Erhard Ratdolt Encyclopedia Article

Erhard Ratdolt

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1447-1528

German printer and type-cutter who published the first book using more than two different colors of ink on one page. In 1482, Ratdolt printed an edition of the *Elements* by Euclid (c. 325-c. 250 B.C.), which was the first printed book illustrated with geometric figures. Three years later, in 1485, he published *De sphaera* by English mathematician Johannes de Sacrobosco (a.k.a. John of Holywood, c. 1200-1256), which contained pages using more than two colors. Ratdolt was also the originator of the decorated title page.