Treasures from Bridwell Library

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Treasures from Bridwell Library

A Limited Viewing of Treasures from Bridwell’s Special Collections

April 2023
Paul's Epistle to the Romans (fragment)
Oxyrhynchus, Egypt, ca. 6th century CE.
Manuscript on papyrus.
Accession No: MS Papyrus 1

Written in a single column of 20 lines on each side of papyrus. Ancient Greek written in the later Byzantine style in reddish-brown ink, all capitals, continuous. Found in the Oxyrhynchus excavations, 1897-1907.

*Citation:* Oxyrhynchus Papyrus P-26.
Aten Cartouche Hieroglyphics, Egypt (Amarna), c. 1350 BCE. Red quartzite fragment, approx. 7 cm x 11 cm x 5.5 cm
Bridwell Call Number: Lane.I.15 D2/S9/B2

Donated by A.V. Lane, 1927. The original date attributed in the 1920s was “about 3500 BC.” Research by SMU undergraduate Shelby Justl for Dr. Melissa Dowling demonstrated that the artifact is a cartouche bearing the name of the sun-deity Aten, from the reign of the pharaoh Akhenaten. Ms. Justl has demonstrated that the inscription is also known from several other cartouches made for Akhenaten. Her translation reads: “In his name comes wealth from Aten.”
Dedicatory cone, Mesopotamia, 604–562 BCE
Limestone, 12.5 cm tall, flat surface 5.1 cm diameter.
Bridwell Call Number: Lane.I.14 D.2/S.9/B.3

One of two dedicatory clay cylinders were placed at the entrances of buildings. (From the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II, 604–562 BCE). The cylinder is covered with a text written in three columns of 145 lines, describing the building of the walls of Babylon and temples, the Tower of “Babel” at Ur, and several other biblical sites.

A. V. Lane purchased it in 1932. Cuneiform cones or “nails” were buried in Sumerian building foundations as part of ritual dedications. The limestone cone, found at Tello, bears what was believed at the time of its discovery to be the first known peace treaty (c. 3000 BCE), made between Entemena, King of Lagash, and Lugalkinishududu, King of Erech (Uruk).
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Kaifeng Torah Scroll
Torah Scroll, in Hebrew. Kaifeng, China, mid-17th century. Manuscript on vellum comprising 68 skins, each skin 59 cm in height with 49 lines of text per column. Scroll 12 (yod-bet) of thirteen from the Kaifeng synagogue, established 1653.

Harrison Bible Collection #308.
Accession No.: BRMS 59
Gutenberg Bible
Biblia Latina.

31 contiguous leaves removed from nearly complete copy found in a farmhouse at Olewig (near Trier), Germany, 1828 (incomplete vol. II only).

Mainz, Germany: Printer of the 42-line Bible (Johann Gutenberg), ca. 1454-1455

Accession No: 06117

Fragment containing text of Jeremiah, Lamentations, beginning of Baruch, from the incomplete vol. 2 known as the “Trier II” copy, from which the long-missing vol.; Centrale du Centre Universitaire in Mons, Belgium. The New Testament is at the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
Gutenberg’s Catholicon
Summa, Quae Vocatur Catholicon.
Mainz, Germany: Printer of the Catholicon (Johann Gutenberg), 1460.
Accession No: 06096

Manuscript rubrication in red and blue, large initials painted in red, blue, green, and mauve, with elaborate penwork extensions. Style suggests northern Netherlands, perhaps Utrecht.
The Saint John’s Bible. Heritage Edition

Full-scale art reproduction of the original illuminated manuscript; a
seven-volume set, bound in embossed red leather with gilt-stamped
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The John Roberts Company; binder, Roswell Bookbinding; embosser,
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