



BRIDWELL LIBRARY, PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY // ISSUE 19 // SPRING 2023

The Bridwell Quarterly

SPECIAL ISSUE: THE *CODEx* SASSOON

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The Bridwell Quarterly: Welcome

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

Dear Friends,

It is often a surprise for me how quickly the tempo of the library and university can change over a few short weeks. Back in late February and early March, as we were working on the last issue of *The Bridwell Quarterly*, I was preparing for a trip to Cuba with the Perkins School of Theology's Global Theological Education office and we had recently learned of the opportunity to bring the world's oldest nearly complete Hebrew Bible—the *Codex Sassoon*—to campus. Amid these activities, it became quite clear that a great deal of work needed to be accomplished in a relatively short amount of time. To say that the last three months have been a whirlwind is a gross understatement.

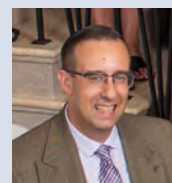
Many things happened and many things were learned. And now being on the other side of these activities and travels, I am profoundly grateful and deeply thankful to both the Bridwell staff and the greater Perkins and SMU Libraries communities, who were tremendously helpful and supportive of the events that we had. Back in late February, we had been running through a host of back-to-back events, which culminated in a week when two Pulitzer Prize winners visited Bridwell and spoke to overflow crowds and our friend Brad Neary, Director of the St. John's Bible Heritage Program, gave a day-long docent training. I couldn't have imagined that the library would be able to manage more than the few hundred people in the building during those four days. Clearly, I was wrong!

In the following weeks, just as I was preparing for the nine-day trip to Cuba, there was a lot of brainstorming, logistical planning, and coordination with a broad constituency of SMU and local community groups around the upcoming exhibition of the *Codex Sassoon*. It quickly became clear that the *Codex*—which one staff member initially codenamed “Oliver” before we could say anything publicly—became the highest profile celebrity to come through the doors of Bridwell, probably ever in our history. My senses of concern, anxiety, and urgency around getting things done correctly increased, especially when I was out of the country and wondering if I had forgotten to prepare for an unforeseen contingency or hadn't contacted a local agency or department that would need to be involved in the activities.

This became increasingly obvious when I sat down to a security meeting one morning and more than *thirty* law enforcement and emergency services professionals were present around the Benefactors Room table and looked at me and the SMU PD chief for direction on plans, logistics, and remaining needs to be considered. “Yeah, this was bigger than Jeff Bezos coming to campus,” one official told me: “this is likely the biggest cultural event the university had seen in decades, if not ever.” In the end, we had a marvelous time with the *Codex Sassoon* and the Codex Fest and an exceptional team of SMU colleagues ironed out all the logistical needs that allowed us to host nearly 4,000 people over 72 hours from across Texas and beyond. I am thankful for all the hard work, energy, and outcomes of these last months. But I'm also very glad to be in the slow time of the early summer now. As we look toward the coming academic year, we'll always remember the incredible radiance and joy of those three wild days in April, with honor, pride, and a bit of relief.

Thank you for your continued support.

Anthony



Announcements



BRIDWELL WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Elisa McCune began work as Integrative Projects Librarian in Special Collections in April. Christopher Clarke joins the Bridwell staff July 1 as Research and Instruction Librarian. If you have any specific questions or requests, please feel free to contact them. Join with us in welcoming them both to Bridwell!



ATLA COMES TO FORT WORTH

The annual American Theological Library Association (Atla) conference took place in Fort Worth from June 14th through 17th, 2023, with denominational and interest groups meeting online through June 29th. For information about Atla and the conference, you can go [here](#).



COSS CONTINUES THIS SUMMER

Course of Study School (COSS), which provides basic theological education for licensed pastors, will continue this summer at Perkins. Bridwell Library has long been a supporter of the program and provides various research services for those in attendance. Sessions run between June 26 and August 4.

BRIDWELL LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

Codex Sassoon

The *Codex Sassoon* is named for David Solomon Sassoon, who purchased the volume in 1929. Sassoon was a renowned collector who assembled one of the most distinguished and significant private Judaica collections in the world, comprised of an unparalleled Hebraica manuscript library. The nearly 800-page *Codex* was written out by a master scribe in Hebrew. It includes twenty-four books of the Hebrew Bible, and is considered the earliest and most complete extant Hebrew Bible in the world. The *Codex Sassoon* provides the basis of Biblical translations used today. (Text adapted from Sotheby's catalog. Sharon Mintz, senior Judaica curator at Sotheby's is pictured below with the *Codex*).



Bridwell Special Collections is open by appointment only, learn more at:

<https://www.smu.edu/libraries/bridwell/specialcollections>

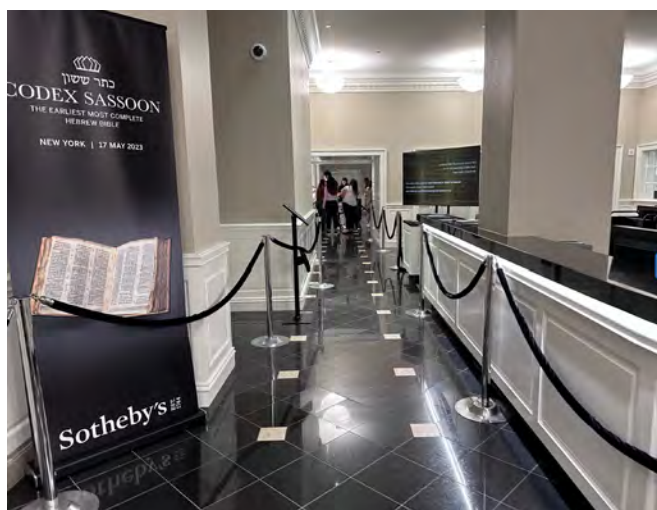
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Codex Sassoon Visits Bridwell

Thousands Turn Out for Historic Showing at SMU

During the week of April 16th, Bridwell Library hosted its biggest event in the history of the library, and by some accounts, one of the largest events in the history of the university. In February, Sotheby's auction house announced that it would be representing the sale of the world's oldest nearly complete Hebrew Bible, known as the *Codex Sassoon*, which dates back to the early 10th century. It became most known by its earliest modern owner, David Solomon Sassoon (1880–1941), a bibliophile, collector, and member of the illustrious Sassoon dynasty. The *Codex* has been described as “a landmark for understanding the evolution of the history of the Hebrew Bible” and is arguably one of the most significant and influential works of global and cultural importance over the last thousand years. Bridwell is honored to have been approached by Sotheby's as collaborators on this exhibition. The distinction of this showing is even more significant, because among the five locations selected for its global tour, Bridwell Library was the only library and SMU the only university to host the exhibition—the London, New York, and LA sites were Sotheby's galleries and the Tel Aviv site was The Museum of the Jewish People.



(From top left, clockwise): *Codex Sassoon* on Monday morning, April 17th; Set-up of stanchions and roping to accommodate the expected crowds, media, and VIPs; Bridwell and Sotheby's Staff (l-r): Jesse Hunt, John Martin, Richard Austin, Charlie Caulkins, Lacey Thurmond, Sharon Mintz, Arvid Nelsen, Anthony Elia; Dean Michael McKee with *Codex*.

Codex Fest: A Record Event

Crowds Gather Day and Night to See Historic *Codex*

In the preparations leading up to the showing of the *Codex Sassoon*, Bridwell Library decided to host an accompanying Codex Fest—an all-encompassing book arts and community festival that helped support and engage with the expected crowds of visitors, who were likely to show up. We knew that there would be great interest and didn't want to disappoint those who came to campus. Having other activities, events, and information available for those who attended was a reasonable consideration. And as the lines began to form in the early hours of Tuesday, April 17th, the gathering of community at SMU helped grow an organic assembling of people into a truly interactive and engaging event. In addition to the logistical demands of the interior spaces of the library itself, we needed to consider contingencies around space on the Perkins quad, the accessibility of patrons, the use of restrooms inside and out (three accessible porta potties were made available for the week), parking and public transportation needs (shuttle buses were provided and a hundred parking spots were reserved at DART's Mockingbird Station), food trucks, security, and a variety of entertainment options. The quad itself had more than a dozen canopy tents set up along the walkways, under which tables were set up for university departments, schools, or other groups to display and promote their activities. SMU Libraries, Perkins School of Theology, the Meadows Museum, Deep Vellum Press, and the Guild of Book Workers, among other artists, calligraphers, and book aficionados participated in the activities. A panel discussion, lectures, and various musical offerings were part of the three-day event, which brought many new people into the Bridwell Library orbit. Some of the most meaningful engagements were in the latter hours of each day, when the sun set and people mingled in the dark, waiting to view the *Codex*. The conversations among many of the attendees were serendipitous, surprising, enriching, and meaningful, connecting people from so many different backgrounds. There were individuals and groups who might never cross paths or meet to discuss topics of religion and history. At the busiest times, there were probably around 300 people present—our fire code capacity for individuals in the building at any given moment.

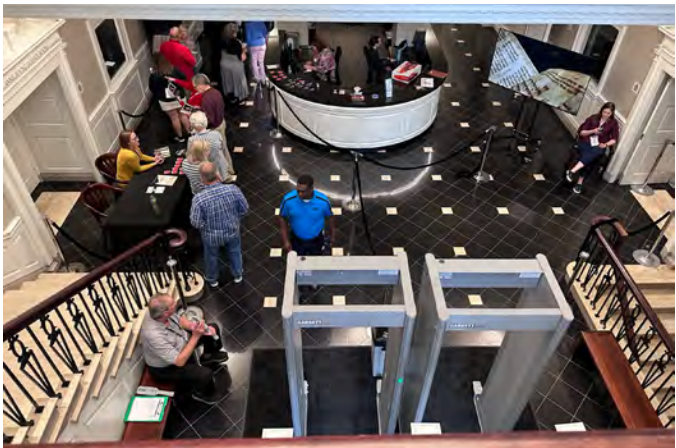
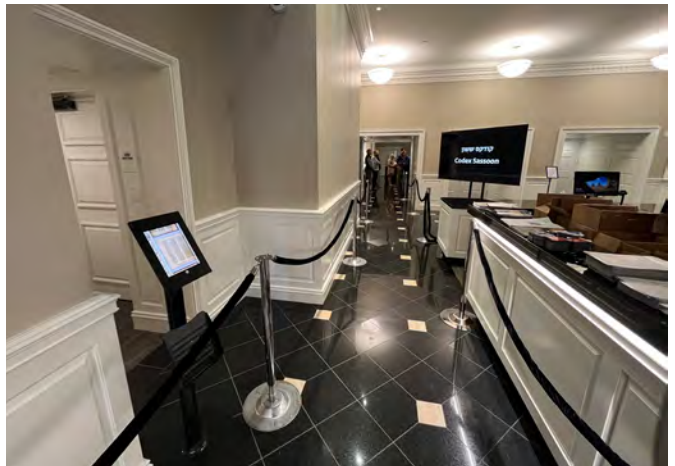
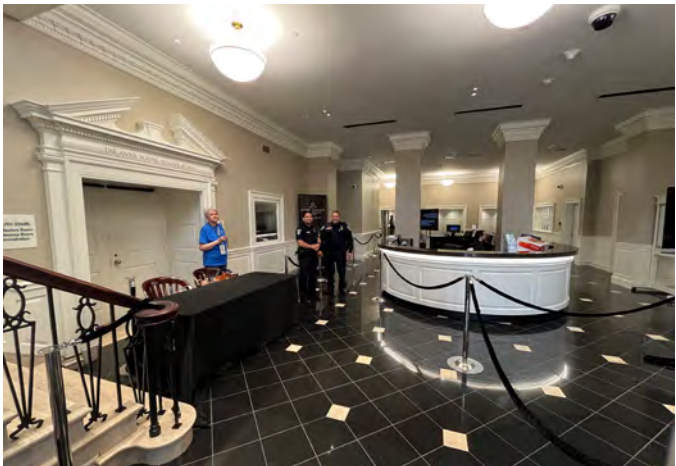




Photos on pp. 6 and 7 show the crowds around Codex Fest, the lines to get into the exhibit, and people visiting the information tents along the quad walkways. (Center left, above): Anthony Elia sports a cowboy hat as he wishes Sotheby's Hebraica scholar, Sharon Mintz, safe travels back to NYC on the final day of the Codex Fest, April 20th.



(Above) Tables at the Codex Fest featuring the SMU community and its neighbors like Chance's Coffee and Deep Vellum Press. SMU Libraries, Perkins School of Theology OEM, External Programs, and the Meadows Museum all had tables.



Judaica Expert Sharon Mintz Presents the *Codex Sassoon*

One of the highlights of the *Codex Sassoon* visit was having Bridwell staff engage with a variety of highly skilled and knowledgeable staff from Sotheby's. The face of this particular exhibit was Sotheby's Senior Judaica Curator, Sharon Liberman Mintz. Having spent the last three decades as Curator of Jewish Art at the Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary, where she specializes in the fields of Illuminated Hebrew manuscripts and rare printed books, Mintz has curated more than forty-five exhibitions, authored ten exhibition catalogs, and lectured extensively on a variety of topics in the fields of Jewish Art and rare Hebrew books. As a consultant with Sotheby's since 1995, Ms. Mintz has cataloged and appraised Hebrew books for Judaica sales worldwide and shown tremendous facility and knowledge around her work and has engaged with the public in tremendously positive ways. Her energy at the Codex Fest was greatly appreciated by the SMU community and made the history of the *Codex Sassoon* come vibrantly alive for all who were able to partake in her presentations.



Former First Lady Visits Bridwell

During the first morning of the *Codex Sassoon* Exhibition, Former First Lady Laura Bush made a one-hour visit to Bridwell to see the historic volume. Along with some close friends, Mrs. Bush got a private tour with Bridwell and Sotheby's staff, who discussed a variety of subjects related to the *Codex*, as well as many other Bridwell treasures on display that week. Bridwell curator Arvid Nelsen and conservator Jesse Hunt explained some of the finer details of book history, printing, and manuscript technology, and the First Lady enjoyed visiting the current Bridwell exhibition *Experiences Embodied and Remembered*. After the visit, Mrs. Bush greeted guests outside of Bridwell, who were attending the Codex Fest, along with Prof. Joseph Sassoon, who was speaking later that day.



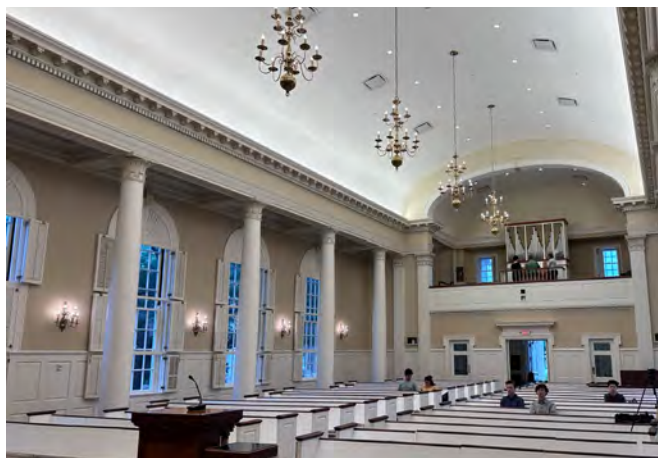
(From top right, clockwise): Mrs. Bush and Anthony Elia show off the *Codex*; Mrs. Bush discusses the *Catholicon* with Arvid Nelsen; Mrs. Bush and Jane Elder strike a pose; Mrs. Bush meets Perkins students and staff; Mrs. Bush with Anthony and Prof. Sassoon; Bridwell and Sotheby's staff, who were on hand that morning, pose with Mrs. Bush after she viewed the *Codex*.



(From top right, clockwise): Mrs. Bush and Michelle Ried, Bridwell's Operations Manager; Mrs. Bush and SMU Students Christopher Walton and Kelcy Spinnato; Mrs. Bush with Bridwell and Sotheby's staff; Mrs. Bush with Mark Landson, musical guest; Mrs. Bush with staff.

Codex Fest Features Music from Classics to Cage

One of the components of the Codex Fest was to have a variety of musical activities and performances that became part of the festival landscape (*and* soundscape). This included musical offerings from performers at the evening receptions on April 17th and 18th, as well as afternoon concerts for violin and piano (with Mark Landson, violin and Darío Llanos Javierre, piano) in Perkins Chapel, roving violin music performed by Mr. Landson, and daily organ concerts of John Cage's *Some of "The Harmony of Maine"* performed by Prof. Christopher Anderson each morning from 8:30–9:15AM. Prof. Anderson's renditions of John Cage, which are well-known at SMU—especially for his world-record performance of *Organ²/ASLSP* last year—were based on chance performance operations and created a meditative space for reflection in the chapel as the Codex Fest came to life each morning. On Thursday morning, during the Perkins Chapel Service, the premiere of MSM student Fernando Berwig Silva's *Mass for the Missing* (for choir) was incorporated into the schedule of the festival and had a successful turnout. Those in chapel that morning very much enjoyed his wonderful new music.



Lectures & Panel Discussion on “Books and History as Community”

With such an important historical volume occupying Bridwell Library for just a few days, a number of unique opportunities became possible with the various scholars, curators, and dignitaries involved in the production. Among those who came together were three outstanding individuals, whose backgrounds, research, and connections to the global community of book history are well-known: Sharon Mintz (Sotheby's), Prof. Joseph Sassoon (Georgetown University), and Brad Neary (St. John's Abbey). In a panel discussion held on Tuesday, April 17th, the group was moderated by Bridwell Director Anthony Elia, who asked what role community, family, and society had in the history, maintenance, trust, curation, and sustainability of books through history. Specifically, the question for this group focused around both the *Codex Sassoon* and the recent addition of the St. John's Bible Heritage Edition at Bridwell Library. Ms. Mintz



spoke to the history of the *Codex Sassoon* through its long history and what it meant to be in conversation with the other historical texts in the Gill Hall exhibit space, where the *Codex* was being exhibited for the public. Mr. Neary reflected on the metaphors and realities of “books in conversation” along with how people experienced the historic *Codex* along with the adjacently exhibited St. John’s Bible and what that meant to him and those who experienced the exhibition spaces. Dr. Sassoon, in turn, added how the question of history played out through the Sassoon heritage, and the greater global enterprise of communities and families, especially how this led to his distant relative acquiring and maintaining one of the greatest personal Judaica collections in modern history. Throughout the day, the three panelists also gave individual lectures on topics related to their expertise, and fielded questions afterward from the audience.



Bridwell Friends and *Codex* Receptions

Among the thousands of visitors who came through Bridwell Library the week of April 17th were members of both the SMU Community and those from the greater DFW and North Texas region. Bridwell hosted receptions and activities throughout the week for distinguished guests and supporters, who gathered to celebrate the *Codex Sassoon*. During the formal gatherings, Bridwell contracted with one of the only kosher catering companies in Dallas to provide a splendid setting that could be enjoyed by all in attendance. Members of SMU’s department of World Languages (right) joined one evening in the celebrations and to hear Prof. Sassoon and Sotheby’s Curator Sharon Mintz discuss the importance of the *Codex*. Local community friends, including members of St. Sarkis Armenian Orthodox Church (below), visited the *Codex* during the exhibition.



Codex Sassoon at Auction in New York

On Wednesday, May 17th, 2023 at 2PM, the *Codex Sassoon* went to auction at Sotheby's in New York City. The impressive multi-level galleries of the Sotheby's New York offices are located at 1334 York Avenue, on the upper east side of Manhattan. Bridwell Director Anthony Elia and SMU Libraries Dean Holly Jeffcoat traveled to New York earlier that week to attend the auction, meet with Sotheby's staff, curators, and consultants, and witness the historic event. In recent years auction attendance has declined due to internet activity and the auctions being live-streamed. Some staff had commented that "a good auction might bring forty people to the auction room." The *Codex Sassoon* was very much an historic item that drew more than a hundred people that afternoon. At the 2PM hour, the auctioneer began the proceedings with an introduction and the *Codex* "handler" came out on a rotating podium, replete with curatorial apron and white gloves! The auction went relatively quickly and was sold at just over \$38 million (costs included). The winning bid came from former US ambassador Alfred Moses, who donated the *Codex* to the ANU Museum in Tel Aviv.



The Morgan Library & Museum and NYPL

During the first full day in New York City during the week of the *Codex Sassoon* auction, Dean Holly Jeffcoat and Bridwell Director Anthony Elia made the rounds visiting some of the major libraries and cultural institutions of the city. Two distinguished places of great interest were the Morgan Library & Museum and the New York Public Library (NYPL) Main Library. The Morgan is known for its rare book collection, which were founded by J.P. Morgan (1837–1913) in the late 19th century. Today, the Morgan has the original library, study, and home open to the public—the main library space is an exquisitely ornamented space with a variety of exceedingly rare manuscripts of music, religion, and art on regular display. J.P. Morgan's personal study is across the hall and has an adjacent vault and several paintings, including a portrait of J.P. Morgan Jr. (1867–1943) by Frank O. Salisbury, who painted the famed posthumous John Wesley portrait, which Bridwell Library owns. The NYPL (right with Dean Jeffcoat) was showing a Darwin exhibit, a contemporary art and photography exhibit, and a more permanent exhibit on major rare items in American and world history.



The Grolier Club

The first stop on May 16th was at the famed Grolier Club, described as “the oldest existing bibliographic club in North America.” The club is arguably the most distinguished of such clubs in the United States and has been around since January 1884. The Grolier’s mission as stated in its constitution is to promote “the literary study of the arts pertaining to the production of books, including the occasional publication of books designed to illustrate, promote and encourage these arts...” During this visit, the Dean and Bridwell Director met with the Grolier Librarian, Dr. Jamie Cumby, and got a tour of the Club’s newly renovated exhibition space and historical library.



From Highland Park to Havana

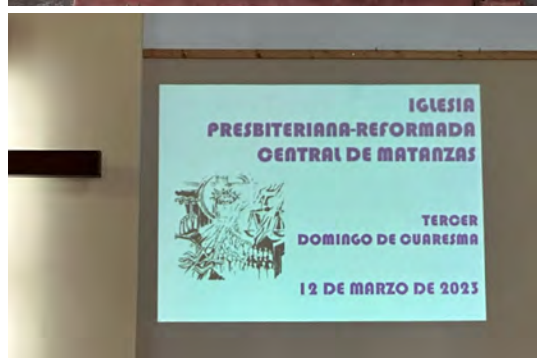
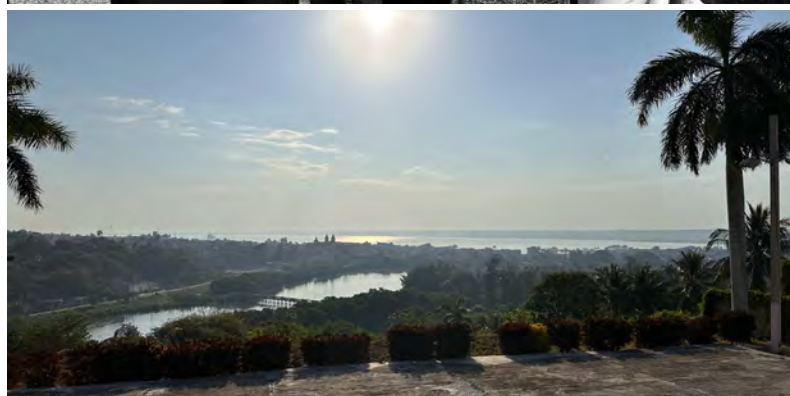
Perkins Travel Seminar Explores Cuban Culture, Society, and the Arts

During this year's spring break at SMU, students, faculty, and alumni from Perkins School of Theology, under the direction of the Global Theological Education (GTE) program, spent 10 days on a course immersion in Cuba. The majority of the visit occurred in the cities of Havana and Matanzas. Dr. Robert Hunt, the director of the GTE program, has led the trip before and been to Cuba several times. Bridwell Director Anthony Elia along with Bridwell Writing Associate Ally Stokes, who also served as the most recent Perkins student president, participated on the trip. Among the many cultural excursions, the group visited Ernest Hemingway's home a few miles east of Havana. They also toured the old towns of Havana and Matanzas, met with church organizations and communities in the coastal town of Varadero, visited local agricultural businesses in the eastern sector of the Matanzas province near to Cienfuegos,

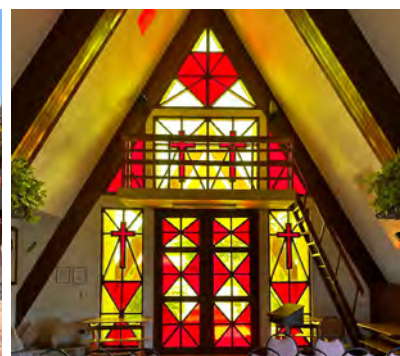


and discussed many of the socio-economic issues facing the island nation today. The base for the first part of the trip was at the Seminario Evangélico de Teología in Matanzas, where a wonderful staff and faculty hosted the visiting SMU group. The first evening included a gathering and meeting with the incredibly talented *Coro Cámara de Matanzas* (The Matanzas Chamber Choir) led by their long-time conductor and music director José Antonio Méndez, whose vision and hard work has been an inspiration for generations of Cubans. The rector and faculty of the Seminario were wonderfully supportive and engaged not only with the SMU visitors but others who came to study, research, and interact with the local

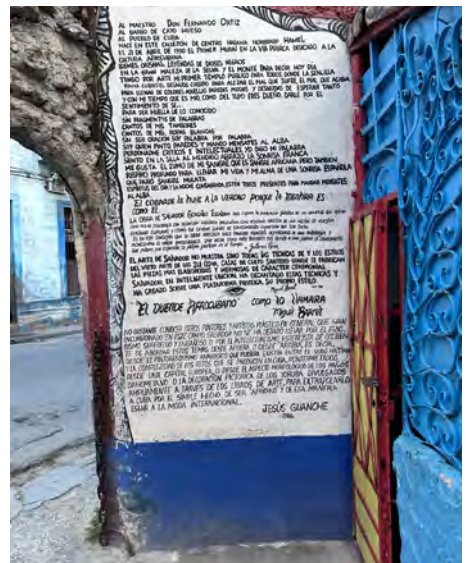
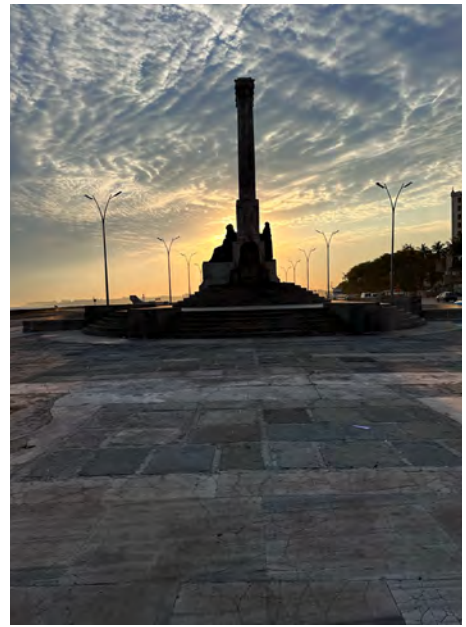
academic, pastoral, and Christian communities. As the trip was a study course for the students who attended, there were a host of lectures given by a variety of experienced faculty and professionals that included everything from economy and religion to agriculture and social justice. Students and group members also visited museums and local libraries. The campus library—*Biblioteca Margaret McDougall Memorial*—was a WiFi hotspot, where most students were able to connect to the internet and do work. In the lower level of the library, Bridwell Director Anthony Elia got a tour from the seminary archivist to see the materials that had been preserved from the Reformed Church's history in Cuba.



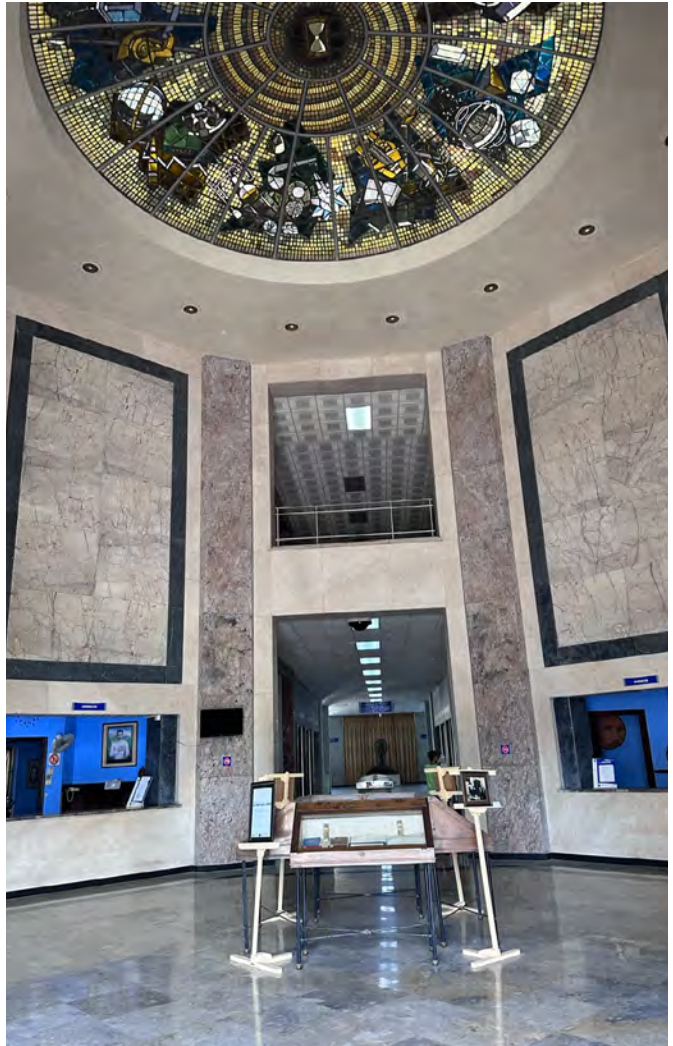
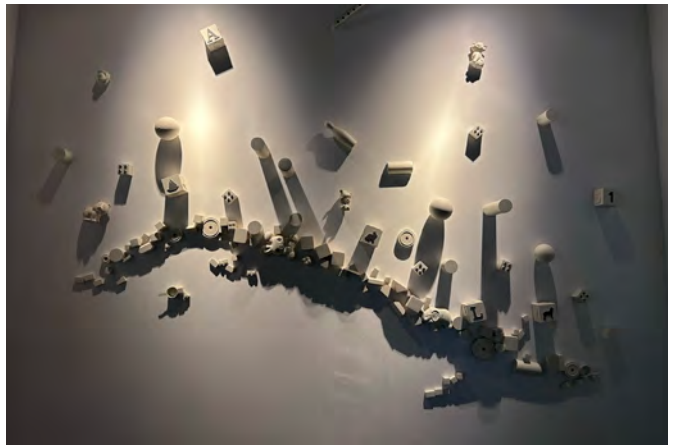
(Top right, clockwise): In Matanzas Presbyterian Church service, group translator Yosmel, Robert Hunt, Matanzas Seminary professor and pastor Ary Fernández-Albán, church youth assistant; Travel seminar members (l-r): Ally Stokes, Pamela Brantley, Judy Bettes, Moraima Gonzalez (International Relations, SET), Michaela Calahan, Deborah Dellinger, and Lilian Hunt; grounds of Matanzas seminary; primary building of the seminary; projection at Presbyterian Sunday service, Matanzas; Anthony Elia in front of the seminary's library.



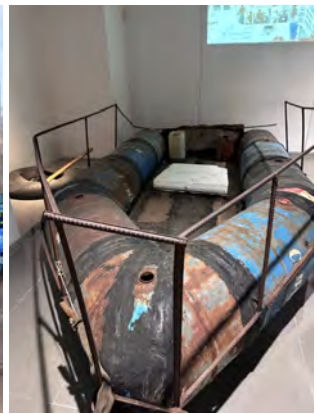
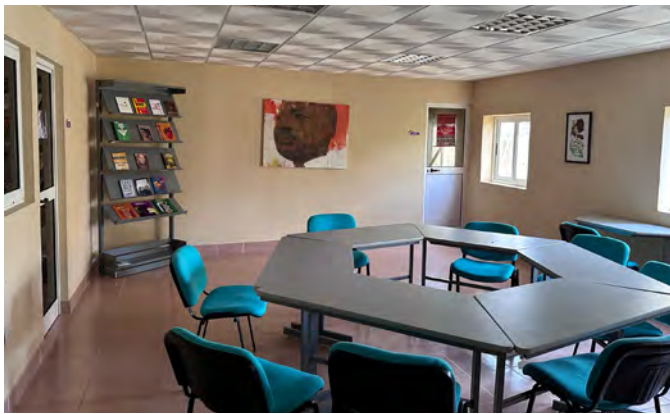
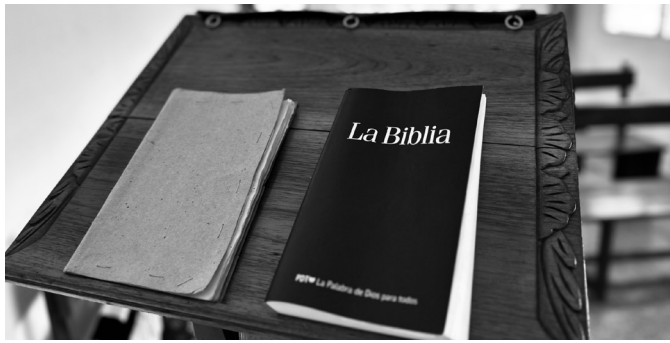
(Top right, clockwise): Maestro Méndez speaking to SMU group during concert of the Matanzas Chamber Choir; inside of Reformed Presbyterian Church and Guest House (Varadero); archives of Matanzas Seminary and lower level external entry; poetry by Dídora Alonso painted on the wall of a street in downtown Matanzas; Matanzas Seminary, evening of concert of the Chamber Choir; Matanzas Chamber Choir performs for SMU visitors; (Center) mural at Varadero Church.



(Above left, clockwise): Statue near Plaza de Armas, Old Havana; Anthony leaning on Dante statue, Old Havana; Monument to the Victims of the USS Maine at sunrise, on Havana's waterfront, the Malecón boulevard; Callejon de Hamel arts alley in Havana; wall poetry in Callejon de Hamel; interior of Memorial de la Denuncia (Museum dedicated to anti-CIA operations): staircase decorated with crosses symbolizing deaths of Cubans from conflict with the United States; Old Havana sign for upcoming international book festival; roadside shops and signs in Matanzas region.

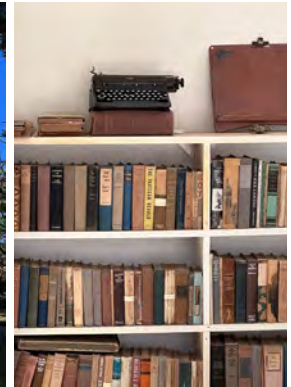


(Above left, clockwise): Anthony at National Library of Cuba; interior of Memorial de la Denuncia in Miramar neighborhood of Havana—notice see-through floor with thousand of spent bullet cartridges; Memorial de la Denuncia's exhibit on Operation Peter Pan—a controversial “clandestine exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied Cuban children” to the United States in the early 1960s, which separated children from parents, in many cases permanently: this artwork conveys the heartache and loss of children by parents in the form of children's toys in the shape of Cuba, fleeing a disintegrating landscape; interior of National Library; interior of Our Lady of Regla—local Havana neighborhood church known for syncretism and Santería adherents. (Images on next page, above left, clockwise): interior of country home chapel, eastern Matanzas region; library of Centro Martin Luther King, Havana (south of La Ceiba neighborhood); makeshift raft made of oil barrels confiscated from Cuban refugees at sea (in Memorial de la Denuncia); interior of Our Lady of Regla; exterior wall sign featuring ubiquitous Ernesto “Che” Guevara image, near Our Lady of Regla.



Hemingway's Home and Library

In the San Francisco de Paula Ward of eastern Havana, the house that once belonged to Ernest Hemingway, known as Finca Vigía, is one of the most famous and most visited tourists sites in all of Cuba. The home is in a bustling neighborhood and is situated up on a hill, from which you can see the city of Havana in the distance. It is apparently more overgrown than when Hemingway lived there in the 1940s and 1950s, but it is still a beautiful place. On the lower portion of the property, which leads to the main road, there is a primitive baseball field, which it is said Hemingway made for local children to play on. During the visit this March, children were playing a game while dozens of tourists streamed into and around the house complex (the house itself is closed, but visitors can peer into each room). The home is filled with hundreds of books, and a tour guide stated that the books were meant to be given to the Cuban people as part of the National Library, but the books ended up staying in the home as part of the museum.



New Cuban Literary Partnerships

Bridwell Press to Publish Works of Professor Adolfo Ham Reyes

In a remarkable encounter, while visiting Cuba, Bridwell Director Anthony Elia met over lunch with the esteemed Prof. Adolfo Ham Reyes and his son Carlos E. Ham, the current rector of the Seminario Evangélico de Teología in Matanzas, Cuba. Dr. Ham Reyes, Professor Emeritus at the seminary, came to Matanzas in the 1960s, and served in various capacities while continuing his research. While a student, he spent time in Germany and even had a course with Karl Barth. He also spent time in the United States and is a Presbyterian pastor. Dr. Ham Reyes has long been working on issues of theology, ministry, and church history. During the years of COVID he spent his time researching and writing at least three books, including works on mysticism, saints, and the history of Christianity in Havana.

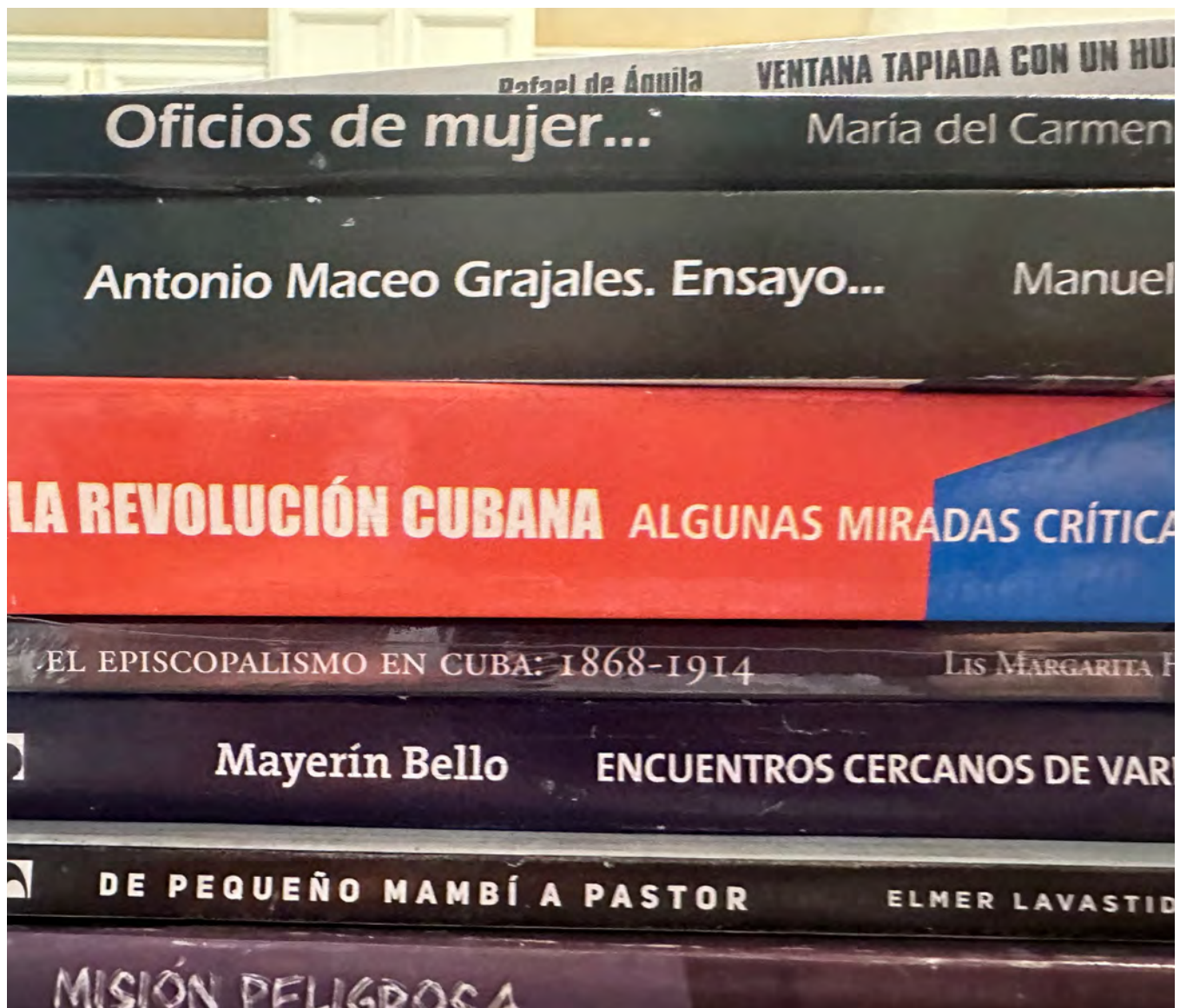


The professor expressed the current difficulty of publishing in Cuba was tied to the paper shortage that had hit the country. The conversations led to an invitation to have his works considered for Bridwell Press, after which he provided a thumb drive with his typescripts to be reviewed by Bridwell staff upon return to the United States. A short interview was conducted with Prof. Ham Reyes at the end of the delegation's visit (images above) and the good professor was delighted by the possibility of this new publishing partnership that would spread his work more broadly and in multiple formats, through both e-books and print-on-demand volumes. Among the works that he is currently working on are a long article "Mission and Evangelization in Today's Cuba" and a book *Christians in Havana*, which looks at a range of topics from toponymy, geography, and history to state-church relations and variations on church councils, seminaries, and religious centers. Bridwell Press is honored to have made this great partnership with Prof. Ham Reyes, Rector Ham, and the broader theological communities of Matanzas and Cuba.



Cuban Literary and Academic Titles Come to Bridwell

One of the goals of the visit to Cuba was to find and identify a range of book titles that have been published in Cuba, but may not have ever been acquired by SMU Libraries and specifically Bridwell. There were several opportunities to visit bookshops, though most of these were small and had limited varieties of titles related to theology and religious studies. Yet, there were some very serendipitous occasions, where visits to a museum or library offered visitors the chance to buy items from the gift shop. At one particular museum, there was a bookshop that had hundreds of titles, many of which are not held in either SMU collections or in any North American libraries. The cost of books varied, but many of the local prices were so inexpensive that Bridwell Director Anthony Elia purchased dozens of books for cents apiece, to be donated to the library. In the end, nearly 75 titles were purchased for no more than \$11!—and returned in his luggage at the end of the trip. Among these books included the following titles: *Vida de Bartolomé G. Lavastida* by Elmer Lavastida; *Misión Peligrosa* by Jorge L. Bernard; *Ventana Tapiada con un Hueco* by Rafael de Águila; *Encuentros Cercanos de Vario Tipo: Ensayos sobre literaturas en diálogo* by Mayerín Bello; *Archivos Traspapelados* by Mirta Yáñez; *El Episcopado en Cuba, 1868-1914* by Lis Margarita Hernández Martínez; *La Revolución Cubana: algunas miradas críticas y descolonizadas* edited by Luis Suárez Salazar; and many others. Also included are several issues of the Cuban socio-theological journal *Camínos*.



Treasures from Bridwell's Special Collections

Elisa McCune, Special Collections and Integrative Projects Librarian

Since the whirlwind arrival and departure of the *Codex Sassoon* in April, I've had other "earliest, most complete" items on my mind. Bridwell is home to plenty of early works, including over one thousand incunabula, or incunables. The word incunabula comes from the Latin for "cradle," referring to print in its naissance—or, more precisely, to books printed before 1500. The most famous incunable is arguably the Gutenberg Bible, printed by the inventor of moveable type in the west, Johannes Gutenberg. Bridwell owns several fragments of the Gutenberg Bible, including the 31-leaf fragment that was on display along with the *Codex Sassoon*. Bridwell owns other fragments of early printing examples, including leaves from three different Gutenberg Bibles, and vellum leaves from other Bibles printed between 1458 and 1461. These works rightfully attract a lot of attention, especially the Gutenberg fragments. However, I'd like to highlight Bridwell's earliest complete printed book: a vellum copy of *Rationale divinorum officiorum* (1470) by Guillelmus Durandus, an important medieval treatise on liturgy. This text was the first printing of any major work by a post-biblical author, and it was printed in a smaller type than its predecessors, as it was designed for solitary reading. The *Rationale divinorum officiorum* features large red and blue initials throughout the text, which were printed from two interlocking pieces of metal (one for the initial itself, one for the decoration around it), as well as headings and small chapter initials in red ink. The result is attractive, but this kind of presswork was largely dismissed as too labor-intensive. Later printers mostly opted to print works only in black ink, leaving it up to buyers to arrange for decorations separately.



Bridwell Staff Spotlights

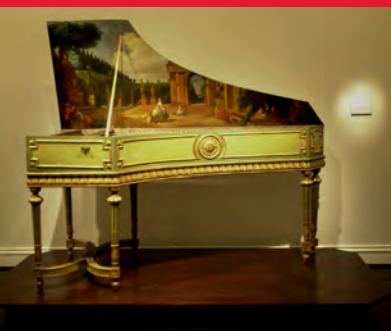
Bridwell staff member **Ellen Frost** celebrates thirty-eight years at Bridwell Library, **Lara Corazalla** celebrates twelve years, and **Anthony Elia** celebrates five years this summer.

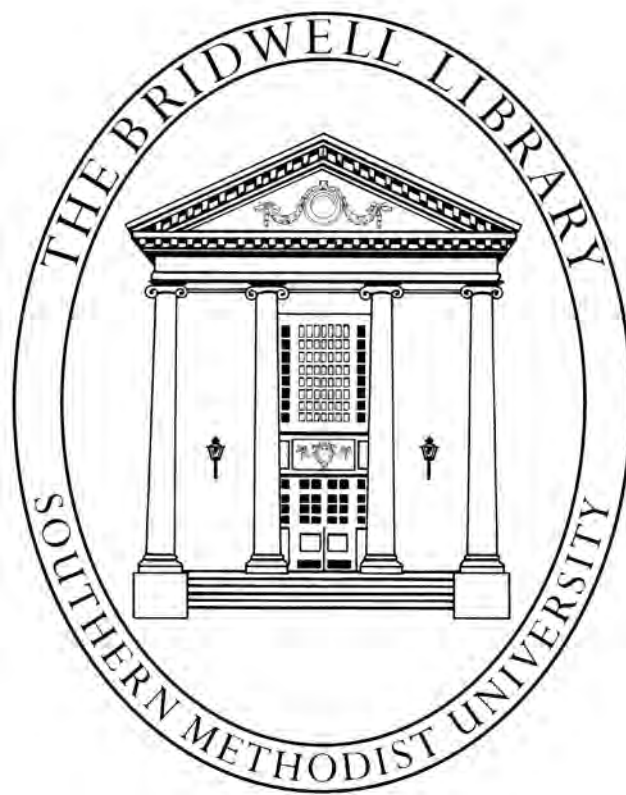
Michelle Ried was accepted into the Master of Liberal Studies program at SMU, which she will do on a part-time basis beginning this fall. Congratulations Michelle!

Caleb Palmer, Associate Director of Ministry Discernment & Communications at Perkins School of Theology, and **Anthony Elia** were named co-directors of the Perkins School of Theology's MAST ("Minister-Author-Scholar-Teacher") Program for 2023-24. The MAST Program is a creative mentoring program for a select group of Perkins graduate students interested in developing arts, music, and writing skills in discerning and engaging ways. The program, now in its sixth year, will be refashioned as "MAST+" and include a broader interaction with arts professionals.

In Memoriam: Carlton R. "Sam" Young

Reverend Carlton R. "Sam" Young died May 21 at the VA Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. He was 97 years old. Young was Director of the Master of Sacred Music Program, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas (1964-75). He established the program as a vital force in graduate professional church music. He also founded the Church Music Summer Seminar at Perkins, a program that continued for over four decades, training countless local church musicians who could not attend seminary. Young made frequent appearances as a guest scholar of the sacred music program, composing anthems, lecturing, and participating at all but the most recent MSM Reunion in 2020. He also curated a stunning exhibition—*Sacred Harmony: The Musical Wesley Family* in Bridwell Library (1 February–28 April 2007) that traveled to Duke and Drew Universities. The Reverend was considered a towering figure by church musicians, given his contributions as a hymnal editor, composer, arranger, and hymnody scholar. He edited both *The Methodist Hymnal* of 1966 and *The United Methodist Hymnal* of 1989. "Young was the undisputed dean of Protestant mainline church music at the end of the 20th century as a church musician, composer, educator, hymnal editor, choral conductor, and mentor," said C. Michael Hawn, professor emeritus of church music at Perkins School of Theology. Survivors include his wife of 76 years, Marjorie Lindner Young; their children Robert Young, James Young, Carol Young Wilson and Richard Young, and grandchildren Brook Young, Rebecca Sword, Dyami Wilson, Lena Wilson, Kirby Wilson, and Raymond Young. To learn more about Young's life and work, read his complete [obituary](#) online. This article was adapted from Sam Hodges' article published by the United Methodist News.





Codex Fest at Bridwell Library

Celebrating the Codex Sassoon: The Earliest Most Complete Hebrew Bible

