

Johannes Gutenberg (c. 1400- 1468) the invention of the printing press



Gutenberg: statue in Mainz



Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz (founded 1946, before: 1477-1816)



Mainz: map



Mainz (Mohuč)

Roman origins of the town:

Römersteine

(Roman stones)

- Remnants of a Roman aqueduct, northmost from Rome



Römisches Theater

Roman theatre

(10 thousand people)

Discovered 1914-1916



Mainz (Mohuč) up to Gutenberg's lifetime

Port on Rhine

Opposite Wiesbaden

- Celtic settlement

- Romans: 14-9 BC,

until 451 AD

1244 –free imperial city

„Golden Mainz“, Center of
Rhenish towns

14th century – archbishops of
M. chancellors and electors of
Holy Roman E.

1440- book printing

1460s – economic decline,
citizens deprived of privileges



In Gutenberg's time, Mainz, Germany, was a busy riverside town, as seen in this fifteenth-century illustration.

Johannes Gutenberg

Born:

Between 1394 and 1404

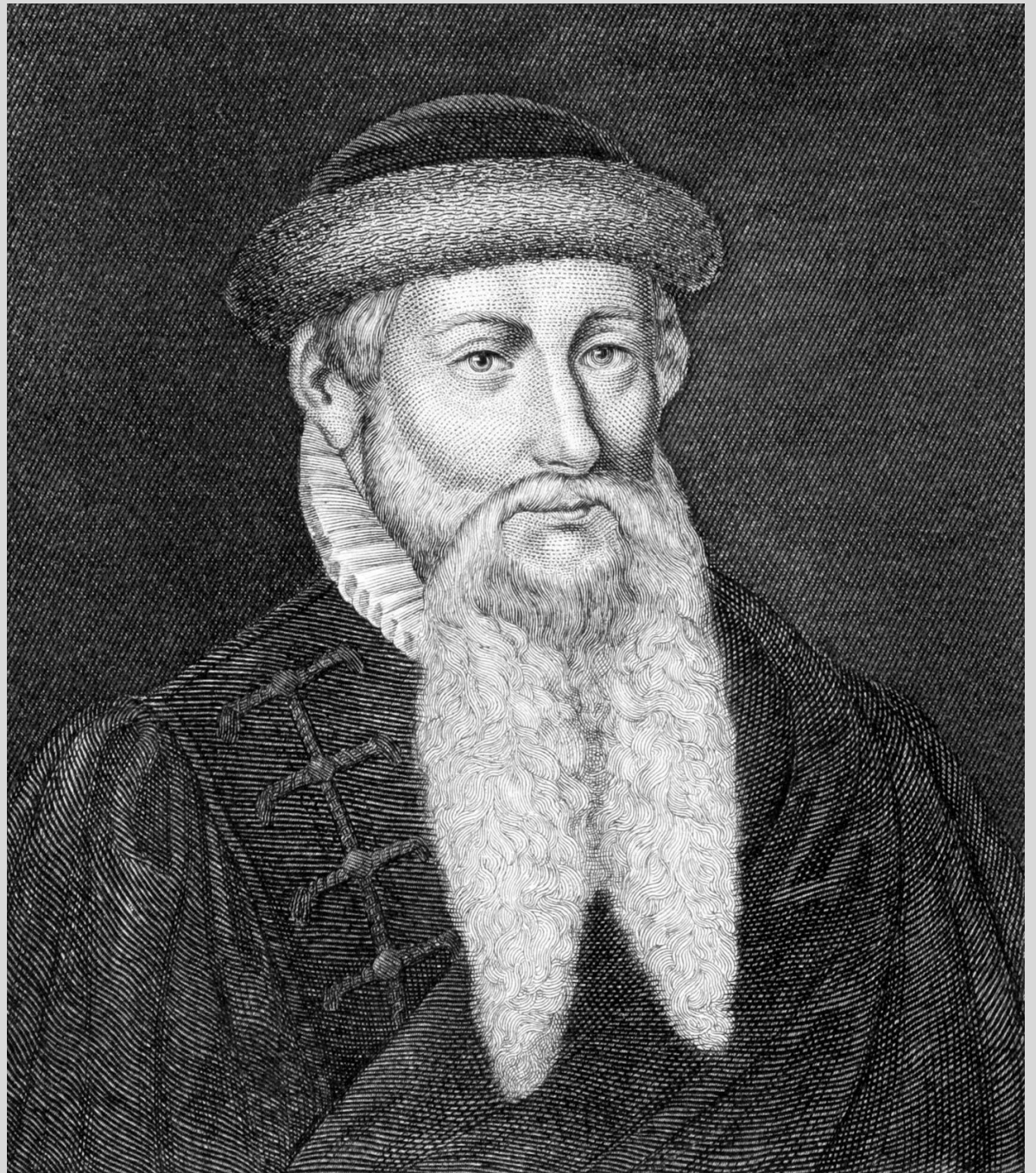
Johannes Night:

24 June

(summer solstice)

Arbitrary day of birth:

24 June 1400



Johannes de Altavilla (Eltville)

studied in Erfurt

Was it the same person?

(no portrait of him from his
time is preserved, anyway)

Father died 1418

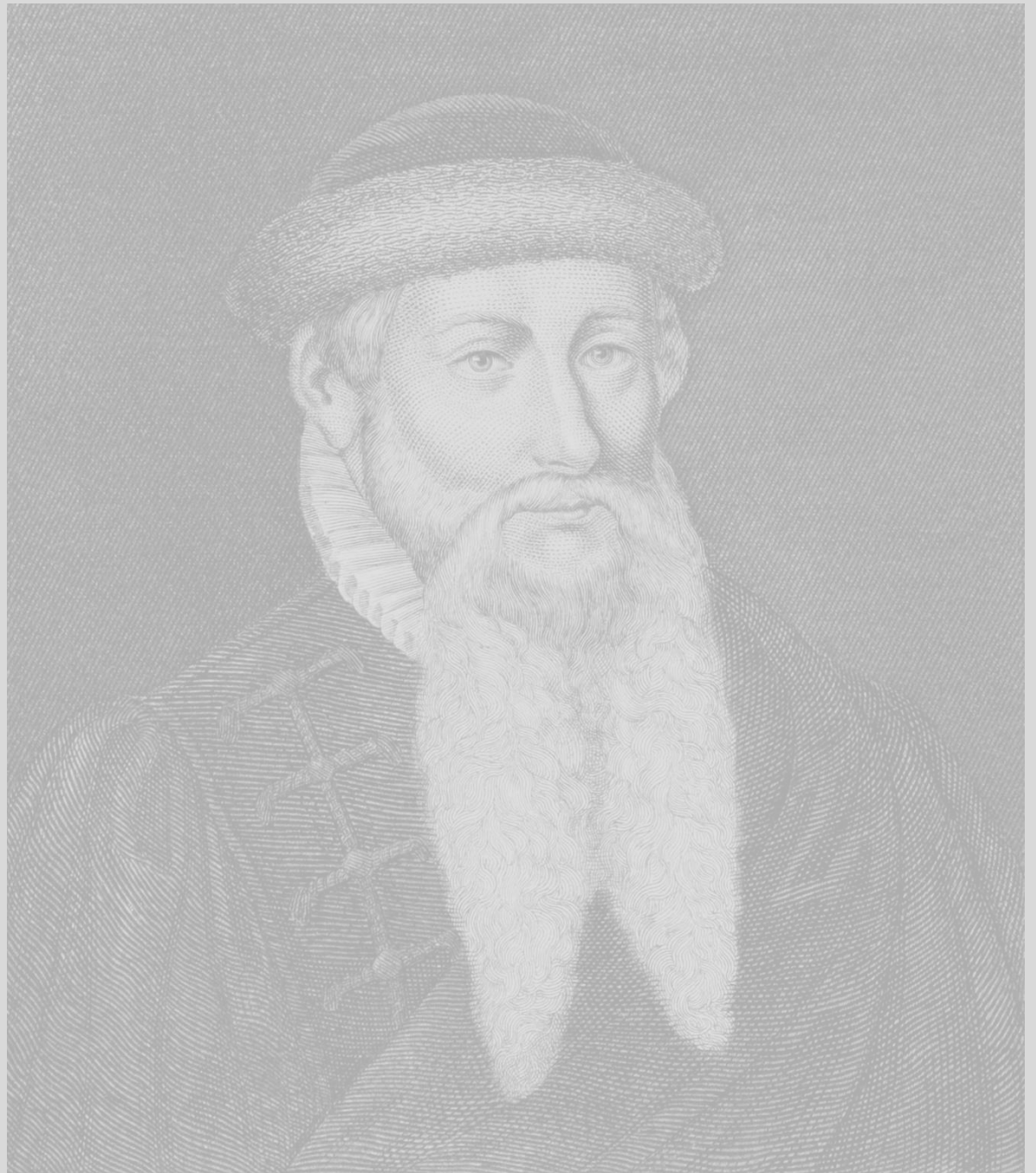
Mother died 1433

Strassbourg

Holland:

wooden block printing?

Not durable



Book by Diana Childress (Twenty-First Century Books, MN, 2008)

Interesting:

American perspective

What do we need to explain?

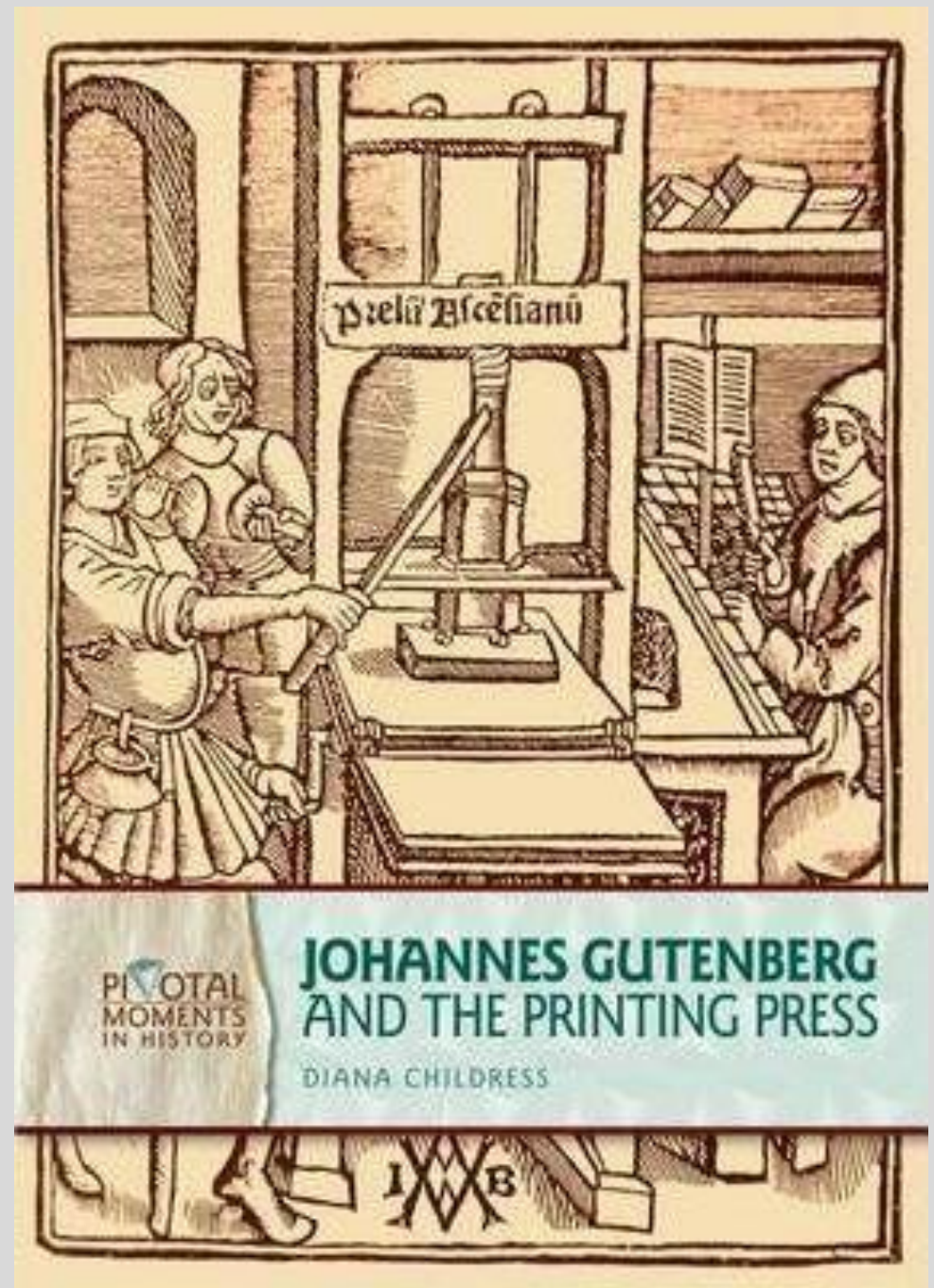
Where Germany is

The notion of Central Europe

(universities: Charles U.)

Pilgrimage badges

(tourist bumpers)



Map of Germany today

Rhineland

Frankfurt (am Main)

Mainz - Mohuč

Aachen - Cáchy

Cologne – Kolín (nad Rýnem)

Erfurt

Nuremberg - Norimberk

Augsburg

Munich - Mnichov

(Berlin)



Medieval scribes (monasteries)



Remarks on language

- Monastery
- Nunnery
- Novice
- Religious order
- Jesuits
- Franciscans
- Benedictines
- ...
- Pope
- Archbishop
- Bishop
- Parish
- Church
- Cathedral

Paper- making: handmade paper



Printing

- Vellum
- Durable, reusable material
- Stamping – known
- How else / Where else do we press?
- Wine press
- Oil press
- Did he also invent punch-matrix system for casting metal type?

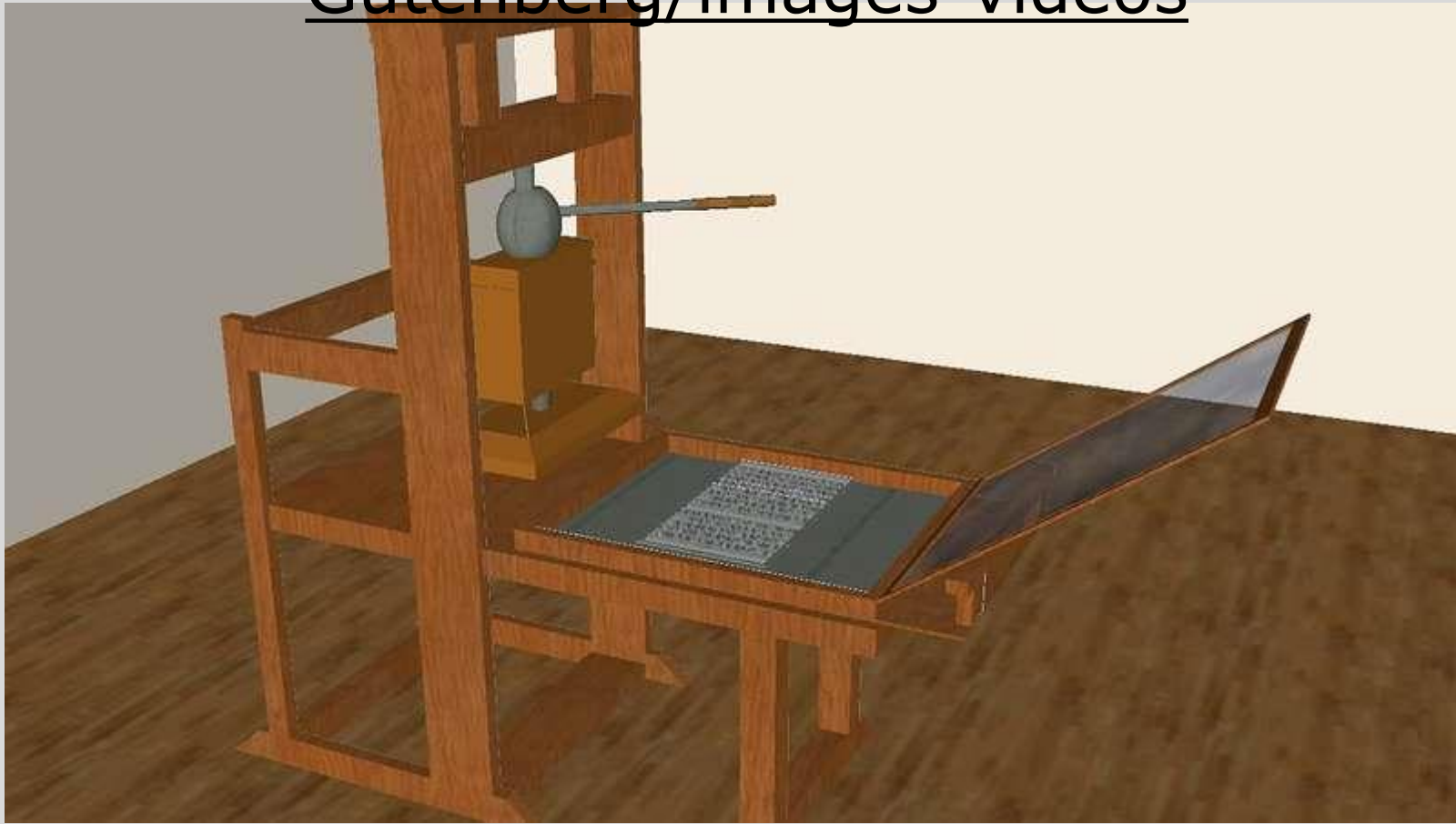
Artist's interpretation: first prints by JG



What would you print, if you lived then?



<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Johannes-Gutenberg/images-videos>



and a demonstration of the operation, live:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLctAw4JZXE>

Gutenberg museum, Mainz (founded 1900)

