



The famous incunabulum woodcut of the Dance of Death

SCHADEL, D. Hartmann.  
Septima etas mudi. Imago mortis.

Nuremberg: Anton Koberger, 1493, Latin text edition. Coloured woodcut, printed area 190 x 220mm, set in text.

£2,200

The famous scene of skeletons dancing on a grave, a medieval allegory reminding people that death comes to everyone, no matter what status they attain in life. The Latin verse underneath is an adaptation of Petrarch's homage to death, ending "Without you the life of the suffering is a perennial prison". The 'Liber Chronicarum' was first published in Latin on 12 July 1493, then a vernacular edition on the 23 December the same year. An estimated 1400-1500 Latin and 700-1000 German copies were printed.

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