

Kalender mit wichtigen Begebenheiten als Randillustration aus dem Jahre 1715. Gedruckt von Joh. Ulrich Krauß, Augsburg. Illustrationen in Kupferstich. Kalender in Buchdruck nachgedruckt

Calendar with important events depicted in border of the year 1715. Printed by Joh. Ulrich Krauß, Augsburg. Copperplated Illustrations. Printed Calendar added later

of calendars which deserve particular attention with regard to the further development of calendar illustration, particularly in Germany. To the first group belong the revolving calendars dating from the last years of the Middle Ages. The second group shows illustrated calendars from the first half of the 18th century. The first group, in which the examples date from 1500–1540, are really more planetaria. Particularly interesting is the technical perfection of the tables which are made to revolve or superimpose one upon another in the manner of our calculating tables of to-day. The reading of the individual positions is facilitated by a string which is secured to the centre of the circle. In some cases as many as five or six revolving wheels lie one above another. These revolving calendars and planetaria are still built up on the supposition that the earth is the fixed centre of the planetary system... The next group of illustrated calendars is rendered particularly interesting by the fact that the pictorial decoration is copperplate engraving, whereas the calendar itself is added in plain printing. These printed calendars always have the signs of the zodiac added.

The two calendars printed on pages 61 and 62, the work of the Augsburg printer and copper engraver Johann Ulrich Krauss, are ancestors of the illustrated annual calendar which afterwards became the usual type; for in their bordering illustration they depict the important events of the past year.

It would finally be interesting to ascertain just where the wild confusion of taste in calendar production began which is so obvious and universal to-day. But perhaps the mere fact of drawing attention to these good old examples may suffice to inspire a reform of the illustrated calendar.

Trans. by E. T. Scheffauer.

