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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

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TRUE FACSIMILES AND OUTSTANDING ORIGINALS AT THE FISHER LIBRARY

Miguel Torrens
Collection Development Department

EVERY YEAR THE Central Libraries add over 120,000 books to their collections. Among these additions received from the world over, an increasing number arrives in electronic format, but there are some gems that stand out, not just for the value of their contents, but for the beauty and importance of the medium itself, the book. The following is just a small sample of such gems acquired to maintain and enhance the particular areas of collection strength at the University of Toronto Libraries.

Some of the most spectacular of these recent acquisitions are true-facsimile copies of a number of medieval manuscripts. Because of the monetary value and relative scarcity of many of these deluxe facsimiles, they are housed at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library rather than in the main library's circulating collection.

The *Codice di medicina e farmacia di Federico II*, a thirteenth-century manuscript in the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana of Florence, was originally commissioned by Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, king

of Germany, Italy, Burgundy, Jerusalem and Sicily. It gathers medieval medical knowledge from such various sources as Galen, Pseudo-Apuleius, Pseudo-Dioscorides and many of the early treatises of the classical world. It is illustrated with over five hundred miniatures depicting plants, animals, healing treatments and the medical men who administered them. In this same area of collections the Library also acquired a true-facsimile copy of *Kitab al-Diryaq*, a rare twelfth-century illustrated Arabic text dedicated to the study of snake venoms and antidotes. This exceptional manuscript is the earliest extant Arabic manuscript to include figural illustrations, the human figure being practically proscribed from representation in Islam. The acquisition of these two items was supported by the generosity of the Goggio and the Hannah funds, and makes a worthy addition to the Libraries' collections in the history of medicine.

To enhance patron access to rare and important medieval manuscripts, and to facilitate hands-on study in history, art-history and palaeography,

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OPENING PAGE: Page from the *Kitab al-Diryaq* facsimile. **BELOW CENTRE:** Page from the *Codice di medicina e farmacia di Federico II* facsimile. **BELOW RIGHT:** Page from the *Bedford Hours* facsimile. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Spread from the Ryland Beatus facsimile. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Illustration from the *El libro de los juegos del ajedrez, dados y tablas* facsimile.

the Library purchased two other magnificent true-facsimile copies. *El libro de los juegos del ajedrez, dados y tablas* was originally produced in the court of King Alfonso X of Spain (1221–1284). This copy is not only an exact facsimile of the original text and illustrations, but is also printed on vellum, not paper. Adding to the already significant collection of rare medieval manuscript reproductions is the *Bedford Hours*, the original of which was produced in France for the wedding of the Duke of Bedford to Anne of Burgundy in 1423. It is an item fit for a King. Funding for these purchases was provided from the Buchanan and Goggio funds.

In past years the Libraries have accumulated an important collection of facsimile copies of the eleventh-century Beatus of *Lieband's Commentarius in Apocalypsin*. This past year we have added three more examples of Beatus to our collections: those from Lorrão, from the original manuscript in the Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo in Lisbon; the Navarra Beatus, from the manuscript at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris; and the magnificent and richly illustrated version of the manuscript at the John Rylands Library at the University of Manchester. Each brings not only valuable versions of the text, of great importance to scholars in the field, but also an array of palaeographical hands in which the texts were transcribed.

A jewel of Romanesque manuscript illumination can now be found at the University of Toronto Libraries in the *De Virginitate Sanctae Mariae*, written by Saint Ildefonsus (ca. 610–667), the Visigothic nobleman who later became archbishop of Toledo, Spain. The codex is better known as Parma Ildefonsus,



and was produced in Cluny, France, ca. 1100. It is a masterpiece of an amazingly modern Carolingian script and is profusely decorated with gold miniated illustrations.

In the continuing effort to maintain and enhance the study of art at the University, the Library acquired several antiquarian works of importance in art history. One such work is the first and rare edition of Bartolomeo Giuliani's *Cappella della famiglia Pellegrini*... which was printed in Verona in 1816 on a printing press installed in the palazzo of the Pellegrini family. This is an oversize book in what is known in the trade as an "elephant folio". In the same area of collections is Carlo Amati's *Regole del chiaro-oscuro in architettura*, which was originally published in 1802 as a course on perspective and shadow theory in architecture. Amati not only wrote the book and contributed to its illustration, but used the very buildings he had built as themes.



In the realm of Italian Renaissance studies, an area for which the University has a well-deserved reputation, we have added, among others, Castiglione's *Poesie varie e latine*..., printed in Rome in 1760. Conte Baldassare Castiglione (1478–1529), a nobleman from Lombardy, published his *Libro del Cortegiano* in 1528, based on his experience as a courtier with the Gonzaga, Mantua and Urbino families. His *Book of the courtier* set up the education of the courtier, just as *The prince*, by his contemporary, Machiavelli, did in educating the future monarchs.





THE 1608 GENEVA BIBLE

Pearce J. Carefoote
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

ONE OF THE great things about working at the Fisher Library is that you never know what interesting item is going to come across your desk on any given day. That was certainly the case this past May 5th when I began cataloguing a copy of the Geneva Bible that had been printed by Robert Barker, the King's Printer, in 1608. Over the past few years, especially in preparation for the exhibition *Great and Manifold: A Celebration of the Bible in English*, I have examined more copies of the Scriptures than I ever imagined (and at times, wanted) to see. One of the things that has struck me most, however, is how copies of what most of us would consider a pretty standard text, actually display some rather astonishing, and at times, idiosyncratic differences. This particular copy of the Geneva Bible did not disappoint.

The Geneva Bible, often known as the "Breeches Bible" for its rendering of Genesis 3:7 as "they sewed figge tree leaves together, and made themselves breeches", was the translation of the Bible done at Geneva and first published in 1560. It was particularly popular with the more Puritan element of the

Church of England, and remained the Bible of choice for at least one more generation after the first printing of the King James Bible in 1611. Divinely-inspired words Bibles may contain, but they were subject to human printers, and so errors inevitably began to creep into the text—and Robert Barker was responsible for some of the most egregious mistakes ever made. For the most part, his mistakes were minor, and affected neither doctrine nor morals. His most famous gaffe, however, appeared in 1631 when he recorded the immortal words of Mount Sinai as "Thou shalt commit adultery". That little blunder all but cost him his livelihood.

His 1608 Geneva contains another serious *faux pas* which must have caused its first readers to have a jarring moment or two, and would certainly have tested which of the children was actually paying attention during household morning prayers. The mistake comes in John 6:67, at the conclusion of one of Jesus' early Eucharistic discourses. Some of the disciples, we are told, had found his sayings a little too hard to accept, and decided to part company with him. The Gospel continues, "Then said

Judas to the twelve, Will ye also goe away?"

... Did he? Did he really? If so it certainly changes the dynamic of the next verse which is, "Simon Peter answered him, Master, to whom shall we goe? Thou hast the words of eternal life". Judas, the Master of Peter? I think not. Of course, the text should have *Jesus* addressing the apostles, not Judas; but as a tribute to Barker's folly, this edition will be forever known as "The Judas Bible". What is slightly surprising is that the mistake didn't seem to create the same furore that the 1631 adultery error would cause. In that case, the Bibles were apparently rounded up within twenty-four hours and destroyed. The "Judas" error, however, was actually perpetuated by Barker, since it appears in several editions from this first instance in 1608 until 1611. The 1608 may not have been very popular with the public in the end, however, since there are only thirteen other recorded copies in public institutions around the world.

There is another mystery surrounding the Fisher's new acquisition, but it gives us some insight into how previous owners may have dealt with this rather bold mistake. While

OPENING PAGE: In the misprint, Judas addresses the apostles. **BELOW:** Title pages to the New Testament and the Book of Psalms from the 1608 Geneva Bible.

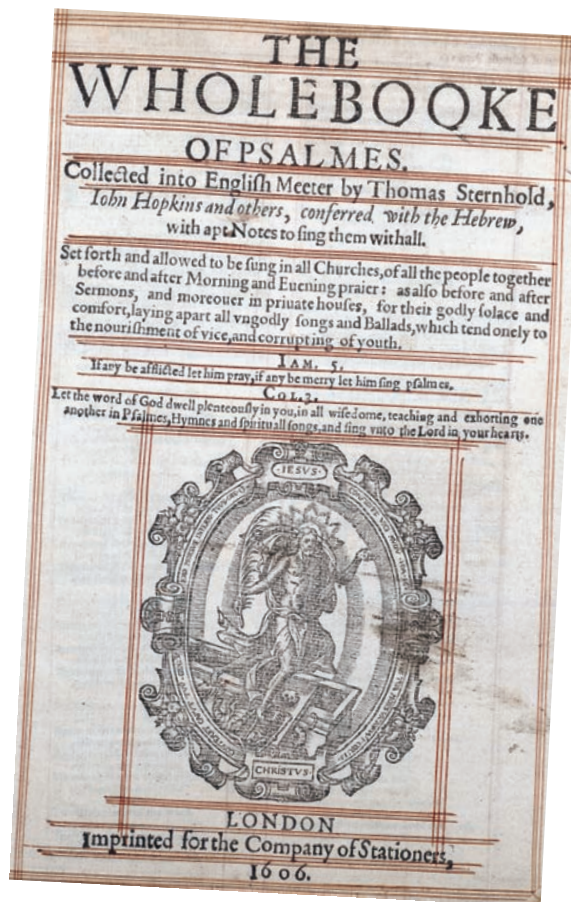
the book is in a fairly battered, contemporary seventeenth-century binding, the text block of the Bible itself is quite sound. There are no pages missing from it, though there are some problems with the copies of the *Book of Common Prayer* and Thomas Sternhold's metrical translation of the Psalms, respectively bound before and after the Bible itself. Both of them have pages missing or laid in at front and back, the casualties of frequent use. The only page that is damaged in the Geneva Bible, however, is leaf 40 of the New Testament which, I suspect not coincidentally, contains the offending text. The leaf is tattered about the edges, and similar in condition to the leaves that have been detached from the Prayer Book and Sternhold; it is also pasted in place between leaves 39 and 41, not sewn.

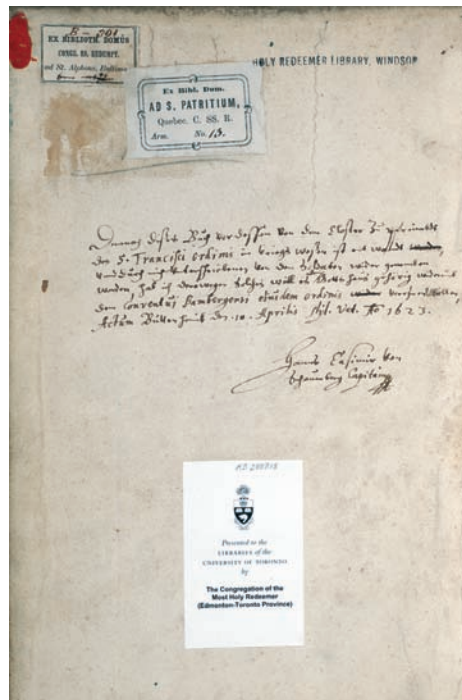
It was clearly the conjugate to leaf 33, since the paper is the same, with chain and wire lines having exactly the same measurements, and the red ruling a perfect match. It is definitely not a facsimile insertion. How might we explain this?

Of course, we can only hypothesize an answer, but it appears as though the page was detached from its original place at some point in the book's history and perhaps laid in elsewhere, causing the wear that it now shows, so vividly similar to the other worn pages that still lay loose at the front and back of the book. It would then seem that someone (else?) decided at another moment to repair the broken quire by merely pasting the leaf back in its rightful place. Did the person who originally excised the leaf do so because he or

she felt that verse 67 was so far removed from the truth of the Scriptures that they felt it did not have the right to stand with the rest of the canonical text? Did they opt to preserve it, however, by laying it in at the back, rather than deface or destroy the page out of a sense of reverence for the rest of its sacred text? And did the person who restored the leaf do so oblivious to the error it contained? Or did concern for the integrity of the book trump a mistake that by that time had rendered the book a collector's item? These are questions to which there are no definitive answers; but they do direct us to the mysterious world of readers and how they used and cared for their books.

One last thing. A former owner also pressed a four-leaf clover in the middle of this Bible, and we at the Fisher Library are the luckier for it.





GOOGLE TO THE RESCUE!

Luba Frastacky and Pearce J. Carefoote
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

“It all started innocently enough. Pearce Carefoote asked me to look at an inscription in a copy of the *Works of St Basil the Great*, printed in Basel in 1565, recently donated by the Redemptorist Fathers of the Edmonton-Toronto

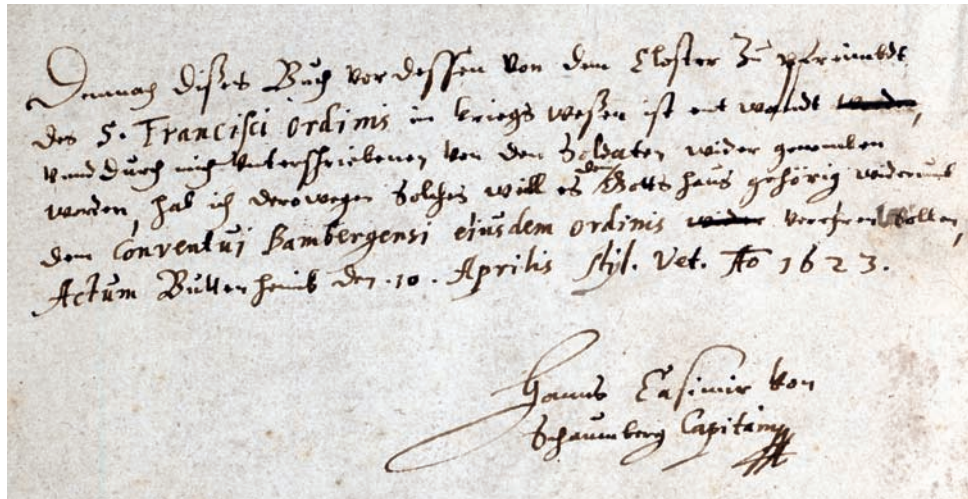
Province. The inscription was written in a seventeenth-century German script, notoriously hard to read, but a previous cataloguer had provided a transcription of what he had been able to decipher. All I had to do was ascertain that his transcription was correct. The volume had been plundered from a Franciscan monastery during the Thirty Years' War by Captain Casimir von Schaumburg, and returned to a monastery of the same order in Bamberg two years later. In the meantime he had had it bound in blind-tooled pigskin with metal clasps, and had had his initials and the date of the binding stamped on the upper cover. The only thing the previous librarian had not been able to make out was the town where the looted monastery stood—a necessity if any sense were to be made of the

book's provenance. We managed to determine that the first letter was a “P”; the second was probably an “r”, but what was that curious flourish after the “P”? Looking at the end of the word we decided that the last two letters were “dt”. “Stadt” perhaps? No, the word was too short. We started looking at letters in words we could read. We decided the town was “Prei... dt”. We were gradually getting there. Could the fourth last letter be an “m” and the third last a “b”? Surely not! Then we were called away to prepare for the opening of the King James Bible exhibition and had to put the matter aside.

The next morning we returned to the task. Taking the old fashioned route, I started looking in the *Times Atlas of the World* for towns starting with the letters “Prei” in the vicinity of Bamberg, but without luck. Like a dog with a bone, I had to find out. “Hmm,” I thought to myself, “there may be a book on the Franciscan Order in Germany; that might help.” Eureka! Egid Börner had produced *Dritter Orden und Bruderschaften der Franziskaner in Kurbayern* in 1988, a work to which our unknown helper would not have

had recourse. I ran to the ninth floor of Robarts. Would it be there? It was! I opened the book to the index. “Prag”? No. “Priembach”? No. “Prüfening”? Still no. So I started from the beginning of the “P” section, when suddenly from the page leapt “Pfreimd”, which in old German would have ended in “dt”. The second letter would explain the flourish after the initial “P”. Eureka again! I dashed back to the Fisher Library, grinning all the way. I googled “Pfreimd” and discovered that the Franciscans had established a monastery there in 1593, that the troops of Ernst von Mansfeld had destroyed and looted the church in 1621, and that it had been rebuilt by 1630 and later secularized in 1802 when Bavaria secularized all its churches. Since that time it had gone through several phases and now the only part of the monastery left standing is the church and the former brewhouse which is today being utilized as a day care centre. Using the ever-useful Google, I discovered Von Mansfeld was not a pleasant man. A Roman Catholic by birth, he allied himself with the Protestant princes, and during the Thirty Years' War, was one of their foremost champions. However,

OPENING PAGE: Endpaper of the *Works of St Basil the Great*. **BELOW LEFT:** The transcription, enlarged. **BELOW RIGHT:** Cover of the *Works of St Basil the Great*. **BOTTOM:** Results of the Google search.



he never remained long in the service of any one prince. Once it was discovered that his plundering was not confined to the properties of his enemies, but also extended to the lands he was supposed to defend, he was dismissed.

So far so good, but Pearce was not through with me. Now he needed the correct form of the name of the church for the catalogue record. Google to the rescue again: Franziskanerkloster Pfreimd. But there is more to the story and I will let Pearce take over.

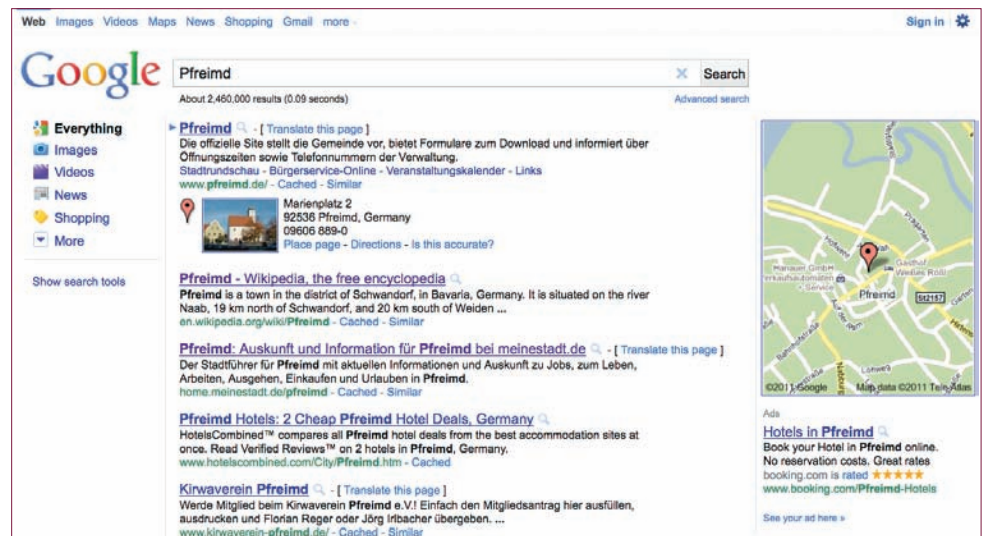
“ It was probably after the secularization of the Bavarian monasteries in 1802 that this beautiful book set out on yet another, and certainly its longest, journey—this time to the state

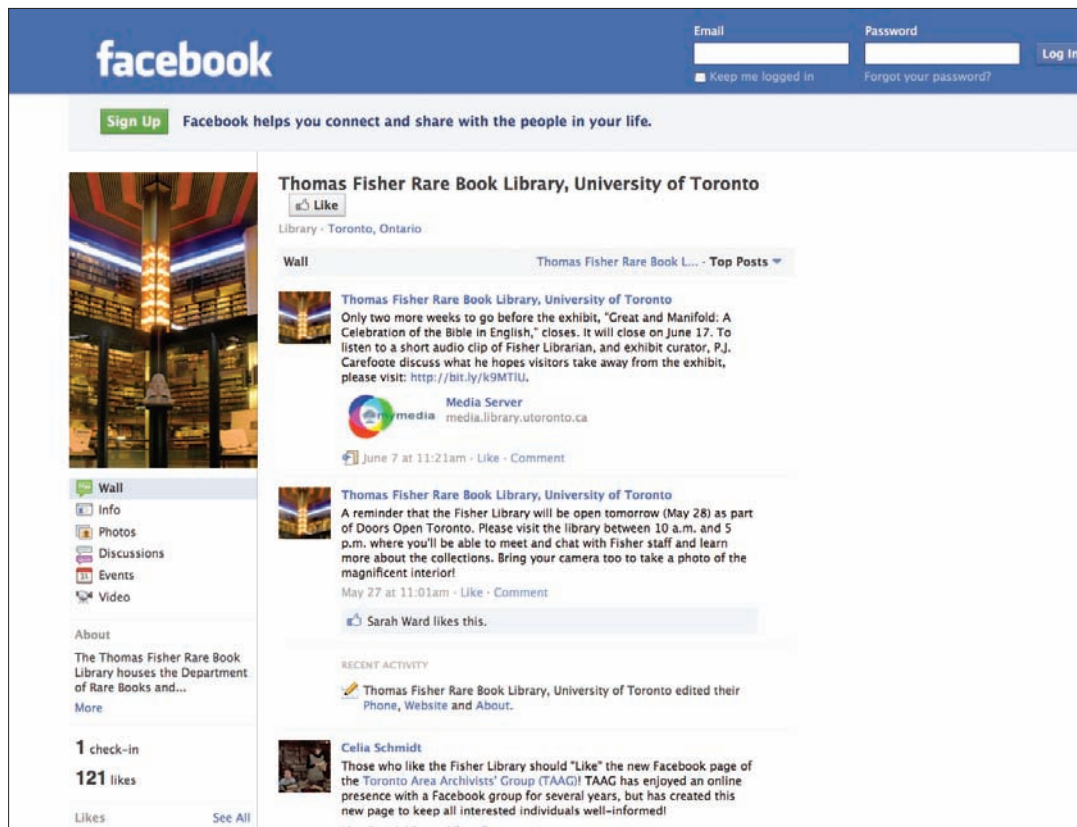
Pearce J.
CAREFOOTE

of Maryland, in the United States. On the inside front cover, a stamp and book label are both still visible, indicating that the book belonged to the Redemptorist Fathers of the Church of St Alphonsus in Baltimore, which had been known as “the German Cathedral” since 1845. The priests there served the immigrant German community for some seventy-five years, while their rectory functioned as the provincial headquarters for the American Redemptorists. Was the book brought to the United States by German priests when they established their mission? Or was it given to them by some faithful member of

the congregation? There is no certain answer to either of these questions. Judging by the age and style of the stamp and label, however, we can be fairly certain that the book was in St Alphonsus’s small library during the time that St John Neumann, the only canonized American male saint, was rector, master of novices, and vice-provincial there from 1849 to 1852. Since the Baltimore Redemptorists were also responsible for missions to English Canada as well, the book appears to have been removed by them to St Patrick’s Church in Quebec City, which served the significant Irish community there, and for which the Congregation had taken responsibility in 1874.

No more looting, no more apparent thefts, no more restorations. The book then went to the Windsor novitiate and when that closed, was transferred to St. Patrick’s here in Toronto. The work, with its tangled provenance now forms part of the collection of the Redemptorist Fathers’ rare books at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.





THE FISHER LIBRARY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Anne Dondertman
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

AS PART OF an ongoing effort to make the research resources of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library more widely known, we have joined the world of social media. The Fisher Library now has a Facebook page, a Flickr photo stream, and a YouTube channel. The Facebook page provides us with a convenient and popular central site to gather links to videos and photos, and to post news items about events and services at the library. The YouTube site currently has five short videos scripted, shot and edited by the Fisher Library's newly hired Outreach Librarian, John Shoesmith, including interviews with curators of exhibitions, and with speakers at our Friends of Fisher lectures. We plan to add videos on a regular basis throughout the coming year. While both the Facebook and YouTube pages are primarily promotional in intent, the Fisher's Flickr site actually allows us to make digital content freely available in a very simple and straightforward way. Because of its ease of use, Flickr makes it possible to create collections of images from visual material contained within manuscript collections, which are otherwise little

known and not well documented at an item level. These types of small scale digitization projects are particularly well suited as student projects, and we have been fortunate to have two iSchool students (Liz Ridolfo and Chris Young) who have each contributed content from different sections of one of the Fisher collections that is particularly rich in photographic holdings, the Mark Gayn collection.

Mark Gayn was a Canadian journalist who contributed articles to such publications as the *Toronto Daily Star*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Washington Post*, *Le Monde*, *Yomiuri*, and the *Chicago Daily News*. His extensive travels through Asia and the U.S.S.R. earned him a reputation as one of the world's most knowledgeable commentators on these areas. He wrote several books, including *Japan Diary* and *The Fight For the Pacific* and wrote and appeared in documentary and news series. Mark Gayn's extensive collection of photographs, journals, documents and ephemera was donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in 1981 and the finding aid has been available online for some time.

However, putting the photos online, each with enough descriptive metadata to enable searching and retrieval makes the material much more useful to scholars and the general public alike.

Three separate collections have been created so far:

1. China photos:

This collection of photographs was taken during Gayn's trips to China in 1947 and 1965, and include images of factories, farms, protests, and political happenings.

2. Mao buttons:

This selection of over one hundred variations on the Mao button was collected during Gayn's trips to China in 1947 and 1965. It represents a small portion of the total number of badges contained in the collection, which must be unique in Canada in terms of its scope. Propaganda is one of the hottest collecting markets today, and we hope that the visibility of the collection on Flickr will encourage visitors to come to the Fisher Library to examine "the real thing".

OPENING PAGE: Fisher Library Facebook page. **BELOW LEFT:** A Mao button. **BELOW RIGHT:** Fisher Library Flickr page. **BOTTOM:** Fisher Library YouTube page.



3. South Vietnam photos:

The collection shows a fraction of the hundreds of photos taken by Gayn in the Republic of Vietnam over his five decade career. It includes images taken from 1965 to 1967 of such varied scenes as Armed Services Day, An Giang provincial hospital, Mekong River, Canadian delegation headquarters, the Hoa Hao executive committee, Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, Major General Vinh Loc, and Vietnamese children and village scenes.

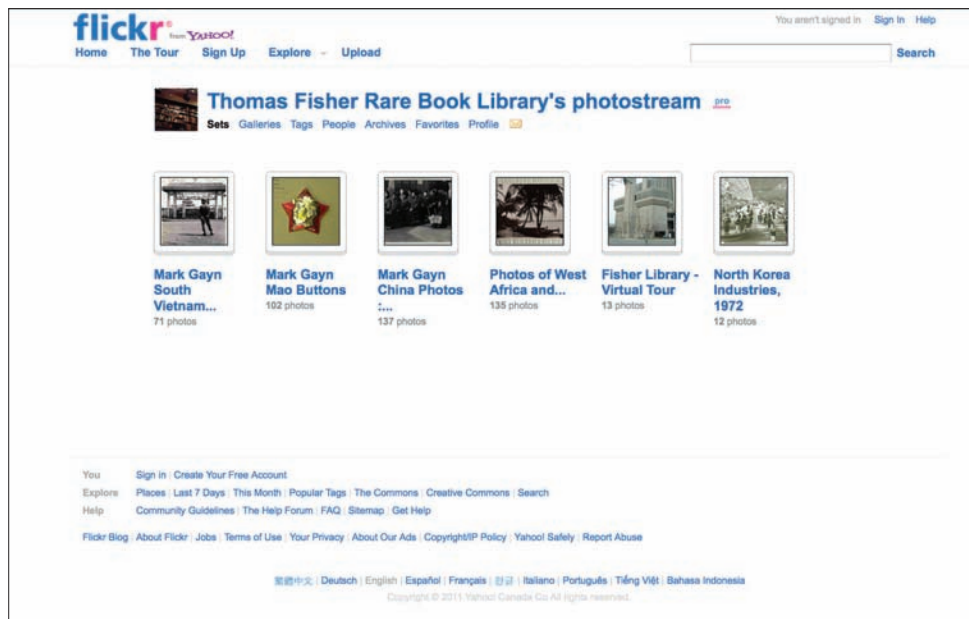
We are currently in the process of hiring our first Nicholls Library Fellow, who, in addition to having the opportunity to become familiar with the range of duties involved in special collections and rare book librarianship, will complete a digitization project generously funded by the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. This project will add to our Flickr stream about 800 photographs of the Yukon, taken by J.B. Tyrrell during the gold rush period from 1898–1905, and thus bring to light another hidden aspect of one of the Fisher Library's most significant Canadiana collections.

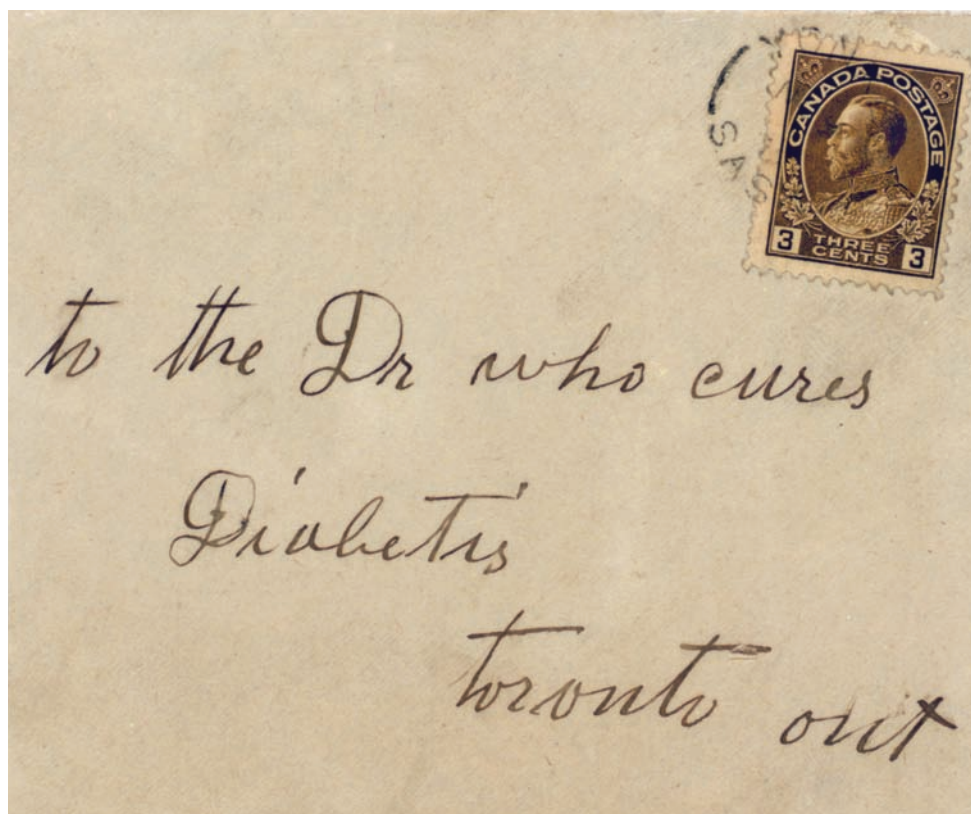
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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/thomasfisherlibrary/>





THE LASTING LEGACY OF THE DISCOVERY OF INSULIN

Jennifer Toews
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

THE YEAR 2011 marks the ninetieth anniversary of the discovery of insulin by Sir Frederick Grant Banting, Sir Charles Herbert Best, James Bertram Collip and John James Rickard Macleod. To commemorate this landmark event, the Bank of Canada will be featuring images of the discovery on its new issue of \$100 bills this coming November.

The manuscript collections at the Fisher Library relating to the discovery, notably the papers of Banting, Best, Collip, Macleod, Gairns and Windeyer, continue to be among our most frequently consulted. The wide range of readers includes academics, doctors, diabetes sufferers, their families and friends from all over the world.

While all the material pertaining to the discovery of insulin has been digitized and is freely available through the Library's website, there is something very special about seeing the actual artifact. This point is brought home in a lovely message sent by our recent visitors, the Sofer-Geri family, whose 11-year-old daughter, Tia, has diabetes:

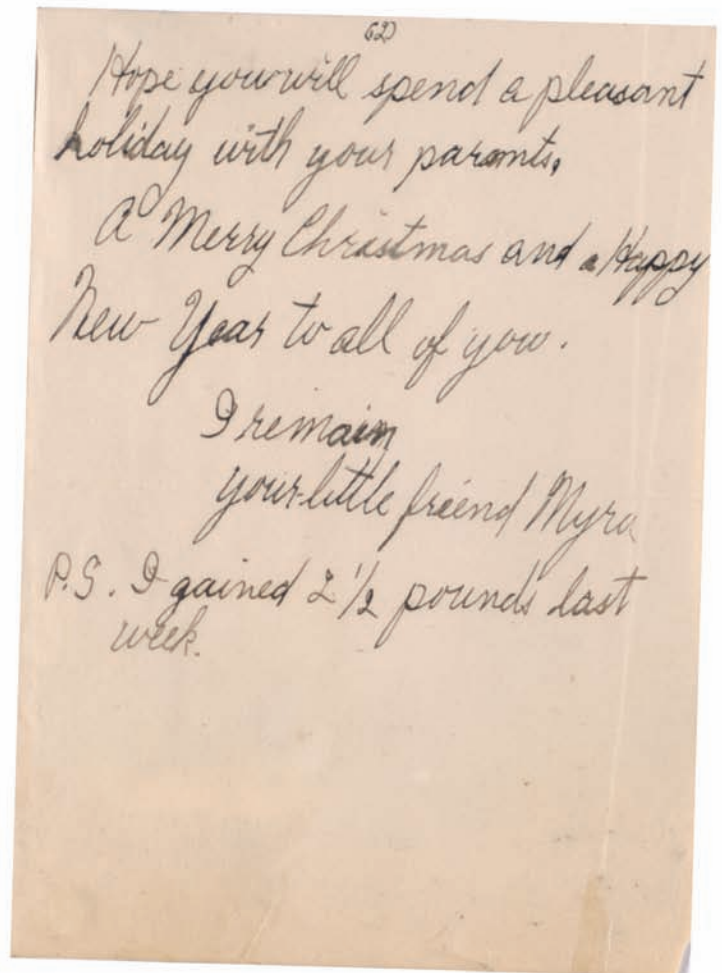
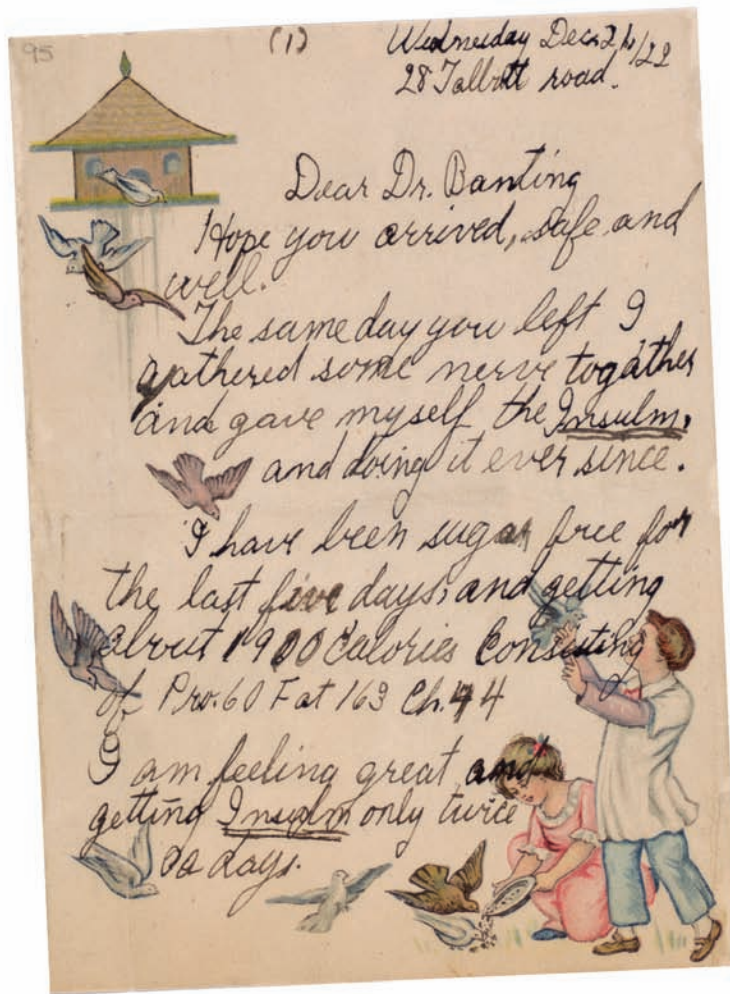


Dear family and friends,

On our way to Port Colborne Ontario where we will be celebrating my father's 70th birthday, we made a quick stop at the University of Toronto, the birthplace of insulin. Librarian Jennifer Toews at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Collection was kind enough to take out some artifacts she thought would be of interest to us.

Among the items she took out were some original, hand written and typed letters written by Elizabeth Hughes to her mother. Elizabeth Hughes was the daughter of the US Secretary of State at the time, and one of the first people to receive insulin. In one of the letters we read, Elizabeth describes in great detail her daily food intake. Prior to getting insulin, Elizabeth, like most people with diabetes at the beginning of the 20th century, was on a starvation diet, and was limited to approximately 300 calories a day with very few carbs. After receiving treatment with the newly discovered insulin, Elizabeth was able to eat practically anything.

OPENING PAGE: Tia holding the Nobel medal. **BELOW:** Letter from a young patient named Myra to Dr. Banting.



The joy that emanates from her letter is palatable! She describes eating eggs with toast, and crackers, and fruit—any fruit her stomach desires—two peaches or a bunch of grapes or bananas!! Tia was mesmerized and wants to frame a copy of that letter and hang it on her wall!

In this picture Tia is holding the Nobel Medal Dr. Banting received in 1923 for his discovery, and Jennifer is holding the calligraphic certificate. Banting shared the prize with Dr. Macleod, but because of their personal rivalry Dr. Macleod didn't go to Sweden to receive the prize with Dr. Banting. The other two people who shared in the discovery of

insulin, Charles Best, a graduate student at the time he worked on the discovery, and Dr. Collip, were not recognized by the Nobel committee. Banting and Macleod each shared their portion of the prize with Best and Collip respectively.

For... us it was an amazing experience to see Dr. Banting's hand written notebooks, his drawings, and scribbles of a pancreas(?) on Buckingham Palace letterhead where he met with the queen [Queen Mary, consort of King George VI].

There was also a large collection of letters Dr. Banting received from thankful patients. My favorite was a drawing of

grapes and an apple made for Dr. Banting by a girl named Molly, and an envelope addressed to: "the doctors who discovered insulin, Toronto, Ont" which reached its intended recipients!

We too are eternally grateful to the doctors who discovered insulin. We are so thankful for Tia's good health, her great attitude, and the copious amounts of good fruit she enjoys so much!

Here's to your health!

Love,

Tamar & family

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2010–2011

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We thank all members who wish to remain anonymous.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS...

EXHIBITIONS 2011–2012

Exhibition Hours

9–5, Monday to Friday, year round
9–8, Thursdays only, 22 September–26 April
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
120 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario

11 July–16 September 2011

Ralph Stanton: An exhibition to commemorate the donations of books by the late Ralph Stanton (1923–2010)

11 October 2011–January 2012

The Life and Work of Derek Walcott
Exhibition opening Friday 28 October

March–August 2012

The History of Horticulture
Exhibition opening TBD

PLANNED EVENTS 2010–2011

All lectures begin at 8:00 p.m.
(unless otherwise noted)

Tuesday, 27 September 2011

The John Seltzer and Mark Seltzer Memorial Lecture

H. Bradley Martin and Other Rare Birds: Collectors and their Astonished Families
Katharine Kyes Leab, Editor of *American Book Prices Current*

Wednesday, 12 October 2011

The Alexander C. Pathy Lecture on the Book Arts

The Evolution of Print
David Pankow, Curator, Cary Collection,
Rochester Institute of Technology

Tuesday, 13 March 2012

The Leon Katz Memorial Lecture

Is There a Future (Or Even a Present) for Bookselling?

Ben McNally, Proprietor of Ben McNally Books, Toronto

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

The Gryphon Lecture on the History of the Book

The Dictionary of Old English: Linking Past to Present

Antonette diPaolo Healey, Editor,
Dictionary of Old English Project

Editor's Note

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The Halcyon: The Newsletter of the Friends of The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library is published twice a year in June and December. *The Halcyon* includes short articles on recent noteworthy gifts to and acquisitions of the Library, recent or current exhibitions in the Library, activities of the Friends, and other short articles about the Library's collections.

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For more information about the Fisher Library, please visit the web site at www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/

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