Hartmann Schedel. *Secunda etas mundi; secunda etas müdi*, woodcut engraving on paper, 31 x 44 cm., by the workshop of Michael Wohlgemut and Wilhelm Pleydenwurfer, from Schedel, *Liber Chronicarum* (Nuremberg: Printed by Anton Koberger, 1493). The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections

Description: This page from the celebrated “Nuremberg Chronicle” of 1493 depicts the world as commonly known to most educated Europeans before the discoveries of Columbus in the Americas were understood. The woodcut map reflects a combination of ancient Greco-Roman geographical understanding with symbolism based upon Judaeo-Christian traditions. The shape of the map derives from textual descriptions of the world passed down through the Middle Ages from Ptolemy’s second-century *Geography* without great attention to detail. Twelve windheads surround the map, the outline of which is held up by three figures depicting the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, from whom all peoples in the three known continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe were believed to descend. To the left of the map are seven depictions of monstrous or freakish characters situated to suggest that such creatures inhabit the edges of the world. A further fourteen of these mythic monstrous figures, inspired by ancient sources such as Pliny, Pomponius Mela, Solinus, and Herodotus’ Fables appear on the reverse side of the page. – Ben W. Huseman