Dear Friends,

Over the few years I’ve lived in Texas, I’ve come to appreciate and look forward to the holiday activities during the Advent and Christmas season in Dallas. There are wondrous and bountiful opportunities for one to explore and enjoy, be entertained or enchanted. It may seem maudlin or sappy to indulge in the multitude of such activities, but there is something comforting to me in the momentum of the senses—the dazzle of lights on nearly every block of the Park Cities near SMU; the sounds of holiday music proliferating on the radio or in public spaces; the decorations in shopping malls and big box stores; or the bounty of holiday-related foods that more often than not mean increased sugar loads. I often half-joke that come November 15, the real season is sugar!

There is a certain sense too of what constitutes the authenticity of this season and the moods that come with it. There are those among us who could listen to Christmas music for five months, while others (probably in the majority), who go ballistic if they hear Jingle Bells even two days before December 25th. What prompts these emotions and concerns? What pushes us to our limits and makes some of us more comfortable within those boundaries, and others less so? Much of what we do in our lives revolves around calendars of cycles, indeed everything is tied to time. In some ways the notion of repetition in our lives can result in either comfort (what is known and predictable) or boredom (requiring the need to change). Overcoming the diminished daylight of late fall, along with the regular time changes tied to daylight savings compounds our fractious feelings about the world, whether it’s gathering nervousness about coming home from work in the dark or being overtired by everything that’s going on, the changes in our aesthetic environment will land us somewhere on the spectrum of the “love-hate” the holidays feeling.

My own interest and sense of enjoyment around these holidays, specifically in DFW, is tied to the resplendent and joyous investment that many of the local religious establishments have put into making their spaces and communities feel distinctly special. Now some may say that this is a “commercialization of Christmas or Christianity,” but it occurred to me while talking with friends and relatives recently, after attending some of the most outstanding and magnificent holiday services in my life, that this critique is not really all that productive. If a church is able to actuate its functions in a way that draws more people in, the value should be on how that community is cultivated, certainly how well they are able to attract people to a place of joyous occasion, celebration, worship, and fellowship in a shared commitment to something worthwhile.

When I was back in New York for winter break, I’d had my fill of more than a dozen Dallas holiday events behind me—evening visits to the arboretum, lessons and carols at a handful of churches, dinners and gatherings with friends around festive music and eggnog. I still was able to enjoy some holiday fare, music, Christmas trees, a warm burning hearth, and gatherings with family and friends too. But the church life of the Hudson Valley, where I spent my break, and even beyond into the rural spaces of the Catskill mountains, the NY capital district, and the landscape of the Berkshires and Vermont all the way up to Burlington, seemed to be empty of the pomp of church activities I’d witnessed in Dallas. There was not the same critical mass of community in churches. My own hometown once had nearly a dozen mainline congregations that were full of people year round. Now I’d guess the average congregation has no more than twenty people. I went to a lovely Episcopal church one Sunday, to find that I was the only visitor in the service—four others in attendance were part of the service.

Our witness to the wonders of our surroundings should be taken with earnestness and consideration. We live in a world that is constantly changing and offers us many things. And for us here in Dallas, we have many things to be thankful for—even the wildly over-the-top festivities that celebrate holidays like Christmas. For that, I’m definitely thankful. In this issue you’ll see some of the wonder of the holidays in Art Greenhaw and his band The Light Crust Doughboys, who serenaded a nearly capacity crowd in Perkins Chapel. You’ll also find some of our recent and upcoming events and activities, which I hope you continue to enjoy. We want to provide these activities, and hope that now and again there is a bit of wonder that you see in the community here around us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Anthony
Announcements

FESTIVAL OF FORM & JOHN CAGE

Bridwell Library & Perkins Sacred Music Program present A Festival of Form: John Cage & the Infinite Human, March 7-9, 2022. Lectures, discussions, and music are included on the schedule, along with a 16-hours performance of Cage's Organ²/ASLSP “As Slow as Possible.” Composer and Cage scholar Kyle Gann will be guest artist. For details see p. 10.

DIDIER MUTEL LECTURES

Renowned French engraving artist Didier Mutel will be on campus to lecture on Wednesday April 7th and Thursday April 8th, 2022. Bridwell Library recently acquired some of Mutel’s remarkable works, which have been shown to various classes. The lectures will be held in Bridwell’s Blue Room and in the Smith Auditorium at the Meadows Museum of Art.

WELCOME BRANDY WALTHALL

Meet Brandy Walthall, Bridwell’s new circulation and front-desk specialist. Brandy is a two-time UNT alumna, with an M.S. in Library Science. She has lived in Texas for about ten years and is originally from Tuscaloosa. If you’re in the building, swing by and say hello. Welcome to Bridwell, Brandy!

For other Bridwell news, visit the Bridwell Library News blog: https://blog.smu.edu/bridwellnews/
Bridwell Special Collections is open by appointment only: https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/About/ContactUs
BQ Layout & Design: Michelle Ried // BQ Image Contributor: Rebecca Howdeshell
BQ Online: https://blog.smu.edu/Quarterly
On the evening of December 16th, 2021, one of the country’s longest running musical groups, *The Light Crust Doughboys*, performed in Perkins Chapel to a crowd of over one-hundred and fifty attendees. After a brief introduction by Bridwell Director Anthony Elia, Art Greenhaw, the long-time leader of the ensemble led the activities with a collection of holiday favorites played on keyboard, fiddle, acoustic and pedal steel guitars, along with plenty of vocals. The *Cool Yule Christmas* special included popular hits like Bing Crosby’s *Mele Kalikimaka* and Bobby Helms’ *Jingle Bell Rock* with guitarist Kristyn Harris rocking out the crowd. More traditional Christmas fare like *Silent Night*, *Joy to the World*, and *White Christmas* were performed as sing-a-longs with the audience. All of *The Light Crust Doughboys*, including Art Greenhaw, Randy Wills, Marek Eneti, Matthew Walton, and Kristyn Harris put on a show to remember! The feeling in the room was joyful and enlivening, with many people noting their appreciation for live music that evening. We hope that we’ll continue to do more of these musical events, and even bring the *Doughboys* back again!
Images above and on preceding pages 4-6 include photos of The Light Crust Doughboys’ holiday Cool Yule Christmas Concert! at Perkins Chapel on December 16th, along with images (bottom row) from the reception that followed.
Bridwell’s *Symbiosis* Exhibit Opens

On December 6, 2021 Bridwell opened its first major exhibit in more than two years. *Symbiosis of Script, Font, and Form: A Selection of Artists’ Books* was curated by Rebecca Howdeshell and Jon Speck.

*Symbiosis of Script, Font, and Form: A Selection of Artists’ Books* is a look at over forty fine press works in which the elements of book design are integrated into texts in sensitive and sometimes astounding ways. The collaborations of twentieth- and twenty-first century writers, artists, and typesetters have resulted in books that set their own terms in appeal to human hands, minds, and spirits. The exhibition continues at Bridwell Library, SMU, through March 31, 2022.

Arvid Nelsen Lectures on Artists’ Books and *Symbiosis* Exhibit

Arvid Nelsen, Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts and Librarian for Special Collections at Bridwell Library, delivered an introductory lecture on artists’ books and the current *Symbiosis* exhibit on February 2nd in Bridwell’s Blue Room. Jon Speck, Director of Operations and Exhibition Designer and Rebecca Howdeshell, Digital Projects Librarian curated the exhibition and answered questions for those in attendance.
Starship Delivery Robots at SMU

By now, most people on the SMU campus in Dallas, TX have probably seen these little self-guided robots zipping along the sidewalks. The first one of these Starships was spotted in front of Bridwell on January 20th. Now we see them almost every day.

Robots are now delivering food and snacks on campus from a variety of locations via the new Starship Food Delivery service. You can even choose a song for it to play upon delivery. They are advertised as being contactless, low cost, fast, and friendly.

If you’re on the SMU campus, you can try it out for yourself by navigating to www.starship-smu.com or by looking up Starship Food Delivery in the app store on your phone.
Bridwell to Co-Host *A Festival of Form: John Cage & the Infinite Human*

The avant-garde festival will tie together Bridwell exhibits, art, and contemporary music

Bridwell Library and Perkins Sacred Music Program will co-host *A Festival of Form: John Cage & the Infinite Human*—an avant-garde festival of music, sound, silence, art, and books at Bridwell Library and Perkins Chapel. The three day event, March 7th through the 9th, will feature a variety of unique, fantastic, and unexpected works. The festival will open on March 7th at 5PM with a lecture by Bridwell Director Anthony J. Elia titled “Infinite Sound, Infinite Human: How Form in Arts, Theology, and Music Strengthen our Understanding of the World,” followed by a panel discussion by Meadows music faculty, and a “sonic welcome” by Meadows faculty and composer Dr. Courtney Brown, who specializes in electroacoustic music and digital media. Her work will be a short performance titled *Hadrosaur Variations II* (Homage to John Cage & the Dinosaur). The centerpiece of the festival will be a 16-hour performance of Cage’s Organ2/ASLSP “As Slow as Possible” in Perkins Chapel, directed and performed by Dr. Christopher Anderson (Perkins Sacred Music, middle, below) which will run from 6AM until 10PM and include guided participation in Perkins Chapel as the organ work is played. Bard College music professor, composer, music critic, and Cage scholar Dr. Kyle Gann (top middle, below)—a Dallas native—will be the guest artist-in-residence during the week. Lectures and musical presentations will take place that will include works by early 20th century antecedents to Cage (including some of his teachers and influences), Cage’s own music, and works by Gann. On Wednesday, March 9th there will be a full afternoon and evening of events, beginning at 1PM in Perkins Chapel, where a screening of Gann’s opera *Custer and Sitting Bull* will be shown, with Dr. Gann present for conversation following; at 2:30PM in Bridwell Gann will speak about “John Cage in Dallas and Beyond,” followed by a performance of microtonal music, a presentation of Cage’s “Lecture on Nothing” by SMU Music students, and a reception to follow. At 6PM the main concert of the day will begin in Perkins Chapel. Nearly a dozen musicians are set to perform at the week’s events, including internationally renowned pianist and Busoni Piano Competition winner Anna Bulkina (right, below), who has performed around the world in various distinguished venues. Other musicians include vibraphone player Dana Sudborough, organist and SMU Meadows School of the Arts graduate student Kamilya Akhmetova, and others performing chamber works by Cage and Gann. Bridwell’s *Symbiosis* exhibit is part of *A Festival of Form* along with a smaller exhibit in Bridwell titled *Theology and Art of the Score*, which features manuscript scores, letters, photographs, and books of major twentieth century composers including Cage, Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Cowell, and Stockhausen. The events are free and open to the public. Register online for all or part of *A Festival of Form*. For questions, please contact Michelle Ried at mried@smu.edu or 214-768-3483.
Bridwell proudly announces its 2nd Annual Bridwell Edible Book Festival (BEBFest). In our first year we held an Edible Book Festival “test run” within Bridwell only and had our entries exclusively online (due to COVID safety issues), where staff shared their images in a Box folder. Because of its success, this year we are opening up the field to a larger crowd and welcome entries from the entire SMU community. We will continue with the online submissions and sharing; though, for those who wish to bring their edible books in person, Bridwell will host an outdoor event in April where entrants may share their edibles with others in a party format. Weather permitting, the date for the event will be April 29th, 2022.

Entries must have a book or library related theme and may have a short description accompanying them
Entries are usually comical, clever, witty, or have double-meanings, but they don’t have to be
Entries must be made of something edible, but do not have to be entirely edible (i.e. you can have props!)
Entrants may be from anywhere within the entire SMU community
Entrants may only submit one entry
Group or team projects are welcome, one entry per group
Submissions in the form of digital photograph will be sent to Michelle Ried in Bridwell at (mried@smu.edu) by Friday, April 29th, 2022 at 2PM, but can be submitted earlier
For those who wish to participate in the in-person event, it will be held in front of Bridwell—weather permitting—on April 29th at 1:30-3PM. After 2PM, and once you’ve submitted your digital image of the edible book, edible book artists may offer their works up for community consumption or sampling
All members of the SMU community are eligible to vote, whether or not you’ve submitted an entry
Voting will be open from Monday, May 2 through Wednesday, May 4
Judges will be asked to vote on their top 3 picks and the winners will be announced at the end of the week, Friday, May 6

A Visit to the Armstrong Browning Library & Museum at Baylor

Just before the winter break, Bridwell Director Anthony Elia visited the Armstrong Browning Library & Museum at Baylor University in Waco, where he met ABL&M Director Jennifer Borderud and learned about the expansive collections, impressive design and architecture of the building, and the extent to which the Brownings influenced art, music, and culture. The remarkable institution is described on its site as a research library “dedicated to the study of the lives and works of the Victorian poets Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning and houses the world’s largest collection of Browning material…[including] books, manuscripts, and works of art.” While working at Columbia University’s Burke Library from 2010–2013, Anthony worked with Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s personal bibles resulting in an article entitled “An Unknown Exegete: Uncovering the Biblical Theology of Elizabeth Barrett Browning.” He is a fan of the great English poet and looks forward to working closely with the ABL&M leadership in the future. Also while on the tour, he ran into his old friend Dante, sitting quietly in the exhibit hall.
SMU Libraries’ New Website Launched

Leslie Fuller, PhD, Reference and Digital Services Librarian

We have a new website! For more than a year, teams across the SMU Libraries have been working to create a more unified web presence. The most obvious of these changes has been the launch of a new, centralized website that took place during the second week of January. From Bridwell, Rebecca Howdeshell worked on extensive user testing and the migration of special collections and exhibit pages onto a new platform. Pauline Martin served on the Design Team (led by Hollie Gardner), and Leslie Fuller worked with the Content Team (led by Sarah Jenkins). Everyone at Bridwell offered input and answered countless questions about services, buildings, and expectations.

The main homepage at smu.edu/Libraries is the front door for all library services across campus. Check it out to find the hours and events happening at all the libraries. In the top blue bar (which is the same on every one of the SMU Libraries webpages), you can access your account and search our collections or change the drop down to search the SMU Libraries website.

The Bridwell Library page offers quick access to all the resources needed most frequently by our patrons. There are direct links to our research guides, Theological Writing Center, Special Collections, Atla, and theology databases, among others. On the right side of the page, you can see our current hours and phone number with links to news and scheduling appointments. In the bottom right corner, you can see all our upcoming events and workshops.

Another exciting aspect of the web projects has been the integration of all the research guides across campus. For students at Perkins, this means for the first time that research guides created by the libraries will automatically appear in each of their courses on Canvas. While specialized for Perkins classes, those guides also link to other guides created by librarians across campus. Some of those are general guides that provide “how to” instructions for finding, managing, and citing various resources. This integration will be of special interest to those doing interdisciplinary work as well.

Thank you to all who volunteered to give us input last year on various components of our web presence! We are excited to have a new site and look forward to hearing more from you in the near future. You are welcome to submit feedback online.
Staff Profile: Jesse Hunt

*The Bridwell Quarterly* regularly interviews Bridwell staff to get to know each one a little better, and also to let the public know what great talent and hardworking colleagues we all have. This issue we sat down with Jesse Hunt, Conservator for Bridwell Library, and asked him a few questions about his life and work.

**What did you do before coming to Bridwell?**
I was Assistant Conservator to Richard Baker at his Book & Paper Conservation Studio in St. Louis, MO. I learned conservation on the job in a more traditional, apprenticeship style; what most conservators call being trained “at the bench.” These days only about 25% of active conservators learned at the bench and that number will probably continue to dwindle as more and more conservators who predate the graduate programs hang up the apron. I’m nowhere near retirement myself, but I am part of a dying breed. This may very well be the last generation of bench-trained conservators.

**How long have you been at Bridwell?**
March 26th, 2022 will be my tenth anniversary.

**How would you describe the work that you do?**
It’s a combination of art and science, specifically chemistry. The whole point of conservation is to make sure that these collection items survive for future generations and to do that they have to be both physically and chemically stable. Some of the items I’m working on are already hundreds of years old and, if I’ve done my job properly, they won’t need to be treated again for another hundred years or (hopefully) longer.

**What has been the most rewarding thing about your position?**
Bridwell has some truly unique and amazing collections items. Not just historically significant work like the Nuremberg Chronicle or Gutenberg’s *Catholicon*, but works that represent the pinnacle of modern book craft. Most of those are in such good condition that they’ll never come across my bench, but having access to things like the vellum Kelmscott Chaucer, gifted to Edward Burne-Jones by William Morris, and bound by Michael Wilcox or Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, illustrated by Leonard Baskin and bound by Ivor Robinson is remarkable. These books are some of the finest works produced in the last century and they’re right here in the building. That’s not something you can get just anywhere.

**What do you enjoy working on most?**
I really like making boxes. Many conservators would probably consider that grunt work since it’s more preservation than conservation but that’s part of what makes it so enjoyable, unlike most of my job, there’s little to no risk involved. It’s necessary to make archival housing for everything that goes into long term storage but some of our collections’ items are really odd; there’s a lot of problem solving that goes into housing them properly. We acquired a book recently that is literally a small log. A section of a tree, cut up, and sewn back together into a round book with thick, wooden boards for pages. That was a tough one to work around. Oblong sculptures, gigantic scrolls, I will make a box for literally anything.

**Any hobbies outside of Bridwell?**
I used to have hobbies, now I have children.

**Words of wisdom?**
Ask any conservator this question and they’ll all tell you the exact same thing. Never use tape.
DeGolyer Bookbinding Competition
American Bookbinding Conference & Exhibition Set for this May

Established in 1995, the Helen Warren DeGolyer Triennial Exhibition and Competition for American Bookbinding is hosted every three years by Bridwell Library. The competition, exhibition, and accompanying DeGolyer Conference aim to inspire and encourage the craft and art of bookbinding in the United States.

The DeGolyer Competition invites American bookbinders to propose a design for a book held by Bridwell Library Special Collections. The winner of the Helen Warren DeGolyer Award for American Bookbinding receives a commission to realize their proposed design. Prizes for Excellence in Fine Binding and Design are also awarded. This year’s competition features proposed design bindings for Five Poems by Toni Morrison. Competition winners will be announced during the Helen Warren DeGolyer Exhibition for American Bookbinding at the conference on May 19 and 20, 2022. Completed commissions of previous DeGolyer award winners and a selection of competition entries, including design proposals and sample bindings, will also be exhibited in The Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Galleries at Bridwell Library.

In conjunction with the triennial exhibition and competition, the Helen Warren DeGolyer Conference is held at Bridwell Library and Perkins School of Theology on the SMU campus. The conference features lectures and workshops led by noted binders and artists (see names below in advertisement), a lecture from the most recent DeGolyer Competition winner about their completed binding, an exhibition of all the entries, and the announcement of this year’s award winners.

BRIDWELL LIBRARY
Helen Warren DeGolyer Competition for American Bookbinding Conference and Exhibition: May 19 and 20, 2022

Hosted by Bridwell Library on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. Registration (870) opens March 14th: https://smu.edu/libraries/bridwell/bookbinding/2021
Includes a presentation from James Reid-Cunningham about his winning design from 2018 and workshops from four presenters:

Jiscung, Korean Paper Weaving with Aimee Lee
Edge Gilding with Juliayn Coleman
Cut Paper Garden, Fan Accordion Book with Bhavna Mehta
Clasp Making with Jesse Hunt
Bridwell Staff Updates

Congratulations to Jesse Hunt, Curator, and Leslie Fuller, Reference and Digital Services Librarian, who were both promoted to Librarian II in December, 2021.

Anthony Elia was invited to the nearly century-old SMU Town & Gown club to speak on Feb. 14th in Prothro Great Hall. His talk was titled “What is a Methodist Museum Anyway?” Pictured with Anthony (right) is his colleague and friend, the recently retired Bishop Max Whitfield, who was also in attendance.

Building News

“Not more renovations!” Though it may have first appeared that there was more major construction going on in Bridwell, this scaffolding was only setup to repair and upgrade the lighting in several areas on the second floor and entryway on Tuesday, January 18th.

Emanuel Krescenc Liška’s Hagar and Ishmael in the Wilderness, a beautifully restored painting displayed on Bridwell’s second floor, was framed on December 2, 2021.
Advent Chapel Service

Members of the Perkins School of Theology community gathered in person for Advent worship on Thursday, December 2 at 6:00PM in Perkins Chapel on the SMU campus. Titled “Corde Natus Ex Parentis: An Advent Evensong,” the annual service offered an opportunity for participants to reflect on the Advent season amid the ongoing pandemic. The title is a nod to the hymn “Of the Parent's Heart Begotten” (The New Century Hymnal #118), written by 4th century composer Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–413). The service featured two original compositions and a few congregational pieces, as well as organ music. Visit Perkins School of Theology’s online magazine, Perspective Online to read more.
Dean Hill’s Christmas Gathering

Dean Craig Hill of Perkins School of Theology held his annual Christmas Gathering in Bridwell Library’s Blue Room on December 4th. Many staff and faculty members from Perkins and Bridwell Library joined together to celebrate the holidays and enjoy time together to catch up and socialize. SMU Catering provided an abundant spread of cheeses, meats, and sweets. Staff and faculty alike look forward to the Dean’s party as an annual tradition. This year, with Bridwell Library’s renovation completed, the celebration was better than ever!
**Bridwell Christmas Party**

Current and retired staff joined together with student workers to enjoy a Christmas Party on December 6th in Bridwell Library’s Benefactors Room. Anthony Elia, adorned with a red stocking sleeping cap, read some cheesy elf and reindeer jokes followed by the more popular reading of Clement Clarke Moore’s *A Visit from St. Nicholas*. Staff relaxed in front of a roaring YouTube fireplace while they enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies. Exciting prizes such as a sock monkey coffee mug, Christmas stockings, and an antler headband were awarded for completing and reading Christmas Mad Libs. Staff members posed for the camera with silly photo booth props before wrapping up and getting back to work. The Christmas Party is an annual tradition at Bridwell Library, one that will continue on for many years to come.
Bridwell Library’s reading and writing group, *The Ink Tank*, met with Arvid Nelsen, Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts, on December 16 to learn more about some of the fascinating and beautiful materials in Special Collections. Featured here are works such as Hunter Dard’s *Chinese ceremonial paper; a monograph relating to the fabrication of paper and tin foil and the use of paper in Chinese rites and religious ceremonies* as well as Dard’s *Papermaking by Hand in America*, Henry Morris’ *Roller Printed Paste Papers for Bookbinding*, Le Jeune Fournier’s *Manuel typographique, utile aux gens de lettres, & à ceux qui exercent les différentes parties de l’art de l’imprimerie*, Dante Alighieri’s *La Divine Comédie* with illustrations in watercolor by Salvador Dalí, and Charles E. Tuttle’s *The Making of a Japanese Print*. If you’d like to join us in *The Ink Tank* via Zoom, send an email to Jane Elder at jelder@smu.edu.
Around Bridwell
Euclid. and Byrne, Oliver.

The First Six Books of the Elements of Euclid:
in Which Coloured Diagrams and Symbols Are Used Instead of Letters for the Greater Ease of Learners.
London: William Pickering, 1847. AER0947