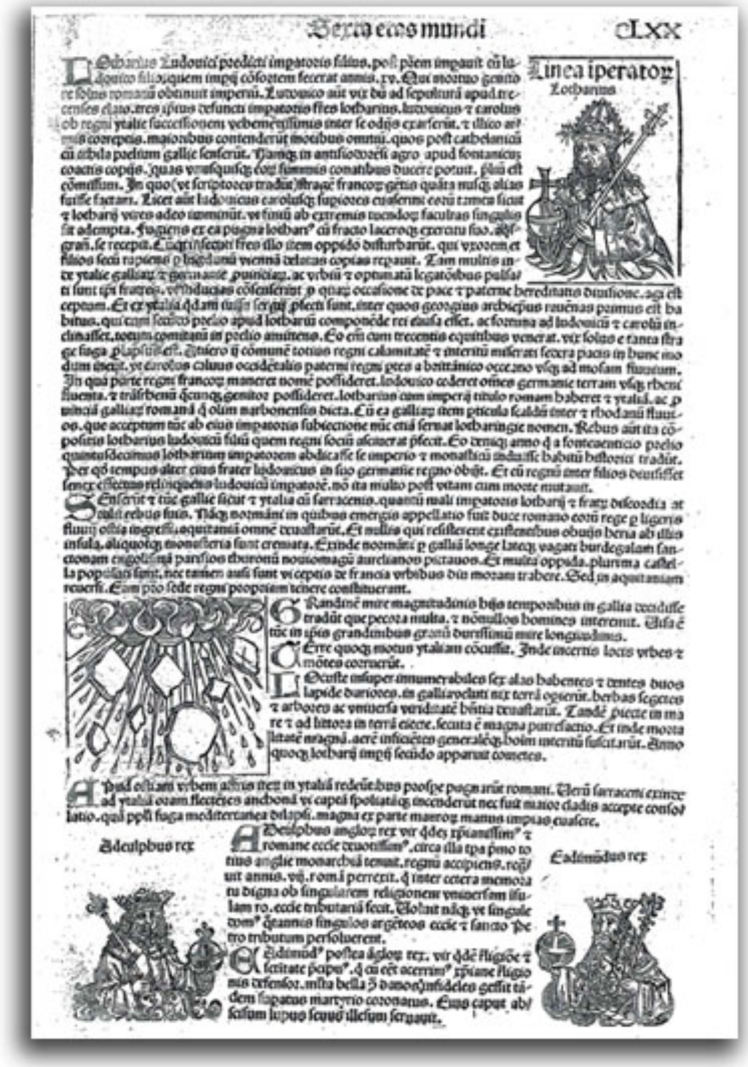
Sexta etas mundi CLXX

Linea imperatorum

Lotharius

Adeulphus rex

Eadmundus rex

Epiphany by Albrecht Durer (attributed). Cut c.1486-89.Published 1493Woodcut. Collection: FLG on loan to IADPublished in THE SPIRIT OF THE RENAISSANCE, 2007

NOTE: This explosive image of an epiphany – the Spirit of the Divine bursting into the material world – probably was cut by Durer. It must be among his earliest works, and is much more sophisticated than many of the rather crude woodcuts in this book. The page is from the Nuremberg Chronicle of 1493 which was a monumental history of the world and the most important illustrated book of the early Northern Renaissance. Durer (born 1471) worked on this book as a teenager between 1486 & 1489. His remarkable capacity to render dynamic images of the Transcendent seems to have started with this image and continued for the rest of his life. This very early image is obviously somewhat elementary, but it already speaks of his rapidly maturing specialization in luminosity. The intensity of his

luminous bursts of radiance in the form of halos, auras, and epiphanies is unmatched during the Renaissance. My attribution of this woodcut to Durer was confirmed by Gunther Troche, Director of the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Art at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco in 1970 when he was curating an exhibition of Durer prints.

Melancholia by Albrecht Durer: (1514). A later printing from the original plateEngraving. Collection: FLG on loan to IADEx. Collection: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York