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Chancellor's Advisory Council
Koenig Alumni Center
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“Future of Public Research Universities and Innovations in Education”

“There’s a tsunami coming”
 —President John Hennessy of Stanford

“Assuming an average print run to be no greater than 500, then about 20 million books were printed *before 1500.*”
 —Lucien Febvre and Henri-Jean Martin, *The Coming of the Book*

Looking to the Past to see the Future

1. *La grante danse macabre*, Matthias Hus, Lyons, 1499 (British Library IB. 41735)
2. Based on Guy Marchants’s Latin edition of 1492
3. “Death and the Printers”

DEATH

Come dance a tourdion,
 Come on, printers, swiftly!
 Come quickly, for you can be certain
 that you will die in the end.
 Admit defeat with resignation:
 You will have to leave your presses and cases.
 You will never be able to draw back.
 From the work one can recognize the worker.

PRINTERS

Alas, where shall we find recourse
 When death has spied us out?
 We have printed the entire course of holy
 theology, law, decretals, and poetry.
 Through our art many are great clerics,
 the clergy have been raised up.
 Human desires are diverse.

DEATH

I am in advance, you go after:
 Master Bookseller, march forth!
 You see that I am very near,
 Leave your books now.
 You must dance such a galant.
 Put your thought here:
 No matter how you might
 wish to go,
 The beginning is not lasting.

THE BOOKSELLER

I must dance despite myself.
 I believe that indeed death presses
 on me
 And forces me to advance,
 Despite harsh distress.
 I must leave my books
 And my shop henceforth,
 In which I reveled so much.
 Such is the wound against which
 I can do nothing.