



BRIDWELL LIBRARY, PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY // ISSUE 6 // WINTER 2020

The Bridwell Quarterly

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SMU LIBRARIES

BRIDWELL LIBRARY
PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The Bridwell Quarterly: Welcome

Anthony J. Elia, Director of Bridwell Library and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian

Dear Friends,

Winter is a season when dormancy seems most prevalent. The temperatures plummet, the skies cloud over, and the sun retreats regularly from our view. It also rains more and the shorter days force us indoors and into warmer, brighter, and more comfortable spaces. Trees are mostly absent of foliage, grasses are brown, and a general pall is cast upon the earth and its cities and towns. Yet even if these conditions are what we see, we are far from dormancy—a word shared with the biblical idea of sleep: like Mary's *dormition*.

When circumstances and conditions appear like this, as if we push against the outside world and ignore it, and inside there is a dream world separate from the real world, we may be missing the reality. Like our Bridwell Library these several weeks since the December holiday closure, we have had to shut down the building due to more extensive demolitions of concrete walls and floors in the center of the library. Our doors are closed, our halls and rooms are stripped of their paneling, our working spaces and staff gathering rooms are mostly vacant, but we are still here...working, assisting, instructing, responding, and continuing our responsibilities and jobs for patrons and our community.

Having temporary spaces in the buildings of Perkins School of Theology has afforded us new opportunities and circumstances to build relationships within Bridwell and the larger community and better understand how best to serve our constituents. In December we hosted Dean Hill's annual Christmas party. We hung beautiful verdant and bowed wreaths under our light sconces welcoming visitors to our library, and as the month of December wound down, many of us packed up our office spaces, desks, and shelves, and moved over to shared spaces in Kirby, Selecman, and Prothro Halls. Now nearly two months into the winter, and two months into the "building exile," we're adapting and learning how best to be the stewards of the library and providers to our patrons and community under these conditions.

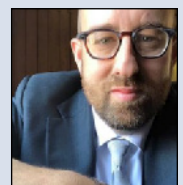
In some ways, working within the reconditioned building, as well as in the spaces of Perkins and SMU Libraries around campus, feels like what it might be to work in an ant colony—the shifting sands of a deep, burrowed tunnel-network, with industrious workings of specialists, making certain that the whole unit is successful and thriving. Indeed, it is like this even when all we see from the surface is a small hill of turned up soil, almost like the uneven squares of semi-dry turf on the lawns outside Bridwell, instead of the myrmecological magic that goes on in spaces unseen. We are people though—not ants!

As we look forward to spring and the extension of days, warmer weather, and the ongoing renewal of our facility, we continue to plan, strategize, and be creative around our institution and its parts. We are happy to announce the establishment of the Theological Writing Center in this issue—a much-needed addition to the Perkins community. Also, we have many burgeoning projects and plans around expanding our outreach and instruction in Special Collections, which we'll be writing about in forthcoming issues of *The Bridwell Quarterly*, and want to point you to the intersection of Special Collections and Writing in our piece on p. 6 by Arvid Nelsen, who spoke to Bridwell's in-house staff writing workshop Ink Tank, founded by Jane Elder earlier last year.

With all of these activities, it is hard to imagine that Bridwell or the winter are really dormant. There is much below the surface, and much to discover. So keep searching, keep asking, and keep engaging with us and your friends, colleagues, teachers, students and community. And you'll find that we are living and thriving, indeed now more than ever.

Thank you again for your support.

Anthony



Announcements



RELOCATION CONTINUES THROUGH THE SPRING SEMESTER

Due to construction delays the relocation of Bridwell services will continue through the spring semester until further notice. Our staff is still available to provide the same services as before. We apologize for any inconvenience. www.smu.edu/bridwell



BRIDWELL ESTABLISHES NEW WRITING CENTER

This semester, Bridwell Library is establishing a new Theological Writing Center. Though we will remain out of the building for the next few months during renovations, this center will continue to provide writing services for students from Prothro 204. See p. 8 for details.



BRIDWELL FELLOWSHIPS 2020–2021

Fellowship applications are now being accepted through Wednesday, March 18, 2020 (extended from prior deadline of Feb. 26). Read more about the application process on page 5.

<https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/About/ResearchStudy/BridwellFellowships>

ONLINE EXHIBITION

*The Shape of Content in
Christian Books, Broad-sides, and
Devotional Objects*

Originally exhibited August 24–
December 18, 2015

Online Only

From the late Middle Ages through the twentieth century, books produced for Christian worship, study, or private devotion have taken a great variety of shapes. Their many sizes, configurations, systems of organization, and special features have varied widely according to the requirements of their contents and the needs of their owners. This exhibition explores how handwritten or printed examples of Christian texts from past centuries have transcended traditional expectations, bringing new meaning and enhanced understanding to their readers.

<https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/SpecialCollectionsandArchives/Exhibitions/ShapeofContent>



For other event details, visit Bridwell Library's website: <https://libcal.smu.edu/Calendar/Bridwell>
Bridwell Special Collections is open by appointment only: <https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/About/ContactUs>

Library Hours: <https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/About/Hours>

BQ Online: <https://blog.smu.edu/Quarterly> // BQ Layout & Design: Michelle Ried

Texas A&M Visit

Anthony Elia, Director

On a balmy November weekend, I had the opportunity to travel down to College Station, Texas to visit the campus and libraries of Texas A&M University. I made the three-hour drive to consult the expansive collections of the university libraries, conduct some research, and visit another presidential library—this time the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Living in Dallas and working on the SMU campus, we might often take for granted that we have a presidential library of our own within steps of our offices. The George W. Bush Library, its archives, collections, and even Café 43 is an exceptionally well-designed cultural site. Curiously, though both presidential libraries were designed by different firms, they have uncanny similarities in their architecture. Another distinction that was evident on the A&M campus was the presence of a regal horse statue called *The Day the Wall Came Down* (1996) by Veryl Goodnight in honor of the Berlin Wall being torn down, located just outside the George H. W. Bush (41) Library. SMU, as many readers know, has its own statue called *The Mustangs* (2005) by sculptor Miley Frost, which is only a block away from the George W. Bush (43) Library. The A&M campus is expansive and known for its agricultural history and emphasis (it stands for “Agricultural and Mechanical”), yet has a broad and deep collection of materials in all disciplines. The main library and annex include accommodating spaces for all patrons to work, individually and collaboratively.



Bridwell Library's Fellowship Program 2020/2021



Bridwell Library announces its annual call for applications for the 2020–2021 Fellowship year. Each year Bridwell Library (Perkins School of Theology/SMU Libraries) offers fellowships promoting independent study through on-site access to the library's rich collection of resources. Bridwell Library Visiting Scholar's Fellowships promote and facilitate scholarship requiring use of the library's rare books, manuscripts, or archives collections; Bridwell Library Center for Methodist Studies Fellowships promote and facilitate scholarship in Wesleyan traditions; The Bridwell Library Visiting Minister's Fellowship promotes and facilitates reflective study for active clergy persons. Bridwell Library holds over 400,000 volumes on religion, theology, and related fields and offers access to more than one million Methodist-related archival documents, photographs, and recordings. Special collections include extensive holdings in theological, liturgical, and devotional texts from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, with particular emphasis on English sermons, religious polemics, and church history. In addition, Bridwell Library houses a significant Bible collection, including medieval manuscripts and scrolls, major monuments of fifteenth-century printing, important translations and commentaries of the Reformation period, missionary Bibles in diverse languages, and modern fine press editions. To be considered, all application materials must be received by Bridwell Library by Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Awards will be announced by Wednesday, March 25, 2020. For more information and to apply for a fellowship with Bridwell Library, please visit <https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/About/ResearchStudy/BridwellFellowships>.

Powerwashing Bridwell's Bricks

In November 2019, construction crew members powerwashed the north side of Bridwell Library, which had accumulated decades of dust, dirt, and grime. The resulting cleanse revealed a brighter and cleaner façade. Staff members commented: "who knew how therapeutic it would be to watch them clean bricks and grout!?"



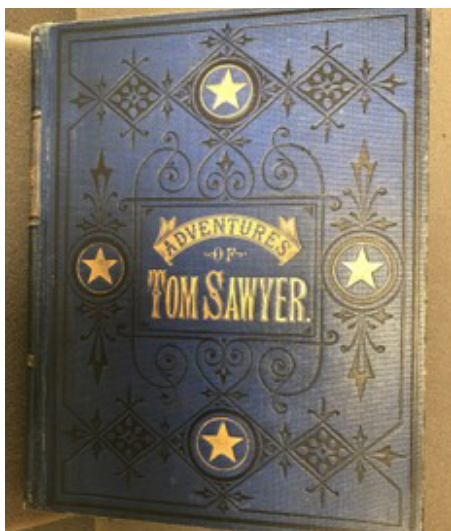
Special Collections in the Ink Tank

Arvid Nelsen, Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarian

In December, the Bridwell Ink Tank, a group of writers from among the students and staff of Perkins School of Theology, visited Bridwell Special Collections as a holiday treat. Jane Elder, the group's organizer, invited me to show off some of the library's "more literary" materials. Seven participants joined me in the Hamon Arts Library, which has generously allowed me to host classes and other groups during Bridwell's renovations.

Ink Tank members enjoyed hearing about and examining first editions of such historically significant works as Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin: or, Life Among the Lowly* (Boston: John P. Jewett & Company; Cleveland, Ohio: Jewett, Proctor & Worthington, 1852, c1851) and the first American edition of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Hartford, CT: American Pub. Co.; San Francisco, CA: A. Roman; 1876, c1875). They were also excited to see the first American edition of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (New York, D. Appleton and Co., 1866) and the 1872 first edition of *Through the Looking Glass: and What Alice Found There* (London: Macmillan and Co., 1872). All four of these books came from the Ruth and Lyle Sellers Medical Collection.

Members of the group expressed particular appreciation of a small sampling of Bridwell's artists' works. The selection included fine bindings, an edition of Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* illustrated by Barry Moser (West Hatfield, MA: Printed by Harold McGrath, Pennyroyal Press; 1985) and a unique three-dimensional production of Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, depicting the head of the hound, by Jan and Jarmila Sobota (Loket, Czech Republic, 2006).



Clouds Over Bridwell

During some late evenings in December, patrons, staff, and other visitors saw how beautifully rich the sky was “painted” by a smattering of billowy clouds. This one particular evening, the moon could be seen glowing every so often from behind one or another cumuliform floating over Bridwell.



Ducking Under Doorways



Days and hours before the demolition of the mezzanine level of Bridwell Library, a few members of the Perkins community stopped by to pose under the low-hanging ceiling of the soon-to-be former circulation and public services space. Dean Hill offered to pose his enduring height (a few times) under the boxy ceiling, as did Stephen Bagby and Sally Hoover.

Bridwell Establishes New Writing Center

Bridwell Library announces that it will be establishing a Theological Writing Center (TWC) starting in the present Spring 2020 semester. Over the last few years the need for student writing assistance and services has increased and the faculty and staff of Perkins School of Theology and Bridwell Library have been actively engaged with strategizing around those needs. In 2019, after assessing methods of reading, research, and writing, along with current available writing support options on campus, accessibility issues, and measurable progress of student writing, the logical step was to establish a permanent center that would address the writing needs of Perkins students. The Theological Writing Center will be headed by veteran Bridwellian Jane Elder (r.) and assisted by Leslie Fuller (l.), who recently joined us as the Reference and Digital Services Librarian. If you have any questions about the center, please contact Jane (jelder@smu.edu) or Leslie (lfuller@smu.edu) for information and appointments.



Israeli Music Scholar Visits Bridwell

Early in the fall of 2019, Jane Larkin, the Dallas Director of the American Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, contacted Bridwell Library about a possible visit by the esteemed Israeli scholar of medieval music, Dr. Yossi Maurey. Ms. Larkin had connected with Bridwell staff a year earlier, when reaching out to Bridwell's director Anthony Elia, who is an alumnus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Bridwell staff members Rebecca Howdeshell, Arvid Nelsen, and Jon Speck prepared items for Dr. Maurey's visit. Many of the items selected were liturgical works of stunning decorative design, and everyone who participated in the viewing was delighted by the discussions around the texts and the enthusiasm of our international visitor. Dr. Maurey is currently Senior Lecturer in the Department of Musicology at the Hebrew University and also Department Chair. As his university website details: "He specializes in medieval sacred music, liturgy, and ritual, and has a special interest in the confluence of theology, music, manuscript culture and ideology. Maury's monograph *Medieval Music, Legend, and the Cult of St Martin: The Local Foundations of a Universal Saint* appeared in 2014 with Cambridge University Press. The book won the 2015 Polonsky Prize for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines." Dr. Maurey noted that he would encourage graduate students to conduct further studies of Bridwell's exceptional holdings.



Israeli Music Scholar Visits Bridwell



Bridwell Library's 2019/2020 Fellowship Program: Meet Our Fellows

This year we asked the Bridwell Fellows to reflect on their experiences during their visits with the following questions: What was the topic you came to research? What did you find most helpful or surprising in the research and the collections? What recommendations do you have for future applicants? Their experiences and discoveries come through in their various comments that follow.

Ronald Patkus

Associate Director of the Libraries for Special Collections and Adjunct Associate Professor of History on the Frederick Weyerhaeuser Chair, Vassar College

For some years I have been engaged in a study of private and fine press Bibles. These texts represent a remarkable contribution to both printing and biblical studies, but have not received the attention they deserve. In 2017 I published *The Privately Printed Bible: Private and Fine Press Editions of Biblical Texts in the British Isles and North America, 1892–2017* (Oak Knoll Press); much of my research for that book was done at the Bridwell Library, drawing on its deep holdings. A follow-up project for me has been to focus on private and fine press Bibles produced in Western Europe. I also have been interested in French livres d'artiste with biblical texts, since many of these are finely printed as well. During the summer of 2019, thanks again to a Bridwell research fellowship, I was able once more to look closely at a number of key works. Of special note were books of early German private presses like the Ernst Ludwig Presse and the Bremer Presse; livres d'artiste by artists such as François-Louis Schmied, Marc Chagall, and Salvadore Dalí; and titles produced in Italy by Alberto Tallone, and Hans Mardersteig's Officina Bodoni. Staff in the Library made me feel welcome and offered great assistance during my stay; I encourage all fellows to reach out to them for their knowledge and expertise!

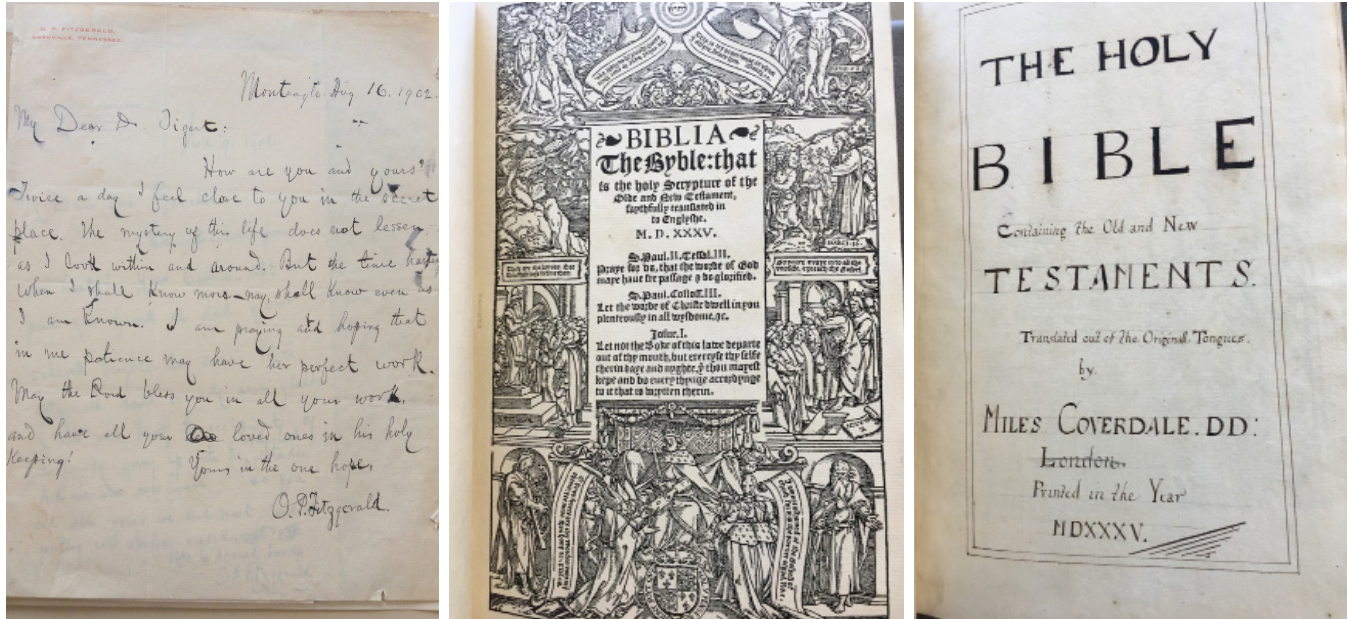


Andrew Wood

Archives Assistant, Montgomery County Archives and Records Center, Dayton, Ohio

I focused on the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South from c. 1880–1920. My dissertation had concentrated on the influence of Methodist weekly newspaper editors in polity and political debates. However, in the process I realized historians' sometimes haphazard approach to clergy biography. For example, we know more about a handful of holiness preachers in this era than we do the ten MECS bishops, who may have been the most empowered Methodist Episcopal college ever.

As many interpretations of the era center on the agendas of elite clergy, that omission needs correcting. I discovered the importance of collectors, donors, and archivists. Many of the richest collections had been assembled by later bishops, one of whom was mostly interested as a signature collector. I also discovered that archivists' knowledge of the period and subject matter can be extremely helpful to researchers like myself who knew some things but little about others. At Bridwell, I found both strong collections and a great archivist like Tim Binkley who knew the material. I would encourage others to apply for the fellowships! Do enough research before arrival to prioritize your research but take the opportunity to explore sources that are surprisingly helpful. Lastly, discuss your plans as you are developing them with the archives staff. The fellowships are wonderful opportunities. I am grateful for the support for Methodist history! I hope the financial support, staff, and Methodist collections continue to grow! Thank you!



LEFT: Manuscript letter of O.P. Fitzgerald, from research conducted by Dr. Andrew Wood

CENTER and RIGHT: The first complete English Bible (Coverdale, 1535), which features significant marginalia, decorative initials, and no shortage of sea monsters

Robert Turner

Library Director, Harding School of Theology

The topic of my research was English Bibles, particularly those that predate 1611. That date was the genesis for the book that would become the bestselling, most influential book in the Western canon for centuries. But that date is not the starting point for the Bible in English. For that, one needs to reach back a century earlier. At Bridwell, I was able to view the various English Bibles that prepared the way for the King James (1611), such as Coverdale (1535) and the Matthew Bible (1551). My time also allowed me to view other editions: Taverner (1551), Bishops' (1572), and Cranmer (1574). When I entered the vault I was overwhelmed, not only from what I could preview in one week---but by the lifetimes it would actually take to work through its many volumes. During research visits like this one, time is the most valuable resource. Being in one place that has so many of the items that one would need makes Bridwell an exceptional experience. I opted for cheaper housing outside of the city and took the DART in each day. I also found the time scheduled with various Bridwell staff to be really helpful, but I might put these interviews toward the front of the week in hopes of understanding the offerings and facility as early as possible. I would encourage all researchers to take advantage of the program.

Derick Cordoba

Unit One Music Coordinator, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In July of 2019 I had the pleasure of spending two weeks expanding my research on the first liturgical jazz service. Ed Summerlin's jazz liturgy, composed after the tragic death of his young daughter Mary Jo, was first used in a service of worship in the chapel of the Southern Methodist University in Dallas on Wednesday May 20, 1959. The generous Bridwell Library Visiting Scholar Fellowship provided me with the opportunity to dive deeper into the service than time and money had allowed during my dissertation. One of the most surprising facts I learned during my time was that Perkins School of Theology had planned on bringing Summerlin's nonet back to do the service again in 1960 but Summerlin had already disbanded the group and moved to New York. There was also a wealth of documentation surrounding the service that provided me deeper insight into its origin, performance, and reception. I would certainly recommend that people not underestimate the amount of materials in the collection at Bridwell. I used every minute of my two weeks and found fantastic new materials and information in surprising places. In closing, I would like to thank all the staff which were so helpful and welcoming.



Members of Perkins School of Theology staff and faculty, UT Denton Jazz Ensemble, and Dr. Derrick Cordoba.

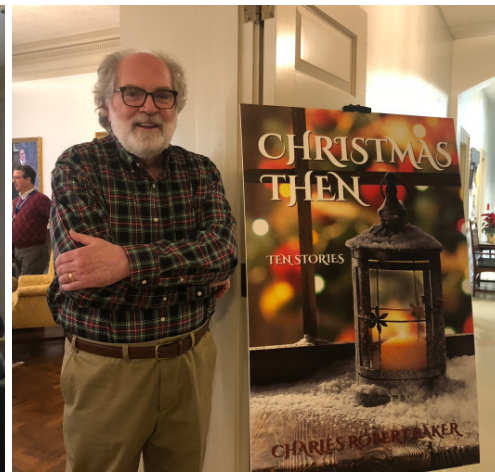
Joseph Dodson

Associate Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary

I cannot say enough wonderful things about my time at the Bridwell Library. I came to research what John Wesley wrote about Romans 7 for a forthcoming book with Lexham on that chapter, as well as for a commentary on Romans for Brill. The generous staff went above and beyond to help me out: despite their having to scramble around to get ready to move out halfway through the week due to construction. I would particularly like to thank Michelle Ried, Jane Elder, and Tim Binkley for their labor of love and their sincere interest in my work. In addition to having access to the main stacks, which were exceedingly helpful alone, Tim guided me in researching some of Wesley's rare books. (The highlight of my trip!) As if the treasures of the library weren't enough, the ever-delightful Bart Patton gave me a tour of the beautiful campus, including the amazing art museum across the street from Bridwell. I was surprised at how much work I got done that week, but even more surprised at how much personal soul care the opportunity afforded me. I left not only with a full notebook but also with a full heart.

Charles Baker Presents *Christmas Then*

On Thursday, December 19, 2019 in Kirby Parlor, Bridwell Library hosted a gathering of community members, who came to meet and hear Mr. Charles Baker give a reading from his newly published book of short stories. Charles Baker is a retired Bridwell cataloguer, who has had a long vocation in writing short fiction. His new book is titled *Christmas Then: Ten Stories*, which has been well-received in its initial publication leading up to Christmas 2019. Charles' other works include biographical essays on the lives of James Fenimore Cooper, Truman Capote, and J. K. Rowling, which were included in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*. More than two dozen people were in attendance, and as Charles read from his stories, leaving the crowd in suspense over one particular tale, the group enjoyed an afternoon of warm cheer, hot cocoa, cookies, and camaraderie.



Advent at Perkins Chapel

Bridwell Library staff and the greater Perkins community have a long history of participating in the Advent service every year at Perkins Chapel. Dr. Christopher Anderson (below left center, flanked by Drs. Steuernagel and Campbell) did an exceptional job undertaking the design, direction, and performance of this year's Advent service. This was the sixtieth anniversary of Perkins services in honorem Jane Manton Marshall (1924–2019), former professor at Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Anderson's organ selections included rhythmic minimalist works by Arvo Pärt (b. 1935) and Daniel Pinkham (1923–2006), which beautifully articulated the emotion of the service, along with the late professor Marshall's *Song of Simeon*.



A Specktacular Vocation: Q&A with Jon Speck



The Bridwell Quarterly interviewed Jon Speck, Director of Operations and Exhibitions Designer at Bridwell Library and asked him about his experiences as a veteran staff member.

Q: How long have you been at Bridwell?

A: Thirty years from my first day, September 1, 1989. The finishing touches of that building renovation were still being attended to and an early duty of mine was to compile a “punch list” of issues for the contractor to address. I was offered a small office, room 212 adjacent to the Benefactors Room. After the first week I moved to the future conservator’s office, leaving room 212 to the storage of stacking chairs and slide projectors and a more recent occupation by the Bridwell director displaced by our current construction. My first assignment was to inventory art and artifacts stored in basement room 13. I unboxed, unwrapped, measured, wrote descriptions, installed, and found more suitable locations for the treasures. Once room 13 was cleared I adopted it as my office/exhibit workroom/photographic studio.

Q: What was one of your most unusual memories?

A: It’s hard to isolate one. The strongest memories are of people I’ve worked with here, reminders today of what those people taught me and how fond I become of them. More unusual memories might include brushes with noted luminaries that visited, from a glimpse of the king and queen of Spain and architect Santiago Calatrava entering Perkins Chapel, to discussions with artist Leonard Baskin, retailer Stanley Marcus, and study Bible author Charles Ryrie as they entrusted me to exhibit their collections; from witnessing the arrival of Laura Bush for her interview with Wolf Blitzer in the Blue Room, to sightings of George McGovern and David Eisenhower in the building to celebrate our exhibit on presidential campaign memorabilia; from brief exchanges with Ross Perot as he loaned us items from his collection, to the friendly outreached hand and introduction “I’m Boone Pickens” during a library tour; from meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury and his wife in the Benefactors Room, to opening the Bridwell front door for the Ecumenical Patriarch

of Constantinople. And yet those names may pale when set against “world changers” represented in our rare book vault. Even the anonymous recorder who incised in cuneiform or hieroglyphic, the writer on papyrus, the medieval craftsman who applied gold leaf to a vellum page of minuscule, the Kaifeng scribe who copied the Torah onto skins, or Gutenberg and Caxton, Bruegel, Dürer, and Rembrandt, Matisse, Picasso, and Rouault, our John and his jolly brother Charles, are particularly memorable among the permanent residents.

Q: What are some of Bridwell’s hidden secrets (at least until you share!)?

A: There are ghost stories, and there is also a mummy, and a crown allegedly carved from human bone. Those have been around for some years. Recently, however, secret windows (right) were uncovered in the center of the building by the demolition crew. Walled off during construction of the 1973 annex, in 1951 the windows would have opened out from the mezzanine into an open meadow to the north. Perhaps someone pecking at a typewriter in the cramped quarters was refreshed by a spring breeze. Soon the windows will be closed off again, preserved, but forgotten until their rediscovery during a future alteration of the building.

Q: What do you enjoy working on most?

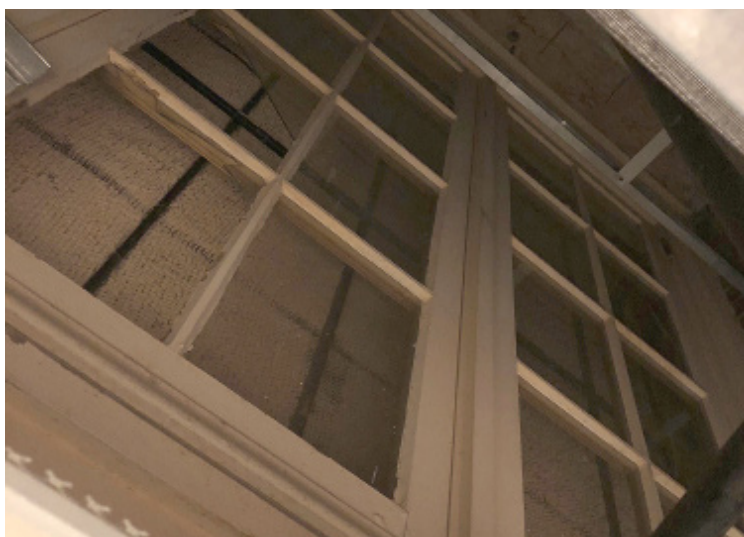
A: I enjoy putting pieces together in ways that make sense at a number of levels, in arrangements that may reveal previously unseen connections. When all goes well fitting items into an exhibit allows me to achieve that. Designing a printed piece or publication is another opportunity. In the same way sometimes decisions I’m able to make that promote the integrity of the facility and its functions brings the same satisfaction.

Q: Any hobbies outside of *Bridwellville*?

A: I’ve been a collector at various times in my life favoring rocks, or our local upper Cretaceous creek bed fossils now housed in discarded card catalog cabinets, trace fossils including a nine-foot long Triassic-Jurassic theropod trackway from Holyoke, Massachusetts, very near where Edward Hitchcock compiled his 1858 *Ichthyology of New England and its Supplement* [DeGolyer Library non-circulating folio-2 QE845 .H62 1865], tintypes, daguerreotypes, an ambrotype or two, vintage State Fair of Texas postcards, jazz recordings, and books about art and architecture. I also cook, read, watch Netflix, and have attempted to write short stories (although not for human consumption).



ABOVE and BELOW: images of windows, which were once on the exterior of the original Bridwell building before earlier expansions, exposed during recent renovations



Dean Hill's Christmas Party

On Dec. 6, 2019, Dean Craig Hill hosted his annual staff and faculty Christmas Party at Bridwell Library. Like last year, it was held in Bridwell's Blue Room and was well-attended by the community. As it was just a week before the next major part of the renovations, it was one of our last opportunities to use the library space for a community event before the long closure of the building in 2020. The gathering gave Perkins faculty and staff a chance to take a break from their semester-long duties, mingle with colleagues, and enjoy some fellowship and holiday delights with one another. We are all looking forward to next Christmas, when hopefully the renovations will be complete and our library will be open for the whole community to enjoy once again.





Bridwell Library's Renovation



ABOVE: Drawn by an anonymous contractor during the 1989 renovation, this caricature has remained hidden behind a millwork panel for over thirty years

UPPER LEFT: The remaining structure of the mezzanine awaiting demolition

CENTER: Penetration of the first floor slab for the new elevator

LOWER LEFT: Contractors preparing to lower a sump tank into the basement

BELOW: New doors being painted in the Gill Hall

FACING PAGE: Finished spaces in Bridwell's lower level





Bridwell Library Christmas Cards

Jon Speck, Exhibitions Designer // Director of Operations

The Shrine of the Nativity is on the site where, by tradition, Mary gave birth to Jesus. After Helena, mother of the Roman emperor Constantine the Great, visited Bethlehem in 325 Constantine built a basilica over the spot. The basilica destroyed by fire in the sixth century was reconstructed some years later by the Byzantine emperor Justinian. The church remains largely unchanged.

In 1838 Scottish artist David Roberts (1796–1864), a theatrical scenery painter in his early life, sailed to Egypt to begin a sketching tour which extended into Nubia, Sinai, the Holy Land, Jordan, and Lebanon. Upon his return to Edinburgh he worked with lithographer Louis Haghe to reproduce the exotic scenes in three volumes with publication funded by subscriptions, subscriber number one being Queen Victoria. Roberts' paintings from the vicinity of Bethlehem including the Shrine of the Nativity are reproduced near the end of volume two.



The Holy Land, Syria, Idumea, Arabia, Egypt, & Nubia, from drawings made on the spot by David Roberts, R.A., with historical descriptions by The Rev.d George Croly, L.L.D., lithographed by Louis Haghe. London: F. G. Moon, 1842–49, Volume 2 of three volumes. Royal 1mo. Bridwell Library Special Collections.