



BRIDWELL LIBRARY, PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY // ISSUE 20 // SUMMER 2023

The Bridwell Quarterly

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The Bridwell Quarterly: Welcome

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

Dear Friends,

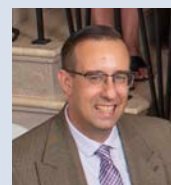
Summer has yet again come upon us without much warning and submerged the DFW area into a sweltering heat sink. Spring was pleasant with a modest variety of cool and wet days and was punctuated by our unprecedented Codex Fest and exhibit of the Codex Sassoon. With that in the rear view mirror, we had much more to look forward to in the fall. But before I got back to working with colleagues and staff on what came next, I promptly went on vacation as soon as I could clear my calendar of any pressing obligations. When I did, I took a direct flight to Seoul, South Korea and spent a couple weeks touring around the ancient peninsula and its coastal islands. The landscape is exceedingly mountainous, even in the cities, which adds an almost magical dimensionality to the place. And while I had been told the cities were very crowded and cramped for space, I found them to be overwhelmingly clean, efficient, and easily navigable. Yet most surprising and attractive for me was the extent to which Korea is a deeply book-friendly society, which has a vibrant public reading and communal literacy culture. By this, I mean that books are not simply present nearly everywhere you go, but they are sold, lent, shared, and given in almost every imaginable public space, from temples and alleys to malls and subway stations. As you'll see in the following pages, even in Asia's largest underground shopping center, situated in Seoul's famous Gangnam district, its retail hub consists of a massive, beautifully designed, and hugely inspirational public lending library surrounded by boutique French bakeries and gourmet coffee shops—a reader's dream come true!

Even in the southern port city of Busan there is a remarkable and historic book alley—a seven-decade-old market consisting of dozens of multi-lingual bookshops, mostly catering to the local readership. And while traveling by bus, train, or car through the countryside, one can find a deeply rich history of Buddhist and Neo-Confucian literacy in countless temples and medieval academies, many of which are now designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites. These extraordinary histories come to life in these spaces, but also continue through the energetic existence of some of the world's most modern and innovative cities—Seoul's metro area alone will likely reach a population of 30 million in the coming years and has a refined and efficient infrastructure. Thus, to have automated book lending kiosks in every station that is regularly used by millions of people says a great deal about the city and culture.

Returning to the US has made me consider the contrast of this relationship between society and its books. In many ways Korea has advanced technologies that are utilized in public spaces far more than anything in the US, which one might think conflicts with the idea of a deeply rooted reading culture, but it does not. It seems to balance and support both a vibrant technology-driven society and an equally extensive commitment to not just reading, but to physical books themselves in public spaces. This is not something that I have ever noticed anywhere in the United States. Though, we might find one or two people reading a book on a bus or train if we look hard enough! But I guarantee we'll never find a public library in prime retail space in any mall in the US. Now back, I am ready to move on to our upcoming academic year, preparing for new exhibits, including the long-awaited World Methodist Collections, due open in October, and welcoming some wonderfully exciting speakers and presenters later this fall. This year has had many unexpected surprises for Bridwell. We hope that as we look ahead, more people will be able to join us in our events and activities. And having had my own time to travel and explore another culture of books, reading, and civilization, I believe this has already given me more ideas to bring to and engage with our greater community of supporters and friends.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Anthony



Announcements



METHODIST EXHIBIT OPENS

In the spring of 2021, the World Methodist Council announced that Bridwell Library would be the recipient of the *World Methodist Museum* collections held in Lake Junaluska, NC. Two years later, the first exhibit of the museum will open on October 2, 2023. The exhibition will be on long-term display and is free and open to the public daily (See p. 5).



SAN MARTÍN VISITS BRIDWELL

New York-based Chilean artist María Verónica San Martín, whose work has been featured in Bridwell's *Experiences Embodied and Remembered* exhibit, will be leading a dance performance on Thursday, November 2 from 4:00pm–4:50pm at the Owens Art Center, followed by a reception and lecture at Bridwell beginning at 6pm. Free and open to the public. RSVP recommended.



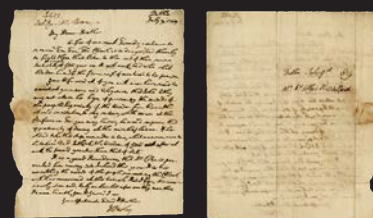
SHORT FALL EXHIBIT

Bridwell will be featuring a small short-term exhibition in the Gill Hall during the Fall semester. This exhibition will feature a donation of carved ivories that Bridwell Library received in the last couple years with attention to the historical and artistic aspects of ivory arts in contemporary museum spaces and society. The exhibit will be on display beginning in October.

BRIDWELL LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

Newly Acquired Wesley Letter

In April of this year, Bridwell Library acquired an original letter of John Wesley from 1789. This late-life letter by Wesley was written in Dublin on July 9th of that year, and addressed to Mr. Henry Moore in London. The July 1969 issue of *Methodist History* notes that the letter was “written from the Dublin Conference” and dealt with an issue of John Atlay (b. 1736), who was charged with overseeing the *Book Room*—Wesley’s first publishing operation. The letter was acquired by Prof. Raymond M. Bell in London at an antiquarian book store in the mid-1960s and in 1975, Rev. Dr. Frank Baker, Editor-in-Chief of *The Oxford Edition of Wesley’s Works*, accepted the undocumented letter into the series for publication. The letter passed to his son Dr. Edward F. Bell of Iowa City, Iowa. Bridwell Library acquired the letter from Dr. Bell in April. (See p. 22 for accompanying article *Storm Chasing for Wesley*).



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

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

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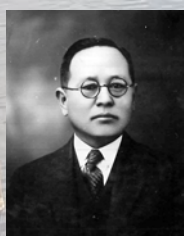
Bridwell News Online: <https://blog.smu.edu/smulibraries/category/bridwell/>

BQ Cover Photo: Buddhist Prayer Wheel at Sanbansan Bomunsa Temple, Jeju Island, South Korea.

World Methodist Exhibition Opens

In the late spring of 2021, the World Methodist Council announced that Bridwell Library would be the recipient of the *World Methodist Museum* collections held in Lake Junaluska, NC. Two years later, the first exhibition of the museum will open on October 2, 2023. The exhibition will be on long-term display and is free and open to the public daily. Because the collection is so extensive, only a portion of the items will be on display at any given time with many artifacts set to be exhibited on rotation. During the last two years since Bridwell received the *World Methodist Museum* collections, staff and scholars have reviewed many of the items and explored ways to display the distinct cultural artifacts and manuscripts, so that the collection would receive optimal visibility, while also recognizing and honoring the legacy that the World Methodist Council and the community of Lake Junaluska maintained for many decades. Bridwell Library is deeply honored and grateful to be the recipient of this collection and the new steward in its preservation and curation and we very much look forward to sharing its expansive cultural joys with the greater world.

John Wesley



Literary Seoul of the East

Explorations in Korean Book Culture, Religion, and Philosophy

Korea is a rich culture with a long and complex history. Among its religious communities, Buddhism proliferated through the peninsula, but became firmly established only in the 6th and 7th centuries of the common era, especially in the southeastern region where the ancient Silla Empire dominated. As religious practices grew within the empires, communities of practitioners in monasteries and elsewhere tended to document their activities, copy sacred texts, and make commentaries on religious activities and ideas. On the southeastern coast and region from Andong down to Busan, the number of historical Buddhist temples numbers nearly 1,000 with almost 20,000 in total across the country today. The oldest wooden structure in South Korea is at the Bongjeongsa Korean Buddhist Temple near Mount Cheondeung in the ancient city of Andong situated in North Gyeongsang Province. The *Sansa*, or Buddhist Mountain monasteries are comprised of seven distinct communities in the south including Tongdosa, Buseoksa, Bongjeongsa,



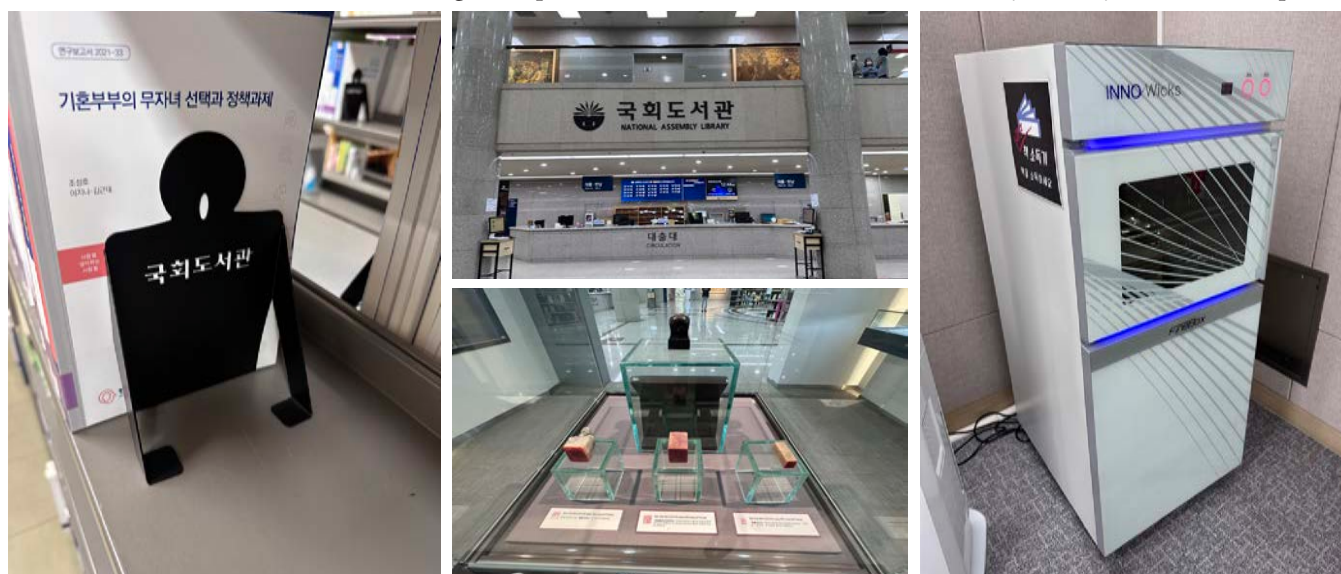
(Above) Statue of King Sejong located in the center of Seoul, South Korea. The statue looks across the Gwanghwamun Plaza, not far from the Gyeongbokgung Palace and the “Blue House” or Cheong Wa Dae—the presidential office and official residence. King Sejong (1397–1450) was the fourth king of the Joseon Dynasty and is known for his role in redeveloping the Korean language. He personally invented a new character system in the 15th century called *Hangul*, which can be seen on the base of the statue. This system was designed to simplify language learning and acquisition and boost literacy. Half a millennium later, this is the standard Korean script.

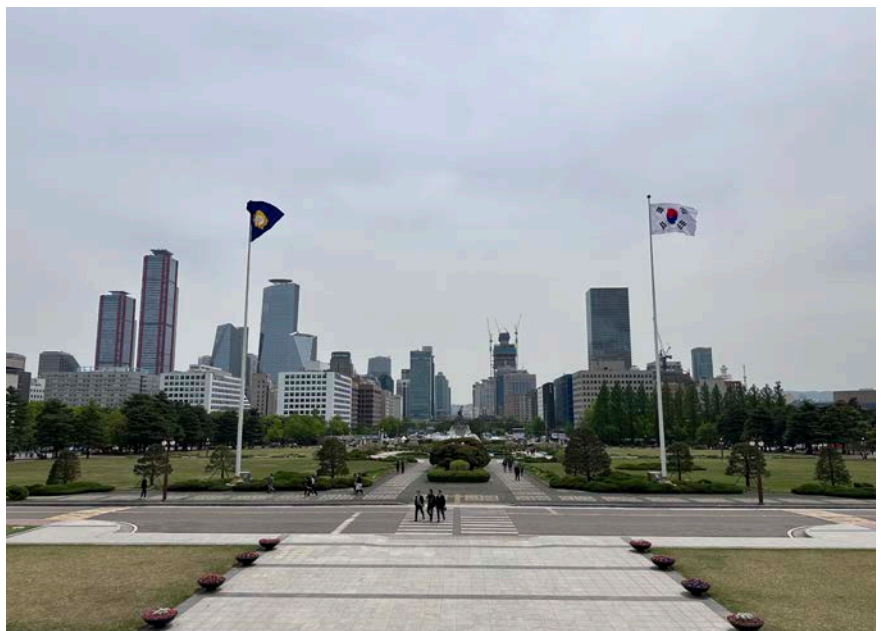
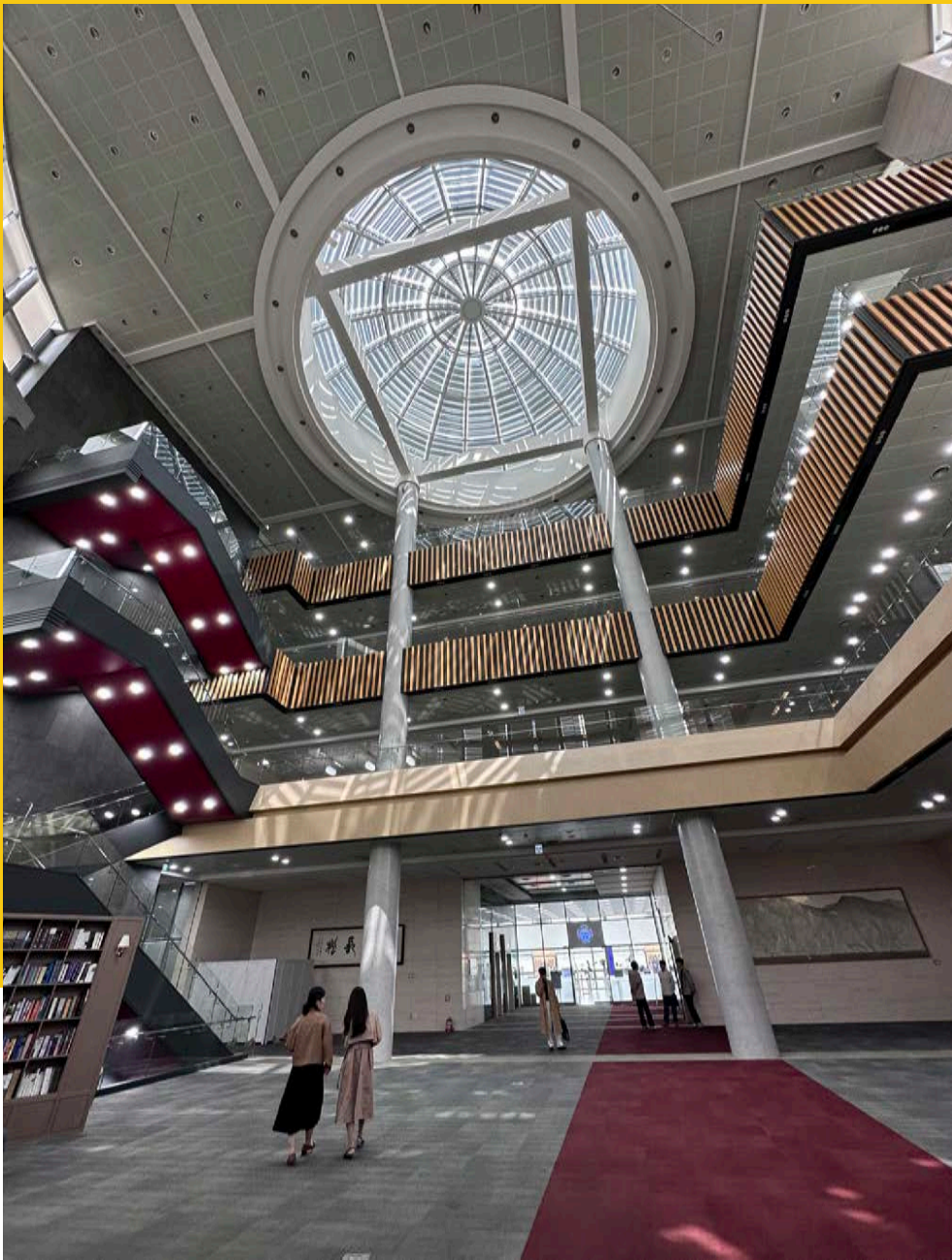
Beopjusa, Magoksa, Seonamsa and Daeheungsa, all of which have distinct religious and cultural importance. Gyeongju has one of the greatest concentrations of Buddhist Temples and stupas, many found along ancient roads down to the coast of the Sea of Japan (including the Gyeongju Gameunsa Temple). In this city, one of the oldest extant religious structures still stands after nearly 1,500 years—the Bunhwangsa complex of the Old Silla period built during the reign of the Queen Regnant Seondeok (ca. 610–647CE). Many of these spaces held practitioners of religious communities, including some of the earliest literate religious groups in Korea. The ancient literary culture is also globally significant for both its development of paper and early movable metal type printing—predating Gutenberg’s innovations by nearly a century. While the first printed books technically came out of China around 868CE during the Tang Dynasty, the more dynamic movable type has been documented as early as 1377CE in Cheongju, with a book titled *Jikji*. The world’s earliest woodblock prints were discovered in the famed Gyeongju temple complex known as the Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple, where the Dharani sutra texts (done with woodblock printing) were discovered in 1966 and date back to around the year 704CE. Along with ancient Buddhist sites, there are also a number of notable Confucian or Neo-Confucian academies. One of the most well-known and visited academies is that of Dosan Seowon in the Andong region, which was established in honor of the great Confucian sage Yi Hwang (often known as Toegye, 1501-1570). The vast and ancient historical narrative of books and reading has parallels in the present, where large public spaces in malls or kiosks in train stations house community lending libraries. On a recent trip in May, Bridwell Director Anthony Elia traveled around South Korea to visit many of these places. The images and descriptions on the following pages are from that tour.

Libraries of Korea, Ancient and Modern

National Assembly Library of Korea

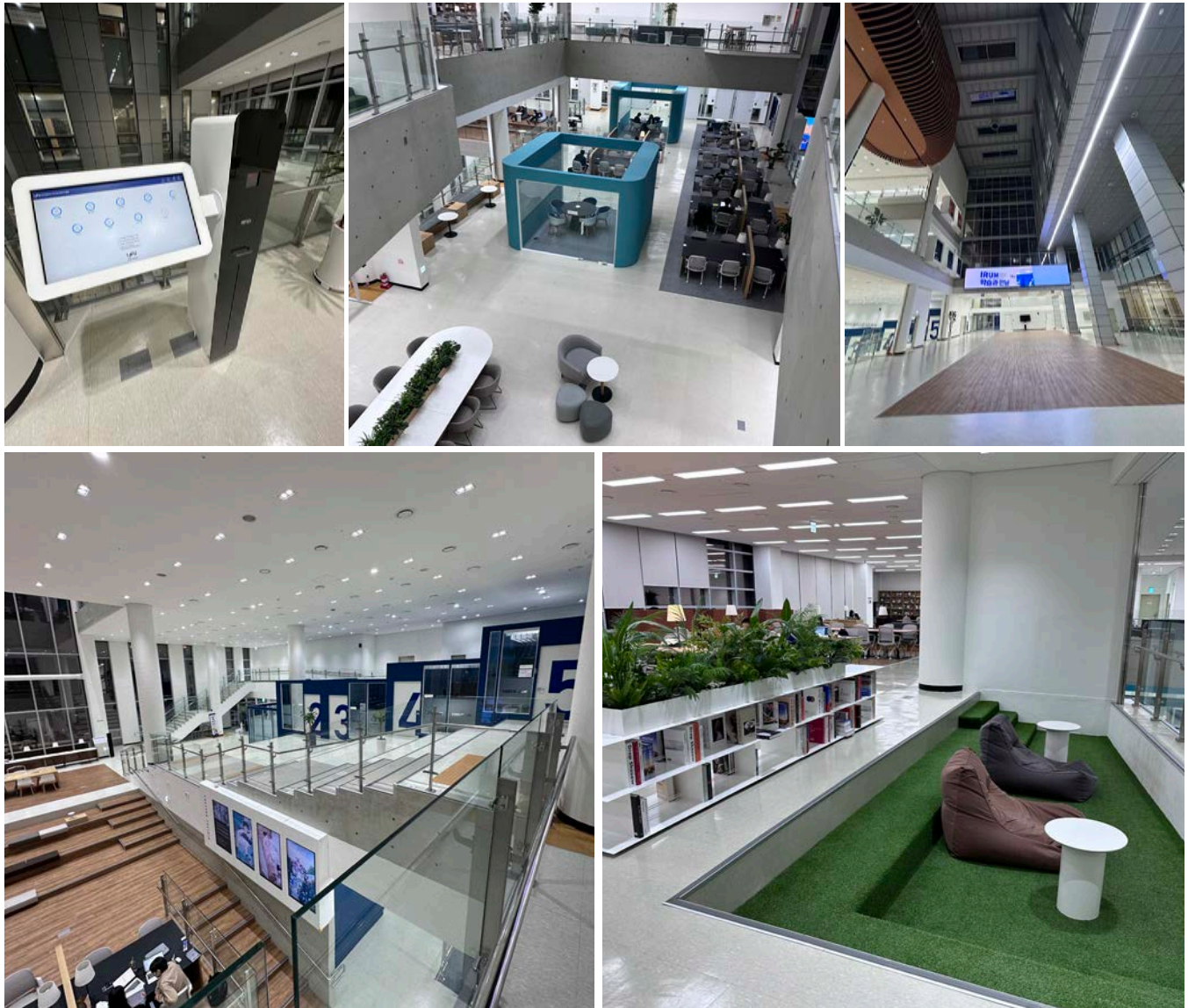
The National Assembly Library of Korea, located in the Yeongdeungpo District of Seoul, is Korea’s greatest humanities and social sciences library by size and use. Its purpose, very much like the Library of Congress in the United States, is to provide a fairly comprehensive collection of national and international resources for both parliamentarians and the public. Founded in 1952, in the middle of the Korean War, the National Assembly Library has grown into a distinguished research and scholarship hub with approximately six million items. The library is several stories high and has multiple library divisions, including social sciences and government documents reading rooms. The library also offers highly sophisticated book cleaning technologies (seen here), where patrons place books in a sterilization box before returning the items. The INNO brand sanitizer usually takes about 30 seconds to clean books using UV-C UVGI light and a concentrated air pressure system, similar to cell phone and laptop cleaners found in some airports. Similar sanitizers can be seen in other Korean libraries. (Images on p. 8 include interior of National Assembly Library and outdoor plaza).





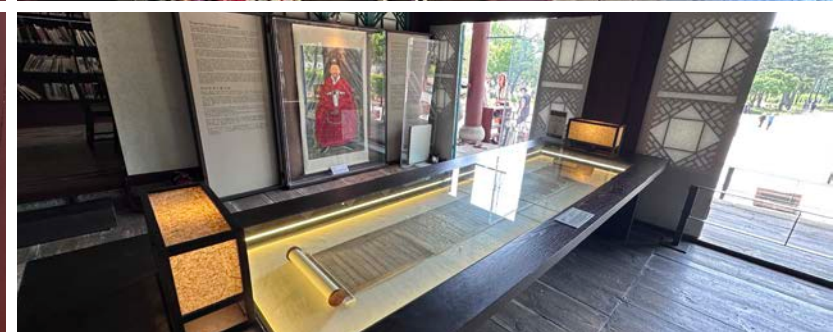
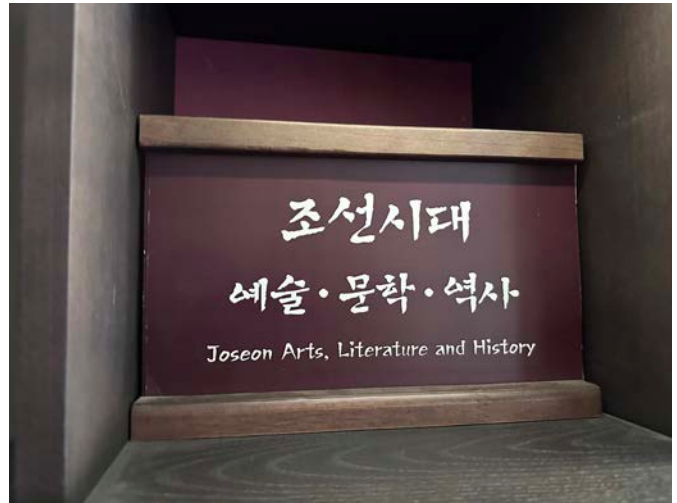
Incheon National University Library

Founded in 1979, Incheon National University (INU) is located just outside of Seoul, near the main international airport. Originally named the Incheon Technical College, it has developed and changed over the last forty-five years into a major university that offers a variety of subjects for its more than 12,000 students. The university has both undergraduate and graduate programs ranging from Korean, Japanese, and English Literatures to Mechanical Engineering, Logistics Management, Computer Science, and Law. In 2009, the campus moved from Dohwa to Songdo, which is part of the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ). The new Haksan Library is an extraordinary multi-level learning space, which was designed with an exceptional attention to student needs and user study behaviors. A soaring atrium vaults across the center of the library and integrates seamlessly into the multiple levels in a way that lends to both individual study and collaborative work. The outcome is an integrative space that is both intimate and awe-inspiring. There is a high degree of user accessibility and a user-interface system that allows patrons to select study spaces, rooms, carrels, or other services on a large digital screen. Several areas of the main reading room are graded into the architecture to allow for small reading spaces, almost like living rooms with comfortable lounge chairs and plants, or broader study tables with focused lighting. The library provides the standard services and has a sizeable circulating collection (with self-guided check-out kiosks) along with special collections, archives, and vast digital resources. It also has some of the same book sanitizing equipment found in the National Assembly Library, which is common throughout the country.



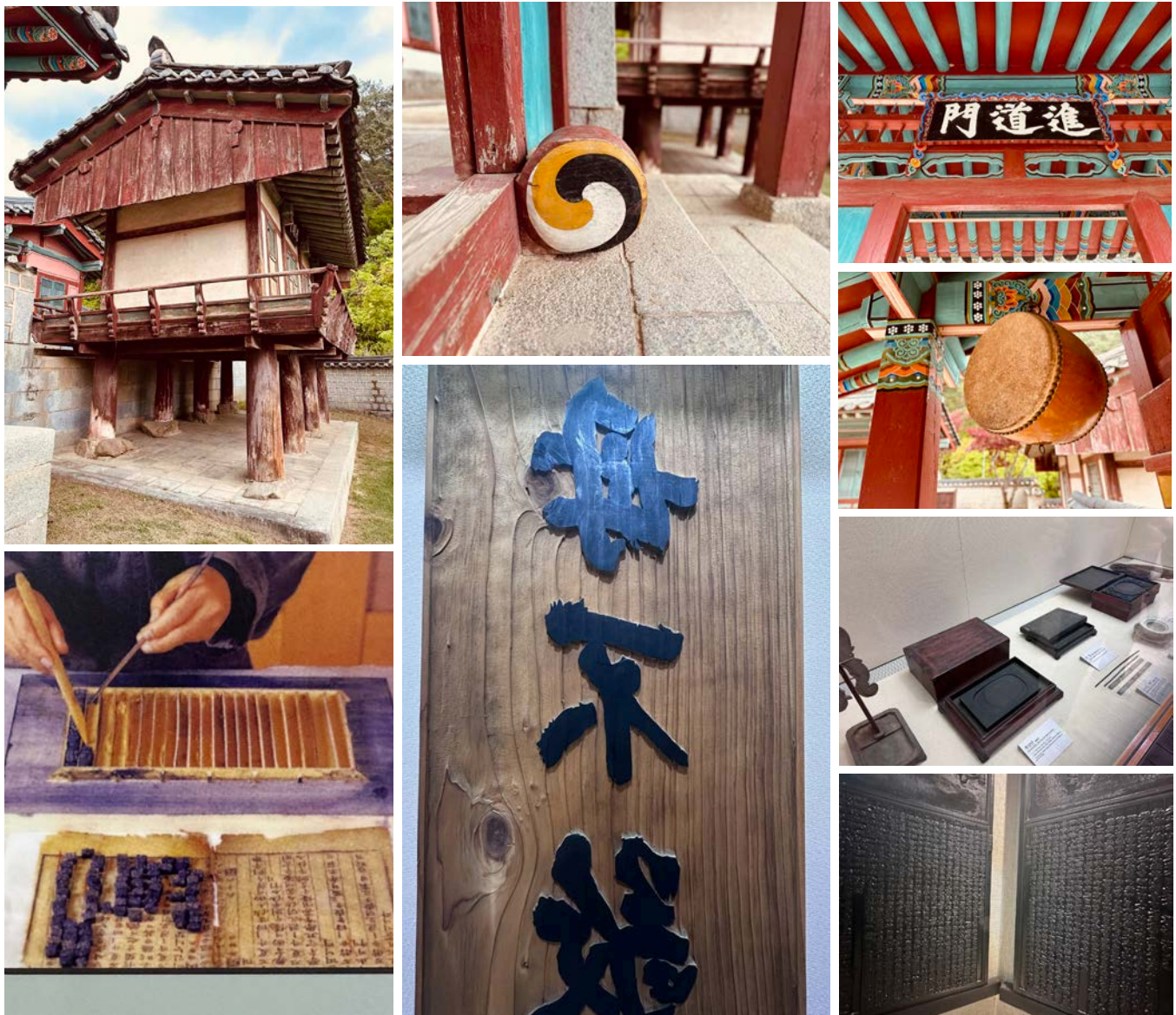
Jibokjae Royal Library, Gyeongbokgung Palace (Seoul)

Considered to be one of the oldest libraries in Seoul dating back to 1891, the Jibokjae Royal Library was the reading room and private study of King Gojong. In the 21st century, the library opened to the public as a collection representing the classical texts of the Joseon Dynasty period. The 1,000+ volume library is adorned in traditional Korean architecture with artistic variations painted on the walls and ceilings. The inviting space requires visitors in the palace to remove their shoes before entering, in the customary manner of most Korean households. Dozens of slippers are available for visitors to use when they enter and anyone can sit and read materials in the library. An antique scroll and painting of the emperor adorn the main hall, while ornate doors and carved wooden screens shield visitors from the sun, still allowing for ample light to enter the space. According to the historical record, King Gojong sought to enlighten himself on contemporary affairs and history with the most up-to-date works about the world, in an effort to modernize Korea at the end of the 19th century.



Books and Bright Light: Dosan Seowon Neo-Confucian Academy, Andong

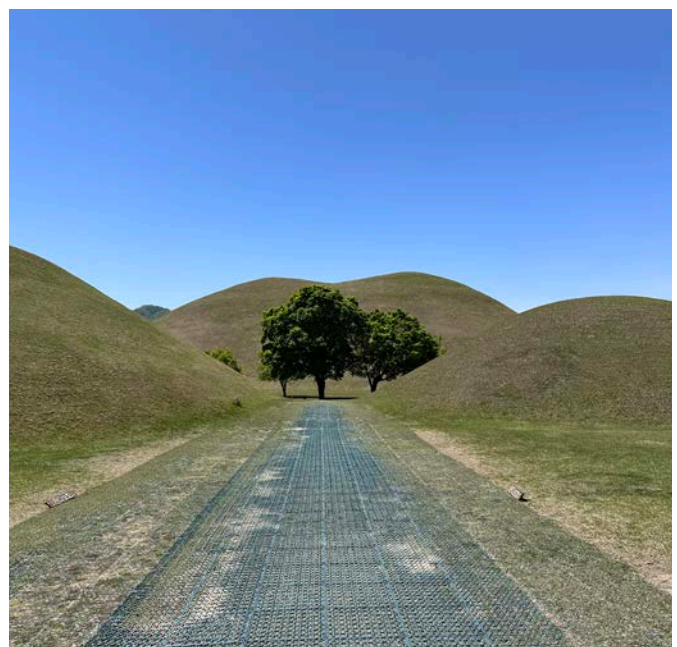
The Dosan Seowon Neo-Confucian Academy in Andong is an extraordinarily beautiful and historic place situated along the Nakdonggang (Nakdong River). The remarkable architecture and design facilitated an educational space of Confucian learning for more than four centuries, specifically supporting the Toegye School of Confucianism. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage site and continues to host various commemorative events. The grounds around the academy are magnificently tended to and spread across more than ninety acres along the hills adjacent to the Nakdong. It is a popular destination for school children, families, and tour groups, and many people enjoy hiking the roads and hill paths, stopping to take in the beautiful views of the river and fields below the academy. Inside the complex itself, there are many historical points of interest, especially related to books. The Gwangmyeongsil Library is a central feature, but there are many traditional study areas and classrooms for the students who once attended here. In the newer museum space, there are many detailed examples of book making, calligraphy, and woodblock printing, including a guide to how books were traditionally made in Korea before the 16th century.

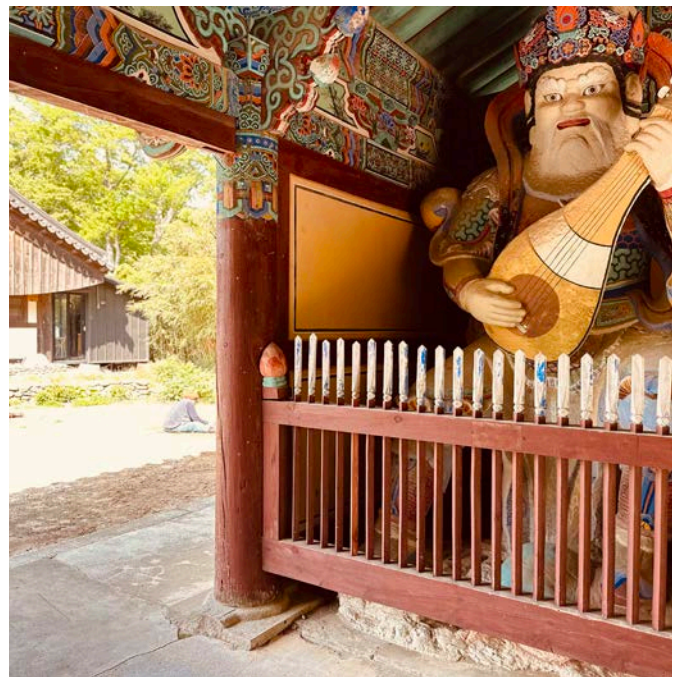


(Above Left): In the center of the Dosan Seowon Complex is the Gwangmyeongsil Library, pictured here on eight-wooden pilings. According to the UNESCO description at the site: “These two buildings on either side of the gate leading to the lecture hall area were used as a library. The buildings sit atop tall wooden foundation pillars, which helps to protect the books and documents from moisture. The plaque hanging on the building on the right was calligraphed by Yi Hwang (Toegye) and bears the library’s name, Gwangmyeongsil, which can be interpreted as ‘a room where numerous books give us bright light.’”

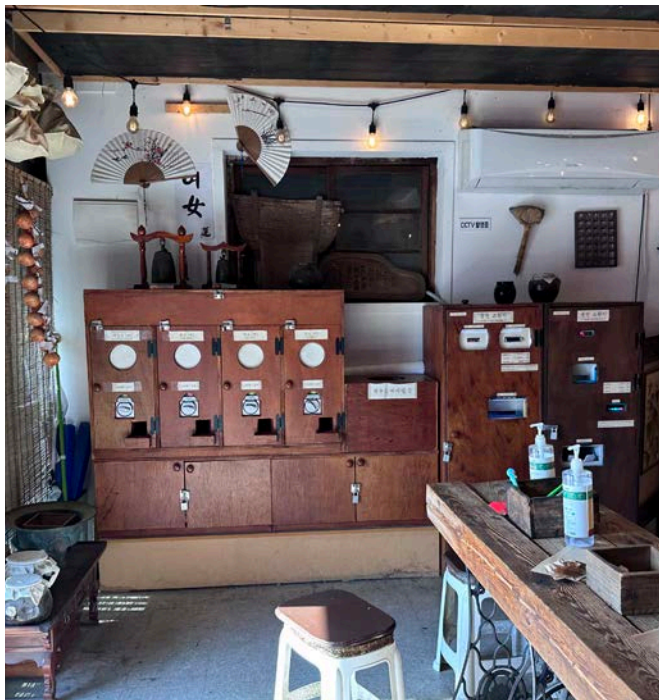
Gyeongju Historic Silla Empire: Bulguksa to Gameunsa

The ancient Silla Empire (57BCE–935CE) was the kingdom that evolved into one of the most powerful and distinctly important entities of the ancient world, which specifically adopted Buddhism as a state ideology. With this development, the region of present-day Gyeongju proliferated with Buddhist communities and temples, many of which are the inheritors of those ancient groups. To this day, the ancient Silla imperial tombs (bottom right) stand firm in the central park of Gyeongju, while innumerable temples, academies, and royal households remain as historical artifacts and spaces for tourists to visit. In the nearby hills, one of the most important and historical temples stands on the slopes of Mount Toham overlooking the valleys, and attracts thousands of people each year to its footpaths and cultural spaces. The distinguished Bulguksa Temple was completed in the year 774CE. It is significant for literary and book history, because it once contained the world's earliest known woodblock printed book, the Dharani sutra. Other major sites include the Gameunsa Temple, the legendary Tomb of King Munmu, the Girimsa Temple, and the Golgulsa Temple (or Bone Cave Temple), also known as the Golguram Hermitage, which is known for the locals' affection for their dogs.





(Above) Images from the Golguram Hermitage, Gyeongju, which included a community known for their admiration for dogs. In the image above left, a dog has a sticker placed on its temple that reads in Korean: “no thoughts.” The image below right is from the Girimsa Temple, dating back to the 7th century CE.



(Above) Images of books around a traditional medicine shop open all hours in Gyeongju and a local bookstore in that city.

Busan, Buddhists, and Book Shops

Busan is a city of vibrant cultures merging on the southern coast of South Korea. Its seaside has long been a vital lifeline to the city and other parts of the country. And today, it is a bustling city with commerce, tourism, culture, and a very diversified food scene. It also boasts one of the most distinguished and longest continually operating book markets, which was founded more than seventy years ago. Among the most visited UNESCO sites in Korea is the Haedong Yonggung Temple (images p. 16) on the northeastern coast of Busan. This formidable temple is a magnificent example of religious architecture built into the craggy seaside cliffs that one finds along the Korean coast. The original temple was built in the 14th century, but destroyed during the historical Japanese invasions of Korea between 1592 and 1598. Many statues adorn the complex, including one of the Maitreya Buddha along with various animal statues. While the temple is situated some ways out of central Busan, the tourists and local pilgrims flock to the site even on the rainiest of days, many bringing family or coming to light candles and seek some solemn reflection.



The famed Busan Book Alley or Book Market in Bosu-dong was established more than seven decades ago. Some stories suggest that locals were selling off Japanese books that had been left after the Japanese occupation ended in 1945 and more locals flocked to the area to sell all kinds of books. According to the monument at the Book Alley itself, the story goes: “The bookstore alley in Bosu-dong was started by a refugee couple from Hamgyeongbuk-do, who started by selling used magazines here when Busan City became the temporary capital city of Korea with the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25, 1950. Starting with Bomun Book Store (currently the Geulbang Shimteo), there were more than 70 book stores here by the 1970s, and refugee artists used to go up and down, to and from Yongdusan Park every day, thus becoming the alley’s regular customers. The bookstore alley in Bosu-dong is now a street of culture and a living memorial to the past, and still functions today as a creative space, bringing used books and their new owners together, thus maintaining today this spirit of rebirth for which it has long been known.” (Photos on pp. 17–18).

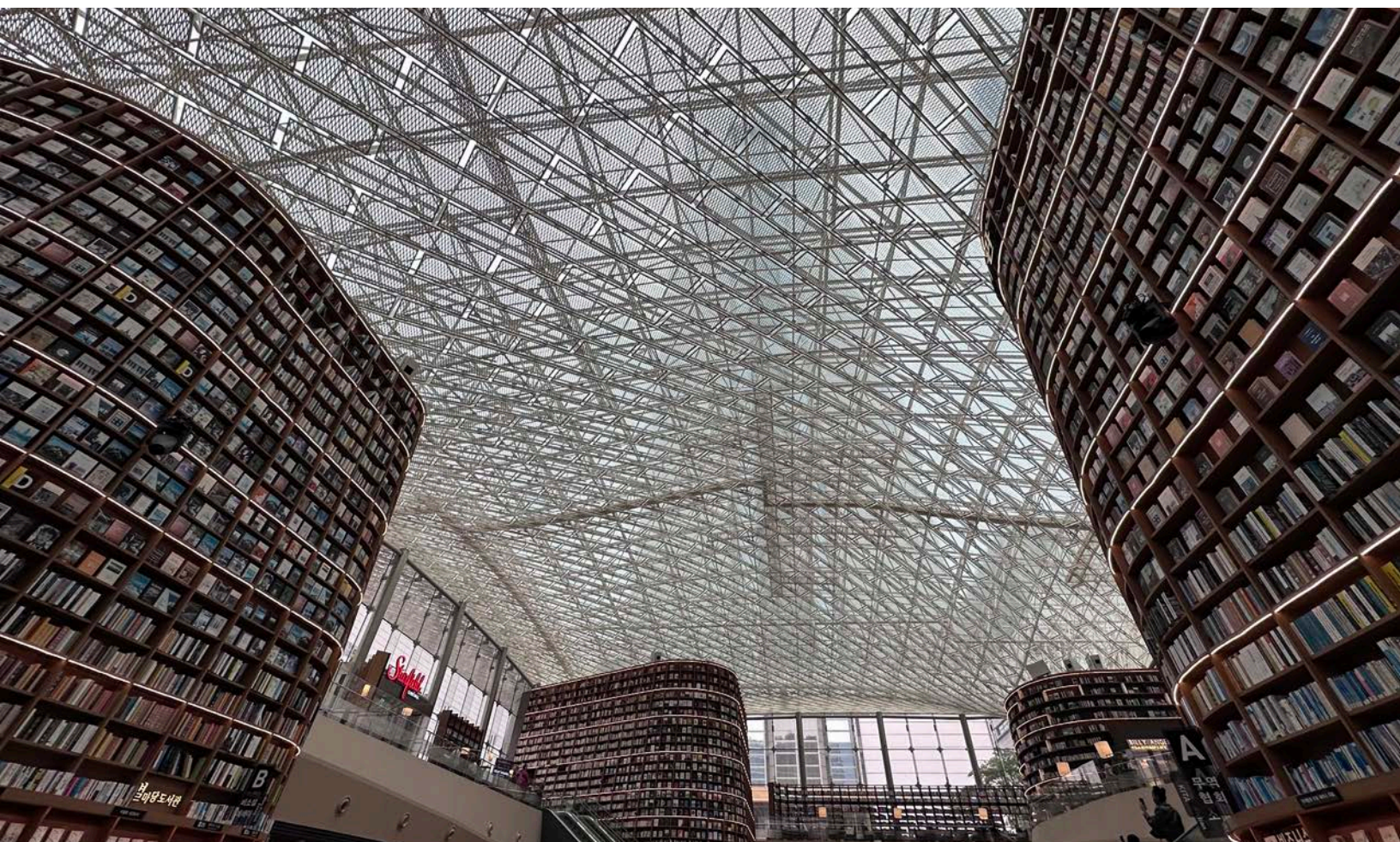






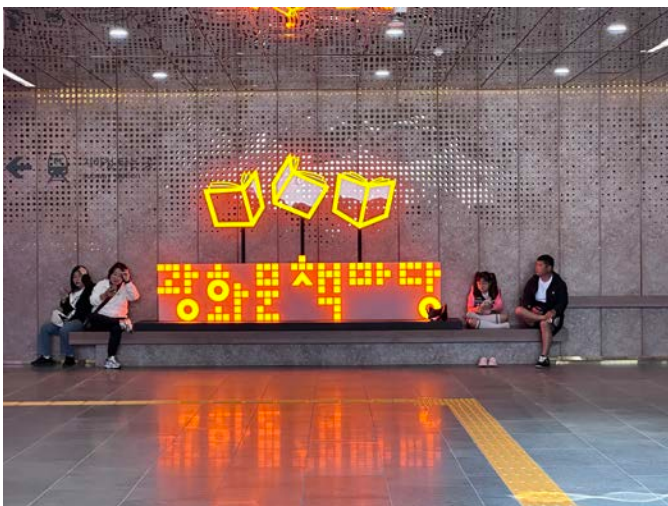
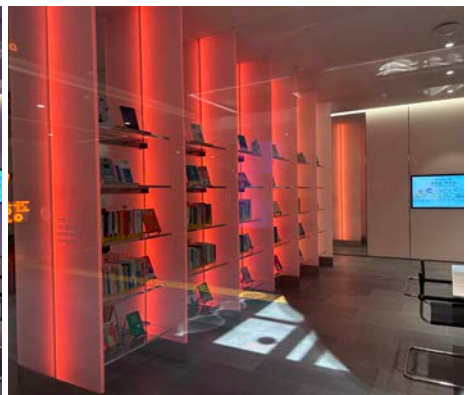
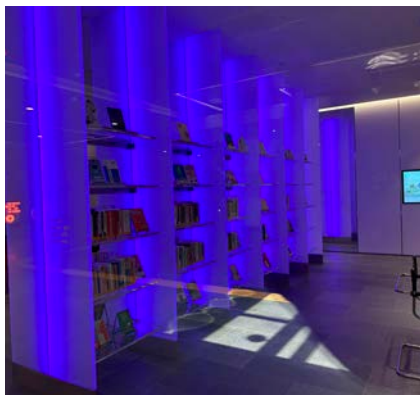
COEX Mall Lending Library and Books

The Starfield COEX Mall Lending Library and adjacent branch of the Kyobo Bookstore is one of the most remarkable and memorable public spaces one will ever see. Its central lending library is an open floorplan with book kiosks, tables, chairs, a stage for events, and couches all surrounded by very likely the world's tallest open shelves. These enormous structures soar dozens of feet into the air, reaching the arched industrial roofing of the indoor mall complex, and bend with a playful elegance that emotes both grandeur and awe. It is hard to describe the aesthetic presence of such massive interior structures, or that these units holds thousands of books—some of them at the higher levels are actually props! But the sections of books, each divided by discipline or theme, rim the reading room both at ground level and on the upper terrace. Along with this, visitors are able to find their preferred meals, desserts, or snacks, as the mall is full of an array of fabulous eateries, and a handful of high quality cafes, offering everything from cappuccini and bubble teas to specialty shops serving up cheese cakes and croissants. The Kyobo Book Centre, Korea's largest book seller, has services here and its main store in the center of Seoul. The COEX Mall Lending Library is located in the famous Gangnam District and is the central fixture in Asia's largest underground shopping mall.



Korea's Biggest Book Store

Korea's modern book culture is on full display in Seoul with some of the most extraordinary and expansive book stores, shops, and public lending libraries that you'll ever see. Besides the remarkable and awe-inspiring COEX Mall Lending Library, there are dozens of other book shops around the city. Some recent news articles have described a "new wave of K-Bookstores" emerging in this highly literate society, which include Arc N Book, Book Park, and Young Poong Bookstore. And each of these are both aesthetically beautiful and cleverly designed to attract readers to the spaces. While we might think about how bookstores (especially chains) in the United States design their spaces with a requisite coffee shop, the Korean model seems to take that to another level altogether. The design rationale is one that heightens the experience through color, image, placement, aesthetic configuration (feng shui), sound, and overall environment. There is an inherent desire to visit and stay in these places, because they are designed to facilitate an essence of communal presence. The Kyobo Book Centre is often described as "the nation's book store," and is well-known for its famous phrase that is written across the main entrance: "People create books, and books create people." The interior of the Kyobo Book Centre is extensive and among its many locations, the larger sites can run from 28,000–33,000 square feet. The central store is located a short distance from the statue of King Sejong and has a variety of attractive aesthetic designs integrated into its subterranean architecture. (Images from Kyobo above and below).



Automated Subway Library Kiosks

Among one of the most surprising services one will find around Korea is the automated library kiosk. Many of these large secured boxes can be found in spaces like malls and subway stations. It is common to see one of these kiosks and fairly easy to use if you have an ID and library card. While it may seem otherworldly, it is a great convenience for the thousands of people who walk or run through the subway halls each day, some of whom stop and review their options before getting breakfast on the go. The literary surprises never end!



Atla in Fort Worth

Annual Theological Library Association Conference Returns to Texas

The American Theological Library Association's (Atla) annual conference met in Fort Worth, Texas this summer, from June 14th through the 17th, returning to the Lone Star State after more than a decade. The conference was held at the Hilton Fort Worth downtown, which was the very hotel where President John F. Kennedy spent his final night in November 1963. It was also where JFK gave his last speech in the newly built Crystal Ballroom of the hotel. Outside of the hotel now stands an extensive memorial promenade, with a statue of the president standing before a wall with his image and words he spoke during his visit. The Atla Conference had an array of presentations, round tables, panel discussions, and plenary lectures ranging from collection development and archives to creative communities, literacy, and usability studies. Many current and former Bridwell staff attended the conference and participated in the discussions and presentations. The in-person conference was an excellent opportunity for staff to engage with the broader international organization of theological library professionals.



Storm Chasing for Wesley

How an Archival Visit to Iowa Became an Encounter in Tornado Alley

Anthony J. Elia, Director



Chicago to Iowa City, Iowa is more than a 200-mile drive. I'd been on an archives visit to Chicago in early April and was now heading to meet someone to review an original John Wesley letter from 1789 in Iowa City. Cruising across the mostly empty farmland and cornfields of the western Illinois plains, Route 88 had little to distract one from driving. By the time I'd come to the state border with Iowa, traversing the Fred Schwengel Memorial Bridge over the mighty Mississippi, the skies had turned from an off-white to a pale grey, and were darkening quickly. The highway had



split just before the river crossing, and I was now headed north of Davenport, Iowa on Route 80. The approximately 50 miles remaining were meant to be an easy drive, but with the quickly changing weather, it would be anything but that. Rain clouds spun into intricate patterns and the sky's occlusion made it seem almost like night. Soon, not far from Lime City, I drove into a wall of rain and fog, which turned into a hail storm. It was by far the worst driving visibility I'd ever encountered (a close second was driving three hours through nearly impassible nighttime fog from Québec City to Le Bic near the town of Rimouski in July 2011). I pulled my car over and turned on my flashers. The road still had 18-wheelers barreling onward perilously fast by daredevil drivers. I had to get out of the way. The visibility was zero and it was extremely dangerous to stay even on the shoulder, so I drove slightly onto the grass embankment. After about fifteen minutes, it felt safe enough to resume driving. Before getting back on the highway, though, I'd gotten a message from the person I was to meet warning me about a major storm that had already seen several tornados touch down in central and eastern Iowa. One thing that I realized in the next few hours was that when this happens, there isn't just one tornado, there are sometimes dozens of tornadoes. I believe the final count for this storm was around 54 documented tornadoes. I became even more cautious after the hail and fog encounter. While those cleared up, the sky looked like a swirl of blueberry ice cream, with circular patterns and wisps of immense cloud formations. The more they appeared to spin into funnels, the more worried I got, and the faster I drove toward my destination. Just a dozen miles from Iowa City in the small town of West Branch, the first funnel descended across the highway from my car. I immediately pulled off the exit (thankfully!) and took cover in the gas station and Subway shop. A dozen or so people were sheltering inside, while the winds were gusting so powerfully that metal signs and the gasoline shed were rattling back and forth. Men on cell phones stood proudly by the doors, as if the force of nature couldn't harm them, while most of the people stood back in the public restrooms. I only realized it when I left that the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum was directly across the street! But this was no time for spontaneous museum visits. I had to make my way to Iowa City. By the time I left, the weather had calmed and the skies were a mix of scattered clouds and a few spots of blue sky and distant sun. I'd soon be at my destination, but within a quarter mile of the home where I was to meet the owner of the Wesley letter, the tornadoes had fiercely ripped through the neighborhood, tearing out fences, trees, and powerlines, leaving a path of destruction and inaccessibility to much of the area. I parked my car on the road blocked by a fallen tree and by sheer luck, the person I was to meet emerged from a forest of white pines and called out my name from behind a barbed wire fence! Since the only way to his home was through the woods, I trudged through mud and underbrush back to his house. There was no power in the area for some time, and only the sound of gas generators growling in the neighborhood could be heard. While we'd originally planned to discuss and review the letter that afternoon, that didn't happen. Because of the storm and the power outages, and the fact that it was the biggest sports day of the year in Iowa—the women's collegiate basketball finals—I was quickly pulled into an evening of pizza parties and Midwest festive hospitality, which lasted well into the night. The next morning, I was able to complete the review of the Wesley letter, with no more tornadoes, and having been newly inducted into Iowa basketball culture. And soon I would be on my way back to Dallas. That was one very unexpected journey to the heart of America, searching for yet another piece of Methodist history. Luckily, I survived to tell the tale!



H.W. Roth Collection Comes to Bridwell

Preacher, Educator, & Orator's Archive Documents 19th Century American History

Henry Warren (H.W.) Roth* was born in 1838 in rural Pennsylvania. He was a fraternal twin to a sister who died in infancy, but his own life spanned nearly eight decades, which were abundant with activities, remarkable in events, and expansive in the variety of pursuits undertaken by the distinguished preacher, educator, and orator. While he is almost unknown today, in his day he was a fixture in both the Pennsylvania and Chicagoland theological world, moving between the pulpit and the university administrator's chair. He was a man who had been born in the age of great American conflict, and came of age at the cusp of the Civil War. Roth was an intimate witness to the conflicts of war, being at Gettysburg College when the war began. He spent time as a writer and correspondent for a local newspaper in Greenville, PA, documenting travels west through regions that were still territories and not states, and reported on some of the last slaughters of buffalo from locomotives by gun-happy marksmen. He served as first president of Thiel College and then first president of the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary—predecessor of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Roth spent time analyzing business models of theological education and coming up with new ways to promote the church and education of students. Indeed, seminary students of the 1890s were required to fundraise for both their own benefit and for the benefit of their fellow and future students. During the famed Columbian Exposition (1893 World's Fair) in Chicago, Roth developed a fundraising plan to offer spaces for rent in the seminary, at that time in its first location in the Lakeview neighborhood where Wrigley Field now stands (the seminary was sold in 1910 and



(Above) A comprehensive biographical archive of 19th century preacher and theological educator Henry Warren Roth (1838-1918), covering nearly eighty years. (*Pronounced "ROTE" like "OAT").

demolished to build the famed park—maybe those were the ghosts keeping the Cubs from winning!?). Roth retired to western Pennsylvania and died in 1918, still active till his final days. His archive went to his adopted daughter, who held it until her death in the early 1960s, at which point it was turned over by other family members to Thiel College and the LSTC archives for stewardship. They were held in Chicago and worked on by the late Robert Fischer, who had planned on writing a volume on Roth's colleague Passavant, but died before completing that project. Bridwell Director Anthony Elia had spent four years on staff at the JKM Library and worked with colleagues reviewing some of these collections between 2008–2010. In 2022–23, when the campus of LSTC and McCormick Theological Seminary were sold to the University of Chicago, the archival collections were reviewed for deaccessioning and transfer to institutional and denominational archives. Bridwell Library accepted the Roth archives with the intention of processing, digitizing, and making accessible the materials, now more than a century after Henry Warren Roth died and his papers were boxed up for storage. Many curious histories will certainly be told, when the journals and letters of Roth are finally explored and another chapter of American history is revealed.

Around Bridwell This Summer

Bridwell staff continued on the road to professional and personal development this summer. While some have traveled to learn more about botanical printing by attending a Guild of Book Workers workshop, others have traveled to learn more about our country's history in Galveston, TX. Back at Bridwell, staff hosted a church group in a viewing of the St. John's Bible while other staff hosted several SMU groups in viewing treasures from Bridwell's Special Collections. The library came alive while hosting a well-received reception and lecture on "Functional Art and Societal Perception" with guest artist Ifeanyi Anene. In the Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Galleries, one exhibition came to an end while staff prepared for the next exhibition opening on October 2, 2023. As staff continue to develop and change, so does the building. The Circulation Office gained a new wall and glass door, creating additional office space (below). Through it all, Ellen Frost, Head of Technical Services at Bridwell, was able to capture a peaceful image of a Blue Jay on a tree outside her office window (right).



The Secrets of Botanical Contact Printing

A Workshop with Rebecca Chamlee

Jane Elder, Head of Reference and the Theological Writing Center

In June, the Lone Star Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers hosted a workshop at Virginia Green's Black Hare Studio in Waco. Rebecca Chamlee, of Pie in the Sky Press in California, initiated us into the magical world of botanical contact printing. We learned about mordants and natural dye materials. Then we used plant materials we had collected at home to create the images you see here. Broadly speaking, the method was simple. After soaking the paper in water with an alum mordant, we arranged various leaves and grasses and dye materials, such as cochineal or marigold petals, in layers. When we had done five layers, we rolled the paper stacks onto short lengths of PVC and tied them with string. Then we boiled these bundles in water containing black walnut hulls for a couple of hours. At the end of the boiling process, we untied the bundles, rinsed them in plain water, and hung them up to dry. The "reveal" of our designs was a fun surprise as we discovered which materials yielded the best results. Carrot tops and ocean or red oak leaves made great designs, while yellow and purple onion skins gave beautiful golds and spring greens, respectively. Once the paper was dry, we folded and sewed the papers into leather-bound, long-stitch books. It was an absorbing and fascinating process, and Rebecca was a patient and talented instructor, as well as a gifted artist in her own right. It was a joy to learn about this process.

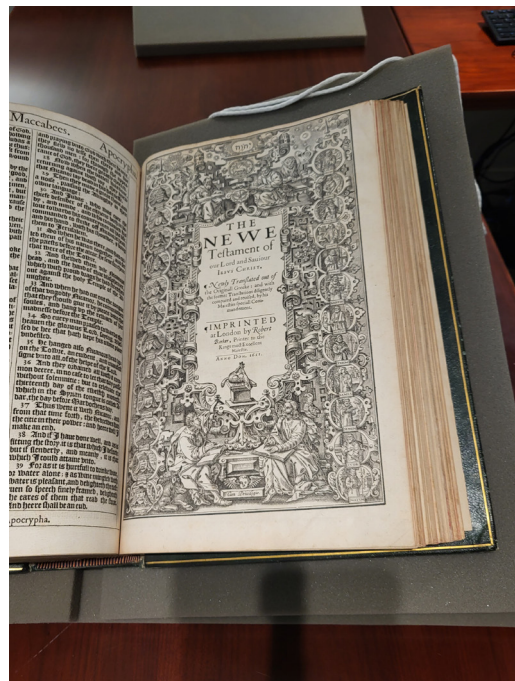




Bridwell Staff Launch “Friday Rare Book Break”

Reference & Special Collections Staff Share Bridwell Gems with Community

Earlier this summer Jane Elder, Head of Reference and the Theological Writing Center, had an idea to share some of Bridwell’s vast Special Collections with the greater SMU Community and especially with the students of Perkins School of Theology—have a Friday afternoon “show and tell” featuring a single tome of interest that would pique the curiosity of those who visited. Thus was born the “Friday Rare Book Break.” So far, Jane and Bridwell staff Elisa McCune, Arvid Neslen, and Christopher Clarke have shown works from Lewis Carroll to Shakespeare. The showings are quite successful with several visitors attending each Friday. The “Friday Rare Book Break” is open to the SMU Community, from 1:30-3PM in the conference room across from the Theological Writing Center. For more details, contact Jane Elder (jelder@smu.edu).



Church Group Views St. John's Bible

Vicar Kristen Maddox from Christ Lutheran Church in Dallas visited with Bridwell's Special Collections team to view the St. John's Bible. Arvid Nelsen and Elisa McCune presented the volumes to the group who first saw the St. John's Bible on display during the Codex Fest in April. The church group was struck by the vibrant artwork and requested a private viewing over the summer.



Functional Art and Societal Perception

Lecture by Guest Artist Ifeanyi Anene

Nearly fifty people attended an engaging lecture and reception with Ifeanyi Anene on Thursday, August 10th in Bridwell Library's Blue Room. Ifeanyi's lecture provided insight into his journey from his birthplace of Nigeria to his current home in Dallas, TX. He told his story of emigration through the use of photography and painting, revealing not only his perspectives on everyday life, but also on politics. Additionally, he incorporated works of traditional Nigerian masquerade costumes. Ifeanyi aimed to capture the underlying themes that connect with and influence the psyche of Nigerian people. His work references artists such as Norman Rockwell, Pablo Picasso, and others. Ifeanyi released the following statement on his art and this lecture, "As a contemporary artist, I believe there is a functional purpose for every piece of art, in scholarly studies, casual conversation, social commentary, religion, or political criticism. I work in the belief that an artist's expressions should have a functional purpose—rather than being merely aesthetic. Each new work provides an opportunity and fulfills a need for the artist to express their opinions, perceptions, ideologies and beliefs, in the hope that society will consciously perceive the work holistically or critically." Ifeanyi explored this idea during his lecture and examined the work on display in Bridwell Library's previous exhibition *Experiences Embodied and Remembered: Contemporary Artists Engaging Contemporary Concerns*, which closed on August 18, 2023. Though Bridwell's exhibition is now closed, his work can be viewed on [Bridwell Library's online exhibitions](#) webpage and it can be purchased through the [Daisha Board Gallery](#) (2023 – solo exhibition). Ifeanyi received his BSc in Psychology from the University of Lagos in 2010 and currently lives and works in Dallas, TX.

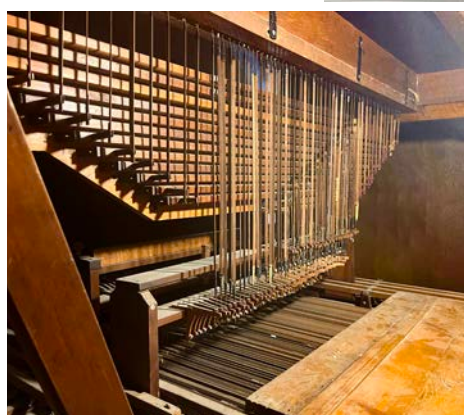


Galveston, TX: An Island of Firsts

A Trip to Reedy Chapel & Rosenberg Library

Michelle Ried, Operations Manager

Galveston, Texas is an “Island of Firsts,” according to long-time [Reedy Chapel](#) AME Church member and steward Diane Henderson-Moore (below). Diane shared details about her family’s long history with the church, one of the first AME Churches in Texas. Reedy Chapel is one of the three original sites where Juneteenth originated in Galveston after the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation on Galveston Island on June 19th, 1865. Reedy Chapel is an historical landmark and a place for all Americans to celebrate freedom. Nearby, the beautiful [Rosenberg Library](#), one of the first public libraries in Texas, was constructed in 1904. The library offers more about the island’s history. Located within the library is the [Galveston & Texas History Center \(GTHC\)](#). It is open to the public and houses many historical Galveston and Texas documents and manuscripts.



Bridwell Staff Spotlights

Arvid Nelsen and Michelle Ried both celebrated seven years of employment at Bridwell Library this summer.

Maria Bastos-Stanek (right) is Bridwell's newest student assistant, working in special collections and assisting with digitization and metadata. Maria is a PhD student in the RASC/a: Rhetorics of Art, Space and Culture program in Art History.

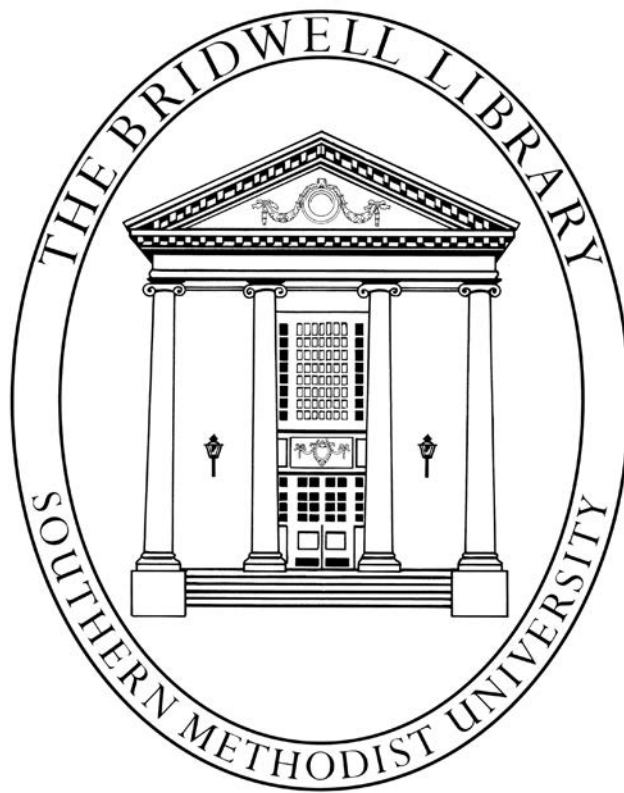


Anthony Elia was invited to speak at the Legacy Senior Communities on Manderville Lane in Dallas on Friday, August 25th at 2PM. The talk and discussion covered the recent Codex Fest and the showing of the Codex Sassoon at Bridwell, and included an overview of the history of paper production in Central Asia and its relation to the development of history and theology in that region more than a millennium ago. Rabbi Michael Tevya Cohen, Director of Rabbinical Services and Pastoral Care at Legacy, moderated the discussion.

Bridwell Staff Luncheon

Bridwell Staff gathered on Friday, August 11th for an all-staff pot-luck luncheon in appreciation of all the great work the staff had done this year. We welcomed our former colleagues, like Charles Baker, and welcomed new staff Christopher Clarke and Elisa McCune.









Wesley Letter, 1789

Newly Acquired at Bridwell Library

