on the Wittenberg Klug hymnal. Like many of Bapst’s publications, this volume has metal engraved borders on each page and is richly illustrated throughout.

CASE 10

The September Testament

Das Neue Testament Deütsch Vuittemberg: [Melchior Lotther the Younger for Christian Döring &. Lukas Cranach], [September 1522].

[222] leaves; 31 cm (folio in 6’s and 4’s) π⁴ A-K⁶ L⁴ M-R⁶ S-T⁴ 2A⁶ a-n⁶ 2a-2b⁶ 2c-2d⁴ 2e⁶ T⁴; VD16 B4318; bound in bleached, blind-stamped pigskin over wooden boards.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1522 BIBL:1

The “September Testament” was the first printing of Martin Luther’s translation of the New Testament from the original Greek into German. It is richly illustrated with woodcuts by Lukas Cranach, calling to mind Albrecht Durer’s series on the Apocalypse. From a religious standpoint, Luther’s decision to refer to the original Greek rather than merely to translate the Vulgate ensured that the German New Testament would be much more faithful to the original. Erasmus’ New Testament provided the basis for the translation. Luther’s translation is also a landmark in the history of the German language, as his forceful style ensured that his Thuringian-Saxon dialect would provide the standard for High German in years to come.
Greek New Testament

Greek New Testament (Erasmus, 1516)


[28], 324, 672 [i.e. 636], [3] pages; 32 cm (folio); VD16 B4196, Adams B1679. Bound in blind-stamped, polished calf over wooden boards. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1516 BIBL B

The first published edition of the Greek New Testament. Erasmus used a few late Greek manuscripts as the basis of his text. It was edited and printed quickly so that it might appear before the work of the Spanish Cardinal Jimenez (the Complutensian Polyglot). Erasmus’ manuscripts did not include the whole text of the Book of Revelation, and so he translated the missing section from the Latin back to Greek. The most controversial feature of this edition was Erasmus’s proposed corrections to the Latin Vulgate found in the companion volume of annotations.

Greek New Testament (Erasmus, 1519)

Nouum Testamentum omne multo quam antebac diligentius ab Erasmo Roterodamo recognitum[m], emen[n]datum ac translatum …. Basileae: in aedibus Ioannis Frobenii, Mense Martio Anno. MDXIX.

2 volumes (565, 579 pages); 31 cm. (folio); VD16 B4197, Adams B1680. Bound in blind-stamped calf over paper boards. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1519 BIBL V.1-2

It was the first edition of Erasmus’ Greek New Testament from 1516 that inspired Luther to learn Greek, but it was the second edition of 1519 that Luther used to translate the New Testament into German and publish in 1522. Although Erasmus says that he took much greater care editing the Greek of the second edition, he did not make many textual changes in it. The greatest impact of this edition was made by Erasmus’ annotations and by his inclusion of his own Latin translation in favor of the text of the Vulgate.
CASE 12

Rabbinic Bible

Rabbinic Bible (1st Edition)

[Venice: Daniel Bomberg, 1517]

[1,354] pages; 36 cm (folio); 1-16² 17⁶, 21-15⁸, 31-22⁸ 32⁴, 41-8⁴ 49⁴, chi 1, 51-2⁸ 53⁴ 54-8⁸, 61-2⁸ 63⁶ 64⁴, 71-6⁸, 81⁴ 82⁶, 91⁶ 92⁴ (gatherings signed in Hebrew characters);

Habermann, A.M., ha-Madpis Daniyel Bombirgi, 28,8; initial words. Bound in old blind-tooled, bordered, and panelled leather over wooden boards. From the library of Mordekhai Shemu’el Gerondi mi-Padova 5471 [1810 or 1811], with his signature; from the library of Binyamin Yitshaḵ ben Binyamin mi-Lit[as?], with his signature. Old marginalia. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1517 BIBL

The first complete Hebrew Bible, with rabbinic commentaries, from the house of the Venetian printer, Daniel Bomberg. Bomberg, a Christian, appealed to the Christian, as well as to the Jewish market, and his Rabbinic Bible became the Hebrew Bible of choice among the Reformers. The work was edited by Felix Pratensis a Jewish convert to Christianity. There is a permission statement by Pope Leo X, to whom the work is dedicated.

Rabbinic Bible (2nd Edition)

[Venice: Daniel Bomberg, 1524]

4 volumes; 39 cm (folio); Haberman 93. Extensive old Hebrew marginalia, some censoring of commentaries. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1524 BIBL V.1-4

The second complete Hebrew Bible, with rabbinic commentaries, also from the house of the Venetian printer, Daniel Bomberg. The editor for this edition was the Masoretic scholar Yaaqov Ben Hayyim, who thoroughly reworked the Masora of the text. The Ben Hayyim edition became the textual model for nearly all subsequent editions.

CASE 13

German Bibles

Luther’s German Pentateuch (1523)

Das Allte Testament deutsch. M. Luther. Vvttimberg: [Melchior Lotther, 1523]

[6], 140, [1] leaves, [11] leaves of plates; 31 cm (folio in 6’s); A6 2A6 B-X6 a-b6 c4 (c4 verso blank); VD16 B2894; plates by Lucas Cranach and by the “Meister der Zackenblätter” (who is also known as the monogrammist MB), title page and initials by Georg Lemberger; extensive
contemporary manuscript marginalia, aimed at revision of translation. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1523 BIBL

This is the first printing of the first part of Luther’s translation of the Old Testament into idiomatic German. It comprises the Pentateuch, or the five Books of Moses. Scholars long believed that this edition had been destroyed by Luther’s friends because of its many printing errors. This printing contains 11 full-page and six initial-figure woodcuts. The volume has been heavily annotated in an early to mid-sixteenth century hand.

**Luther’s Bible in Low German (1533)**

*De Biblie vth der vthlegginge Doctoris Martini Luthers yn dyth diëdesche vltich vthgesetet, mit sundern vnderrichtingen alse men seen mach.* Inn der Keyserlichen Stadt Lübeck: by Ludowich Dietz gedrucket, M.D. XXXIII. [1533-1534]


**Portrait of Martin Luther by Hans Baldung Grien**

*De captiuitate babylonica ecclesiae praehulium Martini Lutheri.* [Strassbourg: Johann Schott, 1520].

[80] pages; 21 cm. (4to); a-k4; Benzing 706, VD16 L4186

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 LUTH XXXX

**CASE 14**

**Martin Luther**

**Earliest Known Image of Martin Luther**


[7] pages; 20 cm (4to); A4 (A4 verso blank); Benzing 398, VD16 L6193

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1519 LUTH C

The woodcut portrait medallion on the title page of this sermon is reputed to be the oldest representation of the reformer. He is shown in stylized form, dressed in an Augustinian habit with a Luther rose at the base of the portrait.

**The woodcut portrait medallion on the title page of this sermon is reputed to be the oldest representation of the reformer. He is shown in stylized form, dressed in an Augustinian habit with a Luther rose at the base of the portrait.**

First Low German edition of Luther’s Bible prepared by Johann Bugenhagen. This edition appeared even before the first publication of Luther’s complete High German Bible. The woodcut illustrations by Erhard Altdorfer include Daniel’s “dream map” (Shirley 68).
Woodcut portrait by Hans Baldung Grien (1484-1545) on the verso of the title page of the second edition of Luther’s tract on the “Babylonian captivity of the church,” one of his three great theological tracts of 1520. The artist was a supporter of the Reformation and depicts Luther as an Augustinian monk before a niche, expounding the Christian faith.

Martin Luther with the Holy Spirit


[64] pages (last 2 pages blank); 21 cm (4to); a-h⁴ (h⁴ blank); VD16 S9020. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1522 STIF

A variation on the picture by Hans Baldung Grien with the Holy Spirit above the Reformer’s head. This image is found in several early Reformation tracts, as in this one by Michael Stifel, an Augustinian monk who became an early supporter of Martin Luther.

Martin Luther as an Augustinian Monk

Murnarus Leuithan vulgo dictus, Geltnar, oder Genss Prediger: Murnarus, qui & Schoebenselin, oder Schmutzkolb, de se ipso. Sinugae, & fastus, faciunt quem religiosum, Sum bonus, & magnus, religiosus ego. Raphaelis Musaei in gratiam

Martin Luther. [Strasbourg: Johann Schott, 1521]

[32] pages (final page blank); 21 cm (4to); A-D⁴ (D⁴ verso blank); VD16 M7112. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1521 MUSA

A stylized portrait of Martin Luther as a simple Augustinian monk with Scripture in hand. This text of the pamphlet is either by Raphael Musaeus or Matthäus Gnidius. The work is a strong anti-Catholic, pro-Luther polemical tract.

Johannes Cochlaeus (1479-1552) - Seven-Headed Luther

Septiceps Luberus: ubiq[ue] sibi, suis scriptis, co[n]trari[us], in visitatione[m] Saxonia[m]. Lypsiae: impressit Valentinus Schuman[n], 1529.

[140] pages; 20 cm (4to); (6 A-Q⁴ ((4 and Q⁴ verso blank); VD16 C4386; title page woodcut, initials and tailpieces.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1529 COCH

Johannes Cochlaeus, one of Luther’s most vehement opponents, portrays Luther as a seven-headed monster like Cerberus, who guarded the gate to hell in Greek/Latin mythology. The picture on the title page is one of the most famous images to emerge from the anti-Lutheran polemics of the period. Each head has a caption and is explained in detail in the text. Doctor (of false doctrine), Martinus (faithless, unlike the saint whose name he bore) Lutherus (untrue to his Catholic family tradition), etc.
Medallion Portrait of Martin Luther


[68] pages; 19 cm (4to); A-H4 I2; Benzing 3532, VD16 L5737. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1546 LUTH

Medallion portrait of Martin Luther from a publication of two sermons preached in Halle an der Salle shortly before his death. The first sermon is on Matthew 3:13ff. (Baptism of Jesus) and the second on Acts 9:1ff. (Conversion of St. Paul).

Portrait of Martin Luther by Lucas Cranach the Younger

Einweyhung eines Newen Hauses zum Predigamt Göttlichs Worts erbawet, Im Churfürstlichen Schloss zu Torgaw. Durch Doct: Mart: Luther. Gedruckt zu Wittemberg: Durch Georgen Rhaw, Im jar M.D.XLVI.

[68] pages (final page blank); 21 cm (4to); A6 B-H4 (H4 verso blank); Benzing 3529, VD16 L4520. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1546 LUTH B

Woodcut portrait of Luther, signed with the flying dragon of Lucas Cranach the Younger and dated 1546. The text of the work is a sermon preached October 5, 1544, on Luke 14:1ff. (Healing of the man with dropsy on the Sabbath day) in Torgau at the dedication of a new chapel in the Elector's Castle.
Full Length Portrait of Martin Luther by Lucas Cranach the Younger

Hortulus animae = Lustgarten der Seelen. Mit schönen lieblichen Figuren. Wittemberg Gedruckt zu Wittemberg; durch Georgen Rhawen Erben, 1550.

[248] pages; 21 cm (4to); A-Z4 a-h4; VD16 R 1691; title page printed in red and black; includes 43 illustrations by Lucas Cranach the Elder, 26 of which appeared in the Wittenberger Heiligtumsbuch. The 12 full-page depictions of the apostles’ martyrdoms appeared initially as separate prints. The portrait of Martin Luther, dated 1548, appears only in the 4to editions of the work. Also included are 3 engravings by Hans Brosamer, including a portrait of the printer Georg Rhaw, 9 engravings by the Meister der Jacobsleiter and the monogrammists AW and MS; bound in contemporary tooled calfskin with blind stamps and rolled panels depicting the Crucifixion and Resurrection on the front and back covers respectively. The binding is dated 1556, done for IH, by binder FS

Full length portrait of Martin Luther by Lucas Cranach the Younger from the first Protestant breviary of the Wittenberg Reformation. The readings are taken from Luther’s catechetical writings and from Melanchthon’s exposition of the Lord’s prayer. Luther’s explanation of the Apostles’ Creed and Melanchthon’s Commentary on the Lord’s Prayer are also included.

Hand-Written Note by Martin Luther (1541)

1 sheet, 11 x 20 cm Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 090

A seven line note in Latin in Martin Luther’s own hand. The note was written while Luther was working on his book *Supputatio annorvm mundi* (1541, WA 53,177 “Computation of the Years of the World) and it discusses discrepancies in the biblical chronology of world history. The translation of the note is as follows; “Whatever it might be, the computation in all these things is short by 20 years. If you care to add to this the 60 years [missing from] Abraham, then you can add these 80 years outside the Chronology and by that many years bring closer the Day of Judgment, that can be your opinion. We shall proceed as we have indicated. And the difference among the parts can remain as it is, 20 years or 80 years, which we do not think will cause the whole calculation to totter.”
Johann Bugenhagen (1485-1558) - A Christian sermon over the body and at the funeral of the venerable Dr. Martin Luther

Eine christliche Predigt vber der Leich vnd Begrebnis des ehrwirdigen D. Martini Luthers durch Ern Johann Bugenhagen ... Gedruckt zu Wittemberg: Durch Georgen Rhaw, Anno 1546.

[26] pages (final 2 pages blank); 20 cm (4to); A-C⁴ D²; VD16 B9274.
Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1546 BUGE

Johann Bugenhagen’s sermon at Martin Luther’s funeral service in Wittenberg.

CASE 15
Luther and other Religions

Latin Qur’an (1543)

Machumetis Saracenorum principis eiusque successorum vitae, ac doctrina, ipseque Alcoran quo velut authentico legum diuinorum codice Agareni & Turcae, aliq[ue] Christo adversantes populi regn[ntur] quae ante annos CCCC, nir ...

Petrus Abbas Clunia opera et studio Theodori Bibliandri .... [Basel: Johann Oporinus, 1543]

[23], 230, [9], [8], 178, 163 pages; 31 cm (folio); α-β6 a-u⁶ *A-P⁶ 2a-2n⁶ 2o⁶; VD16 ZV 18456; Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1543 JOHN:2

This is the first printed edition of the Koran in any language. It was edited by Bibliander and has prefaces by Luther and Melanchthon. It was printed in Basel by Johann Oporinus against the wishes of the city council and only after intervention by Luther and other scholars. It had to be printed without place or printer as a condition of its release. The translation is wrongly attributed to Robert of Chester (Robertus Retenensis) but was in fact done by Robert of Ketton.

Johann Reuchlin (1455-1522) - Defense Against His Detractors in Cologne

Defensio Joannis Reuchlin Phorcensis LL. Doctoris ; contra calumniatores svos Coloniienses. Tubingae: Apud Thomam Anshelmum Badensem, Anno. M.D.XIIII

[106] pages (final 2 pages blank); 21 cm (4to); A-M4 N6 (N6 blank); VD16 R1245; woodcut printer’s device in colophon, initial. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1514 REUC

Johann Reuchlin was born in Pfortzheim, and studies at Freiburg, Paris, and Basel. His Hebrew grammar, De rudimentis hebraicis (1506) was the first reliable work of its kind by a Christian scholar. His deep interest in the Hebrew language and in the Cabala, however, prompted serious reprisals from some scholars in Cologne, in particular Pfeferkorn and Hoogstraten. This is Reuchlin’s defense against their attacks. Melanchthon served as editor of this edition.
Johannes Pfefferkorn (1469-1522) - The Mirror of the Jews

Speculum adhortationis iudaice ad Christum. [Speyer: Conrad Hist, 1507?]

[40] pages (final page blank); 21 cm (4to); A-E4 (E4 verso blank); VD16 P2303; three-quarter page woodcut of Crucifixion beneath title. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1507 PFEF

Pfefferkorn, a Jewish convert to Christianity, who became a fanatic in his opposition to Judaism, advocating the suppression of the religion and the burning of Talmudic literature and other Jewish writings. In this tract, first anti-semitic polemic, Pfefferkorn inaugurated the battle over the study of Hebrew, as advocated especially by the humanist Johann Reuchlin, whose efforts made Luther’s Old Testament translation possible, and promoted insights gained from direct study of the Hebrew text.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - On the Jews and their Lies


[286] pages; 19 cm (4to); A-Za-a-n (n4); Benzing 3424, VD16 L7153; title within engraved woodcut border, initial. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1543 LUTH A

Luther’s relations with the Jews were influenced by his desire to convert them. As his hopes of success in this matter waned, his polemic against them became ever sharper. This volume, the first in a series of three attacks on the Jews written in 1543, is in many respects the worst. Luther recommends exiling the Jews, confiscating their lands, burning their synagogues, etc.

CASE 16

Other Reform Movements

Jean Calvin (1509-1564) - The Institutes of the Christian Religion (First English Edition)

The Institution of Christian religion vrytten in Latine by maister Ihon Calvin and translated into Englysh according to the authors last edition. Imprinted at London: By Reinolde Vvolfe & Richard Harison, Anno 1561.

[8], 171, [3] leaves; 29 cm (folio); ESTC (2nd ed.) 4415; printer’s device on title page/ Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1561 CALV A

The first English edition of John Calvin’s seminal work on Protestant systematic theology, first published in Latin in 1559.
Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) - The Implementation of the Lord's Supper


[16] pages; 21 cm (4to); A-B⁴ (B4 blank); VD16 M4922; title page woodcut. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library, given in honor of Prof. Valerie Hotchkiss, Reformation Day at Emory lecturer, 2011. 1525 ZWIN

One of two edition published in 1525 of Ulrich Zwingli’s reform of the mass on the basis of a “biblically based” liturgy.

Eitelhans Langenmantel (d. 1528) - Short Note about Martin Luther’s Writings on the Sacrament


[Augsburg: Philipp Ulhart], Jm. M.D.XXVij. Jar.

16 pages (final page blank); 20 cm (4to); A-B⁴ (B4 verso blank); VD16 L353; title within architectural woodcut border. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1527 LANG

First edition of a tract by Eitelhans Langenmantel, an anabaptist from one of the oldest and most distinguished families in Augsburg. In his attacks on Luther’s views of the eucharist, he refers to the reformer as the “New Pope.” Langenmantel is an ancestor of President Thomas Jefferson.

John Jewel (1522-1571) - A Defense of the Apology of the Church of England

A defence of the apologie of the Churche of Englaunde conteneinge an answere to a certaine booke lately set forth e. by M. Hardinge, and entituled, A confutation of &c. by John Iewel Bishop of Sarisburie. At London: by Henry VVykes in Fleetstreate, at the signe of the Elephante, Anno 1567. 27. Octobris.

[24], 742, [18] pages; 28 cm (folio in 8s); A-B⁶, A-Z⁶, Aa-Zz⁶, Aaa-Ppp⁶, Qqq⁸, Rrr⁶; STC 14600.5; title vignette, decorative initials, printed marginalia; bound in contemporary, blind-tooled calf over wooden boards. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1567 JEWE

This work came about as part of the ongoing controversy concerning the fate of the English Reformation, which began in the 1530s under Henry VIII and reached its climax in the first years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. With the Act of Supremacy and Act of Uniformity, passed in 1558 and 1559, the Anglican Church became the established church in England, and the English monarch was confirmed as Supreme Governor the of that Church. Attendance at Sunday service in the Anglican Church became mandatory (The two bills also
enacted a number of other important provisions concerning vestments, the Litany, communion, etc.). The resulting controversy prompted Jewel to write his famous Apologie for the Church of England, published in 1562 in Latin and translated into English in 1564. The work is the fundamental defense of the Anglican Church, the first systematic justification of Anglicanism, and was, for all intents and purposes, the official explanation of the English Reformation during the Elizabeth’s reign. Predictably, Jewel’s Apologie produced a number of responses, most impressive being Hardinge’s Confutation. It was the Confutation to which Jewel responded in his Defense of the Apologie. The work enunciates Jewel’s fundamental and most important argument: that the Anglican Church signifies a reformation only insofar as it is a return to the original Christian Church, purged of the corruptions of later centuries.

CASE 17

The Complutensian Polyglot

The Complutensian Polyglot


6 volumes; 39 cm (folio in 8’s and 6’s); title page printed in red and black, includes coat of arms of Cardinal Jiménez, surrounded by ornamental engraved, woodcut border. Vol. 1 (with title: Uetus Testamentu[m] multiplices lingua nu[n]c primo impressum) and v. 2-4 (Secu[n]da [-quarta] pars Veteris Testamenti) have colophon (v. 4) dated, 10 July 1517; v. 6 (Vocabularium hebraicum atq[ue] chaldaicum totius Veteris Testamenti) has two colophons dated, respectively, 17 March 1515 and 31 May 1515. 1514 BIBL V.2

The first of the great polyglot Bibles, the Complutensian Polyglot was edited by a team of scholars led by Diego Lopez de Zuiga at Alcalá de Henares (Latin, Complutum). The Old Testament is generally arranged in three columns with the Hebrew text in the outside column (Hebrew roots in the margin), the Vulgate in the middle and the Greek Septuagint in the inside column. This prompted some defenders of the Vulgate to quip that the authorized Latin text appeared as Christ between the two thieves. The New Testament is printed in two columns with the Greek on the left and the Vulgate on the right.
Both Catholics and Protestants engaged in vigorous polemics, both verbal and visual. Literacy rates in urban centers in Germany have been estimated at 30% but were likely 5% or lower in rural areas. Since woodcuts could be produced fairly cheaply and easily, they became an effective means of mass communication.

**Luther Triumphant**

*Des Ehrwirdigen Herrn Doctoris Martini Lutheri, gottseligen, Triumph, und Verantwortung, wider die gottlosen Schmehschrifft, der neuen Münch, der Jesuiter, welche sie unter dem Titel, Anatomia Lutheri, ausgesprenget haben.* Wittenberg: [s.n., 1568]

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1568 EHRW

Single sheet woodcut depicting Pope Leo X on a throne that is about to topple. Behind him are priests and monks and below them a group of Jesuits, who are trying to support the toppling throne. Leo’s key, the symbol of the Petrine office is crumbling in the pope’s hands. Facing Leo is Martin Luther holding an open Bible. Below him is a group of reformers led by Philipp Melanchthon, each holding a book (Bible). In the center below Leo is Friedrich Staphylus depicted as Judas Iscariot. Staphylus was a student of Philipp Melanchthon’s, who rejoined the Catholic Church in 1533.

**Martin Luther (483-1546) - The Passion of Christ and Antichrist**

*Passional Christi und Antichristi.* [Erfurt: Matthaeus Maler], 1521.

[28] pages; 20 cm (4to); A-C4 D2; Benzing 1022, VD16 L5581, WA 9,649F; title within engraved, architectural, woodcut border dated 1521 and signed with the initials “F.B.”; manuscript marginalia in the text, and many of the illustrations are sparsely hand-colored.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1521 LUTH WW

A polemic in the form of thirteen pairs of woodcuts (with captions) depicting scenes from the life of Christ contrasted with scenes from the life of the Pope. The text for the Latin edition was by Philipp Melanchthon and Johann Schwertfeger, while that for the German edition was by Martin Luther. The text consists of quotations from the Gospels and the canon law. The woodcuts have been attributed to Lucas Cranach the Elder and his son Hans Cranach.)
Hieronymus Dungersheim (1465-1540) - Many Offensive Passage from Statements of Luther about Sedition

Multiloquus de co[n]citata ex dictis Lutheri sedition[e, ad Inuictissimu[m] & optimu[m] Imperatore[m] ac multo[rum] regno[rum] Rege[m] inclitu[m] etc[etera]. Carolu[m] S. per mag[r]u[m] Hieronimu[m] Dungerszhey[m] ex Ochsenfart Sacrae Theologiae professore[m]. [Leipzig: Valentin Schumann, 1531]

26, [2] pages; 21 cm (4to); A-B4 C2 D4; VD16 ZV24308; title page woodcut of the church under siege, woodcut of Annunciation on D4 recto; woodcut of Last Supper on D4 verso.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1531 DUNG

Dungersheim had had a long academic career before the Reformation began, and he proved to be a determined foe of Luther. In this rare book he presents “over a hundred” citations from Luther’s books written before the Peasants’ War (1525) to prove that Luther was a teacher of sedition and tumult. This polemical woodcut shows Christ and his church under siege by demons, heretics, Turks and Jews.

Johann Hasenberg (d. 1551) - A Play mocking the Shameless Luther


[44] pages; 20 cm (4to); A-E4 F2; VD16 H714.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1530 HASE

A polemical play by the Leipzig playwright Johann Hasenberg, a friend of Johannes Emsers. The title page woodcut summarizes the four acts. In the first, Luther praises gambling and carousing to his wife Katharina, in the second the true religion complains of its banishment to a Christian orator, in the third heresy appears along with sedition and corruption and in the fourth act Luther and the Christian orator appeal to “Philochristus” (Lover of Christ) to judge between them and Luther is condemned and sentenced to be burnt at the stake.

Philipp Melanchthon & Martin Luther - The Papal Ass of Rome


[16] pages; 21 cm (4to); A-B¹ Benzing 1549, VD16 M2988.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1523 MELA I

In this tract Luther and Melanchthon use two strange phenomena: a grotesque donkey figure allegedly found in the Tiber River and the birth of a deformed calf, both of which had captured the popular mind and were used in polemic against
the papacy and Catholic clergy. The woodcut of the “Papal Ass” was probably created in the workshop of Lukas Cranach the Elder.

**Johannes Agricola (1494-1566) - Brief Address to All who Resent Dr. Luther and Christian Freedom**

Eyn kurtz anred zu allen missgunstigen Doctor Luthers vnd der Christlichen Freyheit.
[Leipzig: Wolfgang Stöckel, 1522].

[7] pages; 21 cm (4to); A⁴ (final verso blank); VD16 cA1009.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1522 AGRI A

A short pamphlet in support of Martin Luther. The title-page woodcut is a caricature of six contemporary opponents of Luther, including Johann Eck (with fool’s cap), Girolamo Aleandro (as lion), Augustin von Alveld (as donkey), Thomas Murner (as cat) and Hieronymus Emser (as goat).

**Judas Nazarei – The Pope as a Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**

Das Wolffgesang: Eyn ander hertz, ein ander kleid, trage[n] falsche wölff in d' heyd Do mit sy den ge[lesen lupfen, den pflum ab de[n] kröpffen rupfen magstu hie by gar wol verston, wo du lisest die büchlin schon. [Basel: Adam Petri, 1521]

42 pages; 21 cm (4to); A-D⁴ E⁶; VD16 N320; woodcut on title page, initials throughout.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1521 NAZA

An anti-Catholic tract warning against “wolves in sheep clothing,” written under the pseudonym of Judas Naraei.
CASE 19

Sermons

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Sermon on Meditating on Christ’s Holy Passion

Eyn Sermon von der Betrachtung des heyligen Leydens Christi Doctoris Martini Luther Augustiner zu Wittenbergk. (Nuremberg: Jobst Gutknecht, 1519?)

[8] pages; 19 cm (4to); A⁴; Benzing 319, VD16 L6516, WA 2,131; title page woodcut. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1519 LUTH KK

An early and very popular sermon by Martin Luther on the Suffering of Christ. The sermon, which went through 15 printings in its year of publication alone, was never preached and is not set to any particular Bible text. The title page woodcut depicts the familiar Ecce Homo (“behold the man”) motif of Christ as the “man of sorrows.”

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Sermon on Three Types of Justice


[8] pages; 22 cm (4to); A⁴; Benzing 252, VD16 L6021, WA 2,41; title within wood-engraved historiated architectural border; bound in modern red and green marbled paper over pasteboards. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1519 LUTH NN

In this Latin sermon, first preached in 1518, Luther distinguishes between three types of sin—1. transgressions against civil law, 2. essential or inborn sin as described in Ps. 51 and 3. original sin—and three corresponding types of righteousness. This sermon went through at least 9 printings between 1518 and 1520. The historiated title-page border has portraits at the base of Madonna and Child (born without original sin), a saint with a spear (representing worldly justice) and a canonized bishop with crosier (representing ecclesial justice).

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Sermon on the State of Matrimony


[10] pages; 21 cm (4to); 2a⁶ (2a⁶ blank); Benzing 369, VD16 L6306; WA 2,164G; title page woodcut border, half-page woodcut of Adam and Eve and their expulsion on verso of title page. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1519 LUTH YY

This sermon by Martin Luther on the subject of marriage was so popular that five printings were issued without Luther’s authorization and supervision. This is one eight subsequent printings issued the same year with Luther’s approval and corrections.
Martin Luther (1483-1546) - 
Postil for the Epistles and Gospels

Enarrationes
Epistolarum et
Evangeliorum, quas
Postillas vocant D.
Martini Lutheri
Vittembergen.
(Wittenberg:
Johannes
Grunenberg, 1521).

[88] pages; 21 cm
(4to); A-F4 χ 4
G-K4 (C-F, χ are
missigned and bound out of sequence in this
copy; Benzing 848, VD16 :4548, WA 7,459; title
within woodcut border; initial. Richard C. Kessler
Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library
1521 LUTH BB

Postils or collection of sermons on lectionary
readings were very popular. Elector Frederick the
Wise of Saxony ordered Luther to prepare this
postil in 1520. Later many of Luther’s sermons
were collected in postils and reissued numerous
times. The crest at the bottom of the title page
wood cut border is the coat of arms of the city of
Wittenberg--two towers with the coat of arms of
Saxony between them.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Sermon on
Preparing Oneself for Death

Ain Sermon von der Beraytung zum sterben
Doctor Martini Luthers Augustiner &c.
(Augsburg: Silvan Otmar, 1519).

[19] pages; 19 cm (4to); A6 B4 (B4 verso blank);
Benzing 442, VD16 L6473, WA 2,681H. Richard
C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts
Theology Library 1521 LUTH I

One of Luther’s most popular sermons (22
printings as well as various translations), written
at the request of his friend Georg Spalatin. The
sermon consists of 20 meditations on the subject
of a good and meaningful Christian death.
The title page woodcut depicting a dying man
surrounded by mourners was done by the artists
and woodengraver Hans Schäufelein, who had
studied with Albrecht Dürer and worked for
Hans Holbein.
Augsburg Confession

Philipp Melanchthon drafted the Augsburg Confession in both German and Latin using the Marburg, Schwabach and Torgau Articles. The 28 articles of the Confession were signed and presented to the Emperor Charles V by Elector John of Saxony, Margrave George of Brandenburg, Duke Ernest of Lüneburg, the Landgrave Philip of Hesse, the Prince Wolfgang of Anhalt, the representatives of Nuremberg and Reutlingen, as well as electoral prince John Frederick and Duke Francis of Lüneburg. The presentation of the Augsburg Confession was probably Melanchthon’s finest hour as a theologian, having produced a theological document that presented a reasonable compromise in the ongoing religious disputes in Germany. Luther himself said that he could never have “trod so lightly” in treating such matters. The Augsburg confession became the standard Lutheran statement of faith, and was included in the Book of Concord of 1580.

First of six German and one Latin unofficial printings of the Augsburg Confession. It was printed soon after the presentation of the Confession and before the Diet had concluded. Emperor Charles V had forbidden the printing of the text already at the Diet of Augsburg, but to no avail. Melanchthon, displeased with the text of these unofficial printings, and no longer feeling bound by the emperor’s restriction—since the decree had already been broken—issued his own edition of the text in Wittenberg in 1531.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Admonition to the Delegates Gathered at the Diet of Augsburg

During the Diet of Augsburg, Luther was not allowed to enter the city due to the imperial ban and stayed at Coburg Castle. His “Admonition” to the delegates at the Diet describes the history of the points at issue and explains the Protestant demands for reform.
Augsburg Confession (1531, German)


[498] pages (final page blank); 22 cm (4to); AA-GG4 HH2 II4; A-T4 a-z4 Aa-Mm4 (-Mm4, Mm3 verso blank); VD16 C4736; contemporary manuscript marginalia; separate title page of Apologia. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1531 CONF:2

First authorized German version of the Augsburg Confession, bound in a volume with the first authorized Latin version as well as other works and pamphlets. The Augsburg Confession was presented to the Emperor Charles V on Saturday, June 25, 1530, in two forms, a German and a Latin version. It was the German version that Vice-Chancellor Dr. Christian Beyer of Saxony read to the nobles and princes assembled at Augsburg at 3:00 p.m. These were not simple original and translation, but two independent versions of the same material. This is the first German printing (called in Latin Editio princeps et invariata). The Apology of the Augsburg Confession that Melanchthon wrote in 1530-1531 is included as part of both first printings. The German version of the Apology is a free paraphrase of the Latin version made by Justus Jonas, a Wittenberg Lutheran lawyer and translator. Because Jonas took so long to finish his work, the two versions were published separately. The German version appeared in the fall of 1531: the Latin version in April of that year.

Augsburg Confession (Variata, Latin, 1540)


44, 137 leaves; 19 cm (4to); [A]-Z⁴, a-x⁴, y⁵; VD16 C4713; title within ornamented border; Apologia has special title page and pagination. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1540 CONF

Sixth Latin edition of the Confessio Augustana, the third by the original printer. This edition came to be known as the “Variata,” as Philipp Melanchthon had introduced certain changes to the formulation of beliefs concerning the real presence of Christ in the eucharist. The Variata was signed by Jean Calvin, but was not accepted by all Lutherans. Lutheran churches often specify that they accept the unaltered edition of the Augsburg Confession (editio princeps) as opposed to the altered (variata).

The Marburg Articles (1529)

Wes sich D. Martinus Luther. etc. mit Huldrich Zwinglin. etc. der steitigen Articulen halb, vereynet vnd verglichen: auff der Convocation zu[o] Marpurg, den dritten Tag Octob. Im Jar, M. D. xxix. [Worms: Peter Schöffer, 1529]
The Colloquy of Marburg was a meeting arranged at the initiative of Philip of Hesse in an attempt to forge religious unity in Germany and mediate theological differences between Lutherans and Zwinglians. Agreement was found on fourteen articles, which came to serve as one of the preliminary statements for the Augsburg Confession a year later, but differences remained with regard to the Eucharist.

The Schwabach Articles (1530)


First edition of the Schwabach Articles, 17 articles of faith composed by Luther 1529 in Schwabach and presented for approval to the delegates of the cities from Southern Germany. It became one of the foundational documents for the Augsburg Confession.

CASE 21
Catechisms and Church Orders

Luther wrote his Small Catechism primarily for children and he intended it to be the starting point of religious instruction to be enriched by the study of the more elaborate Large Catechism. Based to a large extent on an earlier tract “A Brief Explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer”, first published in 1520, the publication of Luther’s two catechisms in 1529 was prompted directly by the reformer’s visit to the churches of Saxony and his surprise over the ignorance of both laity and clergy with regard to basic Christian teachings.

While catechisms were intended for the instruction of the individual within the context of family or congregation, church orders or church ordinances represent the general ecclesiastical constitution of a state. They were issued by the secular governments of cities or duchies, regulating worship, education and the ordination of clergy.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - A Short Form of the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer.

Eyn kurtz Form der czeben Gepot D.M.L. ; Ein kurtz Form des Glaubens ; Eyn kurtz Form dess Vater vnsers. Gedruckt zu Nürnbergk : Durch den Erssamen Friederichen Peypus, Jn dem Iar als man zelt nach Christi Geburt M.D. vnd XX 1520

First edition of the Schwabach Articles, 17 articles of faith composed by Luther 1529 in Schwabach and presented for approval to the delegates of the cities from Southern Germany. It became one of the foundational documents for the Augsburg Confession.
An early printing from the year of its first publication of a popular tract by Luther containing a simple explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer. This work became a predecessor of Luther’s Small Catechism, which is based on the same three elements.

**Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Small Catechism**


[172] pages; 17 cm (8vo); [A]-L²; Benzing 2619, VD16 L5061; bound in blind tooled pigskin, metal clasps. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1545 LUTH K:1

The second illustrated edition of Valentin Bapst’s publication of Luther’s small catechism. The work contains numerous wood engravings, depicting scenes from the Old and New Testament, and each page is set within an ornamental engraved border. The work is bound with three other titles, all published by Bapst:

1. Seelen Ertzney für die Gesunden und Krancken, a devotional work by the Augsburg reformer Urbanus Regius (Leipzig: Valentin Babst, 1545)

2. Ein einfeltige Weise zu beten, a short work on prayer by Martin Luther (Leipzig: Valentin Babst, 1545)


**Martin Luther (1483-1546) - Large Catechism**

_Deutsch Catechismus._ Mart. Luther. Gedruckt zu Wittenberg: durch Georgen Rhaw, M.D.XXIX.

[1], xcii leaves; 19 cm (4to); A-Y4 Z6 (-Z6); Benzing 2548, VD16 L4339; title within engraved, historiated, architectural, woodcut border (Luther’s coat of arms and Lamb of God above, Crucifixion below); initials throughout. On the verso of the last leaf are signatures in sixteenth to seventeenth-century hand of Johann Ernst von Schawn, and Georg Erasmus von Haritzisch. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1529 LUTH B

Luther’s Large Catechism grew out of three series of sermons preached in 1528-1529. Aimed particularly at clergy to aid them in teaching their congregations, it typifies the importance of knowing and understanding the articles of the Christian faith emphasized by Luther and other Reformers. The work is divided into five parts: (1) The Ten Commandments, (2) The Apostles’ Creed, (3) The Lord’s Prayer, (4) Holy Baptism, and (5) The Sacrament of the Altar. Displayed here is the first printing of the work. A second printing in 1529 included instructions about Confession.

**Community order for the City of Wittenberg (1522)**

_Ain lobliche Ordnung der fürstlichen Stat Wittemberg. Im tausent fünfhundert und zway und zwantzigsten Jar auffgericht._ [Augsburg: Melchior Ramminger], 1522.
3 leaves; 21 cm. (4to); A4 (–A4); VD16 W3697; vignette on title page, initials. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1522 WITT

Primarily drafted by Andreas Karlstadt in conjunction with a committee appointed by the University of Wittenberg, the earliest Protestant community order, which proposed a restructuring of the entire church system in Wittenberg. The same year, Luther returned to Wittenberg from the Wartburg, where he had been in protective custody, and opposed these changes, which were later only slowly introduced.

Johann Bugenhagen (1485–1558) - Church Order for the City of Braunschweig

Der Erbarn Stadt
Braunschwyg Christenliche
Ordenung zu Dienst
dem heiligen Euangelio,
christlicher Lieb, Zucht,
Fride, vnd Eynigkeite. Auch
darunter vil chrißtlicher

[260] pages; 16 cm. (8vo); A–P8 Q6 R4 (R4 verso blank); VD16 B7236; imprint from colophon; printer’s device below colophon; title within historiated architectural border (crucifixion in lower panel), initials (decorated and historiated), includes music, marginalia inscribed in an old hand. Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1531 BUGE

The first High German printing of the first major Lutheran church order, prepared by Johann Bugenhagen, pastor in Wittenberg and colleague of Luther at the university. It includes sections on the communal support of midwives and on public education. As Wittenberg’s chief pastor, Bugenhagen often spent extended periods of time away from Wittenberg to promote the Reformation elsewhere.

Church Order of Brandenburg-Nuremberg (1564)


[2], lvii, [1] leaves (final leaf blank); 31 cm. (folio); A–H³ G–I³ K–L³ (L4 blank); VD16 B6966; title page and some portions of text printed in red and black; bound in paneled, blind-stamped vellum over beveled wooden boards; inscribed on inside cover: Hanns Gübler, 1567; Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1564 EVAN:1

Drawing on Veit Dietrich’s Agendbüchlein, this church order—commonly referred to as the Brandenburg-Nürnberger Kirchenordnung—was compiled by Andreas Osiander with the assistance of Johann Brenz. It resulted from an ecclesiastical visitation organized by Georg, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach (whose territories did not include Brandenburg) jointly with the city of Nuremberg. This copy is bound with Andreas Osiander’s Catechismus oder Kindpredig (Nürnberg: Christoff Heussler, 1564).
Kessler Collection Publications

In its thirty years of existence, the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection has been of great interest to researchers and scholars and use of the collection is reflected in numerous studies. The Kessler Collection has also generated a number of its own publications, often focusing on a particular volume or a specific aspect of the collection.


FROM WITTENBERG TO ATLANTA

THE Richard C. Kessler REFORMATION COLLECTION AT 30 YEARS