This exhibition was funded in part by The Halle Foundation.

This image is a calligram or graphic inscription of verses about John the Baptist. It was inscribed inside a copy of Martin Luther's Kirchen-Postilla (Leipzig: Nikolaus Wolrab, 1549) in 1638, to mark the gift of the book to Johann Wilhelm Kress von Kressenstein (1589-1658) on the occasion of his name day (June 24, the Feast of John the Baptist).
A Book More Precious than Gold
Reading the Printed Book Alongside Its Previous Owners and Readers

An exhibition at Pitts Theology Library curated by Dr. Armin Siedlecki and Dr. Ulrich Bubenheimer with Dr. Eric Moore

August 19 – November 30, 2019

This exhibition was funded in part by The Halle Foundation.
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Libellus auro preciosior – a book more precious than Gold. This was the judgment of an unknown 16th century owner of a book on biblical topics inscribed on the title page. Several later owners also inscribed or stamped this volume, providing a partial documentation of this particular book’s custodial history. Readers may leave their mark on the books they own in a variety of ways; they may record a positive or negative reaction to the content, they may annotate or illustrate the printed text, or they may simply record the purchase price. In each of these cases, modern readers can learn much about the cultural contexts in which a book was read and about how its readers engaged it. This exhibition explores both why and how owners may have left marks of their reading in their books and the implications of such provenance.

At the center of this exhibition are four key figures in the history of the German Reformation: Martin Luther (1483–1546), Albrecht of Brandenburg (1490–1545), Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560), and Georg Spalatin (1484–1545). The 2017 discovery by Dr. Ulrich Bubenheimer that a three-line gift inscription on the title page came from Luther’s own hand also helped to identify the author of this previously anonymous pamphlet as his fellow Augustinian brother Johannes...
Petzensteyner (1487–1554). A gift inscription by Spalatin on a 1520 satirical, anti-Papal tract on the other hand adds a touching personal dimension, as it is addressed to a then 18 year old Johann Friedrich of Saxony (1503–1554), the later Elector and political leader of the Lutheran movement, who was Spalatin’s student from the age of 6.

Probably the earliest form of personalizing a printed work was the addition of illuminations and initials. A holdover from the time of medieval manuscripts, the creativity expressed in these often-colorful illustrations can transform a book into a singular piece of art. A good example of this is seen in a 1482 glossed Latin Bible (Glossa Ordinaria), which is displayed along with reproductions of a corresponding page of the same work held by libraries in Barcelona (completely unmarked) and Vienna (ornate illuminations and an elaborate page border). The contrast between these three specimens is so striking that they appear to be entirely different works.

In addition to inscriptions, dedications, illuminations, or inserted notes, some book owners left their mark through ex libris bookplates or personalized bindings. Since the trade of the bookbinder was distinct from that of the printer until the mid- to late-19th century, the covers of rare books often reveal more about their owners than about their publishers.

A part of the exhibition is devoted to the collections owned by specific persons, most notably the libraries and archives of the American Methodist Bishop Warren Akin Candler (1857-1941) or the English Roman Catholic Archbishop Henry Edward Manning (1808-1892).

Finally, one component of this exhibition explores the possibilities of new media of communications and their potential for making unique holdings of rare books more accessible to a wider audience. The polemical pamphlet Passional Christi und Antichristi (Passion of Christ and Antichrist) features woodcut images attributed to Lucas Cranach the Elder (c. 1472-1553) with accompanying printed captions as well as inscribed annotations on several pages by an anonymous 16th century reader. Through an interactive project, modern readers can engage a digitized version of the text and obtain detailed background information provided by several expert scholars on art, history, theology, or 16th century paleography. These descriptions could be seen as a form of digital provenance, adding yet another dimension to the study of books and their readers and pointing to new possibilities of developing research.

-Armin Siedlecki, Curator
A Book More Precious Than Gold
READING THE PRINTED BOOK ALONGSIDE ITS PREVIOUS OWNERS AND READERS

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Introduction

A Book More Precious Than Gold
READING THE PRINTED BOOK ALONGSIDE ITS PREVIOUS OWNERS AND READERS

Books often tell stories that go far beyond their printed text. Successive owners leave their mark through inscriptions, annotations, bindings or illustrations, making an individual copy of a book a unique specimen. Some bear the marks of famous owners while others contain anonymous marginalia that provide information about the reception or the impact of an idea on readers of a different time or culture. Studying the provenance of a book thus enriches our understanding of how different people throughout history have interacted with the work. This exhibition presents examples of books and the marks left by their readers, each adding a new layer of meaning to an individual volume. While the printing and publication of a book finalizes its content, it also marks the beginning of an ongoing conversation with its readers in which we are invited to participate.

Curated by Dr. Armin Siedlecki and Dr. Ulrich Bubenheimer, with support from Dr. Eric Moore.
Case 1

A Book More Precious Than Gold

Marks of previous ownership come in all forms—bookplates, inscriptions, doodles, even cross-throughs and unintentional damage. Each of these marks is a trace left behind, intentionally or unintentionally, that helps us understand the story of a book, to learn something about the context in which it functioned previously, and to have a conversation with the many readers who preceded us. This exhibition celebrates these marks, not as blemishes that defaced the original work, but enhancements that are now part of the work. In this opening exhibition case, we offer a representative sample of these marks of ownership, a preview of the many stories you will find hints of throughout the gallery.

The exhibition title, “A Book More Precious than Gold,” comes from the manuscript note on the title page of the 1516 printing of Antonio Rampegalo’s “Biblical Illustrations,” which reads in Latin Libellus “auro pr[e]ciosor” (“A book more precious than gold”). This unknown inscriber reminds us that these marks only enhance the value of these works.
Antonio Rampegalo (14th century) — Biblical Illustrations, 1516


[20], cclvi leaves; 14 cm (8vo in 8’s and 12’s).

The Book: Antonio Rampegalo was a 14th century Augustinian hermit from either Genoa or Naples. This volume of biblical illustrations was designed for the use of preachers.

Provenance: On the title page are two stamps, one with the initials B.X. and one by Canton Library of Lucerne in Switzerland. At the top is a Latin inscription “Henrico Wallder Canonici Lucerniens. Me possidet ab anno 1598” (“Heinrich Wallder (?), Canon in Lucerne has owned me since 1598”). Nothing else is known about this former owner, but he added another Latin inscription above the title woodcut “Libellus auro pr[e]ciosor” (“A book more precious than gold”).

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1516 RAMP
SECTION 1. A BOOK MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

A Theology Student's Greek and Latin New Testament, 1564


2 unnumbered pages, 779 pages, 2 unnumbered pages, 31 page, 2 unnumbered pages; 16 cm (8vo).

**The Book:** This is a 1564 printing of Erasmus’ Greek New Testament printed in parallel columns along with his Latin translation.

**Provenance:** This copy was owned by a number of theology students and has extensively annotations in both Latin and Greek in several different hands from the 16th century and from later centuries. The text is printed without verse numbering, which had only been recently introduced in the 1550s and some of the verse numbers were added by hand.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1564 BIBL A

Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) — Tract on the Seven Sacraments, 1496

*Tractatus resolue[n]s dubia per modu[m] dyalogi circa septe[m] sacrame[n]ta occurrentia.* Strasbourg: Johann Grüninger.

[25] pages, xlvii leaves; 20 cm (8vo).

**The Book:** This book is a compilation of writings by Thomas Aquinas and “certain other doctors” concerning the seven sacraments. It is not known who made the compilation. Printed in 1496, this volume is an “incunable,” a designation (literally “in the cradle” in Latin to indicate the “infancy” of moveable type printing) for books printed before 1500.

**Provenance:** An unknown former owner (early 16th century) has recorded on the title page the purchase price of the book as “4 kreytzer,” about the price of a bushel of grain.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1496 THOM
Bernardino de Busti (1450–1513) — Mariale: Sermons on the Virgin Mary, 1503


[596] pages; 29 cm (folio in 6’s and 8’s).

The Book: Bernardino de Bustis was a minorite Franciscan preacher from Milan. His Mariale, written in 1492, includes 63 sermons dealing with the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception and Mary’s role as the universal mediatrix.

Provenance: A 17th-century ownership mark reads “Sum Ioannis Boecopij In omni tribulatione, et Angustia nostra succurre nobis piissima Virgo Maria” (“I belong to Johannes Boecop. In all our tribulations and fears, help us most holy Virgin Mary”). The writer, the Jesuit Arnoldus a Boecop of Zütphen (1584–1622), thus placed an invocation at the beginning of the book, a common practice in the 16th and 17th centuries.
SECTION 1. A BOOK MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

Johannes Reuchlin (1455–1522) — On the Rudiments of the Hebrew Language. 1506


[1] pages, 620 [i.e. 621], 3 pages; 30 cm (folio).

The Book: This is the only printing of the Hebrew grammar and dictionary by the Christian Humanist Johannes Reuchlin. This pioneering work made Hebrew accessible for the first time to Christian Biblical scholars.

Provenance: The book is annotated with marginal inscriptions throughout, and the first page has a poem, “Tehilah” (“Song of Praise”), attributed to Mattheaeus Aurogallus (1490–1543), a professor of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew at Wittenberg, who issued his own Hebrew grammar in 1539. The poem is dedicated to “Johannes Capniona” a Grecized form of Reuchlin’s name (German “Rauch,” meaning “smoke,” is kapnionis in Greek).

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1506 REUC
A Collection of Martin Luther’s Writings, 1518


488 [i.e. 490] pages; 22 cm (4to).

The Book: This first printed collection of the works of Martin Luther (1483–1546) was issued just months after Luther’s posting of the 95 theses. Included are works by contemporary theologians, such as Luther opponent Johann Eck (1486–1543) and supporter Andreas Karlstadt (1486–1541). This was intended as a “position paper” to clarify the issues for the upcoming Leipzig Disputation.

Provenance: Marks on the title page indicate at least four different owners, including manuscript annotations from Johannes Lang (c. 1487–1548), a German humanist and theologian in Erfurt and a longtime friend and correspondent with Luther. See the graphic on the next page for a full explanation of this heavily-annotated title page.
Anatomy of a Title

Johannes Lang (c. 1487–1548) was a German humanist and theologian in Erfurt and a longtime friend with him to the De Christi passione <…> which translate to "Sermon on the worthy reception" and "About the Suffering of Christ." These are the titles of two Lutheran writings, which can be found at the end of the print (pp. 477-486). Lang's titles and their page numbers are only partially readable, as they are pasted over by a printed bookplate.

Below the table of contents, Lang has added two additional titles to the table of contents: Sermo de digna praepar<atione …> and De Christi <…>, which translate to "Sermon on the worthy preparation" and "About the Suffering of Christ." These are the titles of two Lutheran writings, which can be found at the end of the print (pp. 477-486). Lang's titles and their page numbers are only partially readable, as they are pasted over by a printed bookplate.

At the bottom, partly covered by a later bookplate is a four-line receipt: <…> accepit. Not<abilis> | M[agister]. F[ratris] Isidoru<s Keppler> | S[acrae] Theo.<[logiae]> <…> | Anno 17<…>, which translates to "<…> has received the respectable | Magister Brother Isidor <Keppler> | of the Holy Theology <…> | In 17<…>". The text is difficult to decipher, given that it has been covered over by a later bookplate. It can be inferred that the note was written no earlier than 1752, since a donation note on the inside cover of the book notes that Isidor Keppler donated the book in 1752. Isidor Keppler (1715–1792) was a member of the Erfurt Convent of the Augustinian Hermits and taught Moral Theology at the University.

The mark of ownership from the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt.

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Johannes Lang (c. 1487–1548) was a German humanist and theologian in Erfurt and a lifelong correspondent with Luther. Lang owned a large library, which he took with him when he entered the Erfurt Augustinian monastery, which he entered soon after Luther did.

Lang gives a two-line inscription in Latin and Greek that reads: *Mar[cii].1. | τὶσ ἡ διδαχὴ ἡ καινὴ ἁυτου*, which translates to Mark 1: “What is this new teaching?” This is a quotation in Greek from Mark 1:27, likely following Erasmus’ 1516 edition of the Greek New Testament, a copy of which is known to have been in Lang’s library.

Below the table of contents, Lang has added two additional titles to the table of contents: *Sermo de digna præparatione …* and *De Christi passione <…>*. These are the titles of two Lutheran writings, which can be found at the end of the print (pp. 477-486). Lang’s titles and their page numbers are only partially readable, as they are pasted over by a printed bookplate.

At the bottom, partly covered by a later bookplate is a four-line receipt: *<…> accepit. Not<abilis> | M[agister]. F.[rater] Isidoru<s Keppler> | S[acrae] Theo.<…> | Anno 17<…>*. The text is difficult to decipher, but it can be inferred that the note was written no earlier than 1752, since a donation note on the inside cover of the book notes that Isidor Keppler donated the book in 1752. Isidor Keppler (1715–1792) was a member of the Erfurt Convent of the Augustinian Hermits and taught Moral Theology at the University of Erfurt.

This bookplate shows a coat of arms and reads simply *Die Rudolph*. The bookplate likely dates from the 19th century and indicates ownership by a person who acquired the volume after the secularization of the Erfurt monastery in 1822.
In 1517, while teaching at the University of Wittenberg, Martin Luther published his 95 Theses, which called for an academic debate regarding the sale of indulgences, generally seen as the beginning of the Reformation. Refusing to recant his position, he was excommunicated by the Church and outlawed by the Emperor, but secured the protection of the Dukes of Saxony and other German princes and was thus able to continue teaching, to translate the Bible from its original languages into German, and to lay the foundation for what came to be known as the Protestant movement.
Johannes Petzensteiner (1487–1554) — Fictitious Dialogue on Pope Leo’s Bull, 1520

*Dialogus, Bulla // Dialogus cui titulus iniustitia.* Wittenberg: Melchior Lotter, d.J.


The Book: This anonymous, anti-Papal pamphlet contains a fictitious dialogue on Pope Leo X’s 1521 bull calling on Martin Luther (1483–1546) to recant 41 of his 95 theses.

Provenance: On the title page is a three-line gift inscription in Martin Luther’s own hand. Addressed to Wolfgang Wolprecht, Prior of the Augustinian monastery in Nuremberg, the inscription reads “id est p.[atris] lectoris Betzensteyynn priori Volfgango Volprechto N[urenbergensi]” (“This is Pater Lector Betzensteynn, for Prior Wolfgang Wolprecht of Nuremberg”). Luther reveals the anonymous author as Johannes Petzensteiner (1487–1554), a fellow Augustinian who had come to Wittenberg from Nuremberg to serve as lector.
Undated Manuscript Note by Martin Luther (1483–1546)

1 Leaf.

This note in Latin in Martin Luther’s own hand was written while Luther was working on his book *Supputatio annorum mundi* (Computation of the Years of the World), published in 1541. The note discusses discrepancies in the biblical chronology of world history: “Whatever it might be, the computation in all these things is short by 20 years. If you care to add to this the 60 years [missing from] Abraham, then you can add these 80 years outside the Chronology and by that many years bring closer the Day of Judgment, that can be your opinion. We shall proceed as we have indicated. And the difference among the parts can remain as it is, 20 years or 80 years, which we do not think will cause the whole calculation to totter.”

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 090
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — Computation of the Years of the World, 1541

*Supputatio annorum mundi.* Vuittembergae: Apud Georgium Rhau.

[204] pages; 21 cm (4to).

This is the first edition of Luther’s chronological arrangement of the history of the world from creation until 1541. It is the book on which he was working when he wrote the manuscript note displayed on the previous page. In this particular volume, Luther’s chronology is bound with a 1560 work by Paul Asphe in which Asphe provides an account of history in light of the book of Daniel.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1560 ASPH:2
Case 3

The Handwriting of Albrecht of Brandenburg (1490–1545)

Albrecht (also Albert) of Brandenburg was Elector and Archbishop of Mainz as well as Archbishop of Magdeburg. To pay for his elevation to the Electorate of Mainz, he tried to increase the sale of indulgences in his territory, a practice which was the direct cause for Martin Luther’s publication of the 95 Theses in 1517. Shown on page 26 is a copy of an unused indulgence authorized by him as well as a manuscript letter in German by Albrecht, dated July 30, 1540. The letter is a request, addressed to Julius Plug, to translate from Latin into German some articles on religion by Luther.
Letter to Julius Plug (1499–1564) Requesting Translation of Luther’s Works, 1540 July 30


1 Leaf.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 132
Indulgence for priests and other clergy issued at the instance of Johann Tetzel to support the rebuilding of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

*Albertus Dei et Apostolice Sedis gratia Maguntinensis[is] [sic] et Magdeburgensis[is] Archepiscopus[us] ac Halberstatensis[is] ecclesiasticus Administrator, Germaniae Prima... Indulgence.* Catholic Church. Archdiocese of Mainz (Germany). Archbishop (1515-1545: Albert).

1 item (30.2 cm x 20.2 cm)

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 085
Case 4

The Handwriting of Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560)

Philipp Melanchthon was arguably the second most important figure in the Lutheran Reformation. He joined the Theological Faculty at the University of Wittenberg in 1518 as Professor of Greek and New Testament. Trained in the humanist tradition, he was the first Reformer to formulate a systematic theology and he composed the text of the Augsburg Confession and other Lutheran confessional writings.
Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) — Manuscript Gift Inscription with Notes on Colossians 3:16, 1551

Paulus spricht zu den Colossern, 1551.

1 item (on 2 leaves).

This manuscript contains Melanchthon’s reflections on Colossians 3:16 and remarks on studying scripture. A handwritten note by Melanchthon, typical of inscriptions on his books, follows: “C. S. V. R mit Golt, Bretten weiß gewundt 1551 mit Golt.” These words give instructions to the bookbinder to bind the book in white (pigskin) with the initials—likely C. S. for a nobleman from a town beginning in R.—and date 1551 tooled in gold.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 115
Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) — Loci Communes with Melanchthon Inscription, 1556

Loci praecipui theologici: nunc denua cura et diligentia summa recogniti, multisq[ue] in locis copiose illustrati: cum appendice Disputationis de coniugio, / per Philippum Melanchthonem; his additae sunt recens definitiones multarum appellacionum, quarum in Ecclesia usus est, traditae ab eodem autore Torgae & Wittebergae: anno 1552 & 1553. Leipzig: Omnia in Officina Valenti Papae elaborate atque edita, [1556].

[16], 888, [78] pages; 21 cm (8vo).

This book is a third printing of Melanchthon’s Loci Communes, a systematic theology arranged according to major themes in Paul’s epistle to the Romans. Its text is in Latin and Greek. This copy is notable for its 8-line Greek inscription handwritten by Melanchthon. Despite the surname having been cut away, scholars believe the volume was dedicated to Christoph Pezel (1539–1604), later a Lutheran pastor and editor of Melanchthon’s letters.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1556 MELA
Mantuanus Baptista (1448–1516) — Bucolica, 1515

This book of Christian poetry by the Carmelite monk Mantuanus Baptista, in imitation of Virgil's Eclogues, was owned by Georg F.B. Kloss (1787–1854), a German medical doctor and book collector. He sold his collection in 1835 through Sotheby’s, which identified a number of Kloss’ books, including this one, as being from the library of Philipp Melanchthon and including the Reformer’s inscriptions. This claim was strongly disputed, and Kloss himself issued a statement repudiating Sotheby’s claim. Nevertheless, for years to come, many of these books appeared in catalogs as being from Melanchthon’s library.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1515 BAPT
Sotheby’s 1835 Auction Catalog

This is a copy of the original auction catalog listing items from Melanchthon’s personal library for sale. Included in the catalog is the 1515 printing of Mantuanus Baptista’s *Bucolica*, incorrectly identified as Melanchthon’s personal copy.

Item on Loan from Concordia Seminary Library
Case 5

The Handwriting of Georg Spalatin (1484–1545)

Georg Spalatin was a major intellectual figure in Saxony at the time of the Reformation. A humanist scholar and theologian, he served as secretary to the Elector Frederick the Wise (1486–1525) and was a friend and supporter of Martin Luther (1483–1546).
Satirical Poem: The Pope as Antichrist, 1521


[8] pages; 22 cm (4to).

This volume, by an unknown author, contains a satirical poem depicting the pope as Antichrist. Inscribed on the title page is a dedicatory gift inscription from Spalatin, dated 1521, addressed to the young Duke Johann Friedrich of Saxony (1503–1554). Johann Friedrich, who had been educated by Spalatin from the age of 6, was 18 years old at the time. He was named Elector of Saxony in 1532 and became the strongest political backer of the Lutheran Reformation.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1520 CLAG A
Georg Spalatin (1484–1536) — Letter, 1534

1 leaf; 20 x 23 cm.

This letter written in Latin, dated May 3, 1534, is a cover letter for a manuscript that Spalatin had promised to Duke Magnus III of Mecklenburg (1509–1550), regarding the justification used by Henry VIII for his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, which was never recognized by Rome. Henry had married Anne Boleyn in January of 1533, and on May 23, 1534, Pope Clement VII invalidated Henry’s divorce and remarriage, which led to England’s final break with Rome and the founding of the Church of England. The German reformers and Protestant princes took an active part in these events, and some of them still believed that they had found an ally in Henry, despite his earlier hostility to Luther.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection—Pitts Theology Library MSS 122. This letter was acquired through the generous subvention of Mr. Roy T. Wise, in memory of his brother Frank Wise, 2018.
Georg Spalatin (1484–1536) — Letters, 1528, 1536

2 leaves.

Shown here are two letters written by Spalatin. The first letter (pictured on the right), dated 1528, addresses the “Noble and Right worthy Heinrich von Einsiedel” in Gnansteyn. Its subject is Brosius Berger’s refusal to take an oath, thus preventing Katharina Gockritz’s marriage. The letter mentions consulting with Martin Luther. The second letter (pictured below), dated 1536, is also written to Heinrich von Einsiedel. In it, Spalatin urges Einsiedel to “exert [his] goodwill on the work’s behalf.”

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 122. The 1528 letter was acquired through the generous subvention of Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Lettow, Jr., in honor of Carl Friedrich Eduard Max Lettow. The 1536 letter was acquired through the generous subvention of Clair E. Strommen, 1992.
SECTION 2. REFORMATION FIGURES

34 A BOOK MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD
Deciphering Between the Handwriting of Figures

**Martin Luther (1483–1546)**

Typical for the script of Martin Luther (1483–1546) is the mix of humanist elements and gothic cursive. A notable example is found in the dedication to Prior Wolfgang Volprecht (Case 2). In the name Volfgango, he writes the first g in the humanistic style, the second in gothic. Luther’s note regarding biblical chronology in the case is only a fragment, cut out of an originally larger manuscript. Following Luther’s death, the demand for “script-relics” in Luther’s hand was in part met by the dissection of manuscripts into several pieces which were then sold separately.

**Georg Spalatin (1484–1545)**

Georg Spalatin (1484–1545), who served as secretary to Frederick the Wise for many years, had an elegant script with round arches and fluid connections between letters. As a humanist, he wrote the Latin letter to Duke Magnus of Mecklenburg, shown in Case 9, in humanist cursive (note the letters g and G), which was considered modern at the time. In the German letter to Heinrich von Einsiedel on the other hand, he employs the letter forms of the more traditional gothic cursive (note again the letters g and G).

**Albrecht of Brandenburg (1490–1545)**

The letters of Albrecht of Brandenburg (1490–1545) were usually written by his chancery clerks. Below the letter to Julius Pflug, exhibited in Case 4, Albrecht himself writes only manu propria or “signed in my own hand,” omitting even the usual signature of his own name in the interest of saving time. It is the simplest form of Albrecht’s autograph, an indication that he did not consider the matters contained in this letter to be of great importance. The abbreviated manu propria is written in a conservative gothic cursive.

**Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560)**

Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) preferred for his autograph the letter forms of the humanist script, but he did not write in his cursive everyday-scripts. Instead, he endeavored to present a calligraphic style in which the letters were not connected with each other, but were largely drawn individually. In doing so, he expressed the esteem with which he regarded the anonymous recipient of the book shown in Case 8.
This broadside is an early example of Counter-Reformation legislation. Issued in Vienna in 1551, the edict in the name of Ferdinand I (then the King of Bohemia, Hungary, and Croatia, later the Holy Roman Emperor) outlaws students in the Habsburg territories from studying at Protestant seminaries. Noting that the souls of students were in danger due to the spread of sectarian ideas, the edict mandates that only those teachers who studied at Vienna University or have been approved by a bishop are allowed to teach, threatening violators with exile from Habsburg territories. The broadside includes the woodcut signature of Ferdinand, residue from the wax originally used to seal it, and the manuscript annotations from several other hands. No other copies of this edict are known to exist.
SECTION 3. INTERACTIONS WITH THE PRINTED TEXT
Case 7

A Scholar’s Working Copy

The amount and type of manuscript comments written in a book often indicate the purpose for which the book was read. An author’s critic may write harsh comments, while a supporter may enthusiastically underline. A translator, on the other hand, may make textual or linguistic notes, including cross references to other texts. In the example highlighted in this case, we see such a scholar at work, annotating his personal copy of a classic text for the preparation of a new translation.
Isocrates (436–338 BCE) — Orations (Greek), 1540


56 unnumbered pages, 349, 3 unnumbered leaves; 17 cm (8vo).

The Book: This is a collection of the complete speeches in Greek by the rhetorician Isocrates. The work also includes three biographies of Isocrates, written by Plutarch, Philostratus, and Dionysius of Halicarnassus.

Provenance: The book was owned the 16th century humanist Hieronymus Wolf (1516–1580), who inscribed his name on the front inside cover and noted that he purchased it in Wittenberg in 1542. Wolf was a student of Philipp Melanchthon and worked as a teacher of Greek and Latin. He made his name as a scholar of Isocrates. The volume contains Wolf’s manuscript notes throughout, and comparison of these notes with Wolf’s Latin translation confirms that this was Wolf’s working copy.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1540 ISOC
Isocrates (436–338 BCE) — Orations (Latin). 1548

Isocratis Orationes omnes, quae quidem ad nostram aetatem peruenunt, una et uiginti numero, una cum nouem eiusdem epistolis, e Graeco in Latinum conversae. Basileae: Per Ioannem Oporinum.


The Book: This is a copy of Hieronymus Wolf’s Latin translation of Isocrates’ Orations.

Provenance: A shelf mark inside the book indicates that it came from the library of the Fuggers, a merchant and banking family in the city of Augsburg.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1548 ISOC
Case 8

Censorship

Marks of provenance are not always positive. The most obvious example of this is censorship. The invention of the printing press made it easier for new ideas to reach a wide audience in a relatively short amount of time. The church and secular government responded by attempting to control and regulate printing, with varying success. In many cases censorship took place on the level of individual books or pamphlets by obscuring the name of a person held in disfavor or of an idea or concept that was deemed subversive.
Girolamo Savonarola (1452–1498) — Collection of Sermons Bearing Censorship Notices, 1556

*Homilae. Salmanticae i.e. Salamanca: Excudebat Ioannes a Canoua.*

4 unnumbered pages, 288, 7 unnumbered leaves; 21 cm (4to in 8’s).

**The Book:** This is a collection of sermons by the Dominican preacher Girolamo Savonarola, a controversial figure in Renaissance Florence. He attracted many followers and was at one point the de facto ruler of the city. His open criticism of clerical corruption and opulent wealth attracted the attention of Pope Alexander VI, who eventually excommunicated him and had him executed.

**Provenance:** Censorship notices in a 16th century hand are found throughout the book. Shown here is a portion of the book from which 4 leaves have been removed and every word of one page, including the printed marginal notes, have been crossed out. The censored passage is from a sermon preached May 18, 1498, in which Savonarola explains he must answer only to God and not to papal authority.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1556 SAVO
**Origen (c. 184–c. 253) — Works on Scriptures Translated into Latin by Erasmus, 1536**

*Origenis Adamantii eximii scripturarum interpretis opera, quae quidem extant omnia. Apud incyltam Basileam: Ex officina Frobeniana.*

42 volumes (24 unnumbered pages, 899, 1 unnumbered pages; 780, 52 unnumbered pages; 32 cm (folio).

**The Book:** This is the first volume of a two volume translation from Greek into Latin of Origen’s work on scripture, edited and translated by the Dutch humanist Desiderius Erasmus (1456–1536). This highly influential translation remained the standard translation of Origen in the 16th and 17th centuries. Although Erasmus defended Catholic doctrine, he was critical of corruption within the church and was accused of not opposing Luther strongly enough. As a result, his works were placed on the index of prohibited books by Pope Paul IV (Pope 1555–1559).

**Provenance:** Erasmus’ name has been pasted over with blank slips by a censor. Several former ownership marks on the title page have also been crossed out, although this is likely the result of a later owner covering the name of an earlier owner rather than doctrinal censorship.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1536 ORIG V.1
David Kimhi (1160–ca. 1235) — Hebrew Dictionary, 1546

Sefer hashorashim hibrō bahakham haggadol Rabbi David Kimhi. Venitsiyah: Yustiniyan.

2 pages, 548 columns, 1 unnumbered leaf; 33 cm (folio).

The Book: This volume is a Hebrew dictionary by the medieval Jewish scholar David Kimhi, edited by Elias Levita (c. 1468–1549).

Provenance: A censor has lightly deleted part of the entry for הֶלֶם (elem), which derides the Christian claim that עלמה (almah = young girl) in Isaiah 7:14 refers to the virgin birth.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1546 KIMH A
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — Critique of the Practice of Confession: On Prohibited Books, 1521

*Ein unterricht der beychtkinder: vbir die vorpotten bucher.* Vwitterberg i.e. Wittenberg: Melchior Lotter d.J.

8 unnumbered pages; 20 cm (4to).

This tract, in which Luther critiques the practice of confession, was in part motivated, because some of his opponents had begun withholding absolution from anyone who was in possession of his books.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1521 LUTH NN

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*Ein unterricht der beychtkinder: vbir die vorpotten bucher D.M. Luther.*

Vwitterberg.

*Im Jar M. D. XXI.*
Inquisidor General de España — Records from the Tribunal of the Inquisition at Barcelona, 1693–1703

1 Volume.

This vellum-bound volume contains original records of seventy-nine trials at the Inquisition in Barcelona, Spain (1478–1834). These records—written in Spanish by several hands and arranged alphabetically—date from 1693–1703. Signed by inquisitors, they contain declarations, confessions, and witness testimonies. Crimes include pacts with the devil, sorcery, witchcraft, sodomy, and trafficking with ghosts. This volume was formerly owned by Spanish historian and priest Juan Antonio Llorente (1756–1823).

Pitts Theology Library MSS 009
Case 9

Inscriptions Supplying Missing Content

To preserve the content of their books, owners would sometimes copy missing passages or pages by hand. Frequently, in these manuscript additions, owners tried to imitate the layout and style of the printed text that was missing. In some cases this practice even extended to an entire work.
Tommaso de Vio Cajetan (1469–1534) — Confessor’s Manual, 1526

Summula peccatorum R.D.D. // Summula peccatorum. [Köln: Peter Quentel], Anno MD XXVI.

[16], dxxxix, [3] pages; 16 cm (8vo).

The Book: A manual for confessors, this volume was written by Cardinal Cajetan. Following initial publication of the work, a year earlier at Rome, this copy was printed at Cologne in 1526 by Peter Quentel.

Provenance: Eight leaves in the book are missing and have been replaced by manuscript pages in a 16th century hand.
Tommaso de Vio Cajetan (1469–1534) — Against the Lutheran Treatment of Faith and Works, 1532

Reuerendissimi Domini D. Thomae De Uio Caietani, Cardinalis sancti Xysti de Fide et operibus aduersus Lutheranos tractatus. // Caietanus de fide et operibus. [Italy].

18 leaves; 20 cm.

This volume (of unknown date) contains a handwritten copy of Cajetan’s printed work on faith and good works, originally issued in 1532. As papal legate, Cajetan had met with Luther in 1518—tasked with convincing the reformer to recant several of his theses. Following the Diet of Augsburg in 1530, the cardinal produced numerous anti-Lutheran doctrinal treatises. This one reacts to Melanchthon’s Apology of the Augsburg Confession (1531).

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1532 CAJE
Plenarium (Basel: Adam Petri, 1516)

Das Plenarium oder Ewangely buoch: Summer vn[d] Winter teyl, durch das
gantz iar in eine[m] iede[n] Sontag von der zeyt vnd von den Heilige[n] ... mögen

[8], CCLXXVIII leaves; 30 cm (folio in 6’s).

The Book: The plenarium was a German translation of the New Testament lectionary readings for Sunday and festival day services of the Catholic Church. It also included translations of the other liturgical texts used in the Mass.

Provenance: The woodcuts in this book were hand-colored. In place of a missing page, a leaf of manuscript notes in a seventeenth century hand has been inserted. Two other leaves are missing, however, the two inserted in their place are covered in doodles dated 1611 (1677?).

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1516 CATH
The practice of manuscript illumination in late 15th and early 16th century printed books is a holdover from the medieval manuscript tradition. Medieval scribes copying a text would often include miniature illustrations in bright colors with silver or gold leaf accents. Frequently the initial letter of a paragraph, especially in religious texts, was enlarged and richly ornamented, sometimes with human or animal figures. Following the medieval format, early printed books would often leave spaces for illuminated initials to be drawn and painted by hand.

**Bible — Glossa Ordinaria, 1482**


6 volumes; 30 cm (folio).

**The Book:** The *Glossa Ordinaria* was the standard text for students of the Bible throughout the Middle Ages. Most pages have a portion of the text of Jerome’s Latin translation at the center, surrounded by a collection of glosses or annotations compiled by the 12th century French theologian Anselm of Laon (d. 1117). The commentary was further supplemented by the 13th/14th century Franciscan scholar Nicholas of Lyra (c. 1270–1349), whose interpretation of Scripture had a profound impact on Martin Luther and the reformers of the 16th century.

**Provenance:** Throughout the book, the initials are drawn by hand in red and blue ink. Initials at the beginning of a chapter are often elaborately ornamented. A comparison of the beginning of Genesis in this volume (top of facing page) with copies held in Barcelona (pictured bottom left of facing page) and Vienna (pictured bottom right of facing page) demonstrates the difference between individual copies of early printed books.

Pitts Theology Library 1482 BIBL
Livy (59 BCE–17 CE) — The History of Rome, 1495


[624] pages; 41 cm.

The Book: The 15th century witnessed a revival of interest in classical authors, including the historian Livy. Shown here is a 1495 printing of his history of Rome from the arrival of Aeneas to Livy’s own time during the reign of the Emperor Augustus.

Provenance: The book is from the collection of Charles Spenser, third Earl of Sunderland (1675–1722), who had it bound in speckled calf with gilt panels. However, the elaborate illuminations and ornamentations stem from an earlier owner, probably represented by the unidentified coat of arms at the bottom of the page shown here. Throughout the book there are marginal inscriptions in an old hand and the first initials are drawn in blue and red.

Pitts Theology Library 1495 LIVI
Lutheran Psalter, 1564

Psalmi seu cantica ex sacris literis; in ecclesia cantari solita, cum hymnis et collectis, veu orationibus pti, in usum ecclesiarum & iuuentutis scholasticae. Vitebergae: excusa in officina Laurentii Schwenck Eisfeldensis.


The Book: This volume is a choir book, edited by the Lutheran theologian Georg Major (Meier). The work opens with biblical canticles and Psalms of praise, followed by various hymns, prayers, and litanies.

Provenance: Unlike in 15th century printed books, the spaces of the first initials in this work have not been left blank to be inscribed by hand, but are supplied by the printer with large ornamental woodcut letters. In this particular case, an anonymous former owner has hand-colored many of the printed initials as well as the woodcut illustrations that appear throughout the book.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1564 PSAL
Who Wrote It?
An Exercise in Paleography

Paleography, (n.)
the study of ancient writing and inscriptions; the science or art of deciphering and interpreting historical manuscripts and writing systems.

Like with inscriptions added to printed books, readers can glean important information from handwritten notes, such as letters, occasional notes, or even receipts. These types of manuscripts, often informal in nature, can offer glimpses into the personal lives of historical figures as they frequently contain information not recorded in printed sources. In addition, content may change between a manuscript draft and the published work. The manuscript of a sermon, for example, may reflect what the preacher planned to say, which may differ significantly from what was actually said, and differ even more from the published version of the sermon.
Justus Jonas (1493–1555) — Receipt for Salary Received. 1549

1 leaf; 32 cm x 22 cm.

Shown here is a receipt in German for salary received from the city of Erfurt in the amount of 20 gulden (roughly the equivalent of a carpenter's weekly pay), signed by Justus Jonas and dated February 2, 1549. Well-known as a translator of Luther and Melanchthon’s works, Jonas likely received this payment for preaching services rendered at Erfurt, a supposition bolstered by his use of the word “Zinse”—“interest income” or “income from a benefice.”

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 114
Justus Jonas (1493–1555) and Michael Caelius (1492–1559) — Two Funeral Sermons for Martin Luther, 1546

Zwo Tröstliche Predic Vber der Leich D. Doct: Martini Luther zu Eissleben den XIX. Februarij gethan. Wittenberg: Georgen Rhaw, 1546.

[71] pages; 19 cm (4to).

This volume contains two sermons preached at Martin Luther’s funeral, including one by Luther’s friend and colleague, Justus Jonas. The title heading states that the sermon was preached by Jonas at the funeral in Eisleben and later again in Halle, where it was written down by “a God-fearing man.” This shows how published sermons were often transmitted and that the text may be dependent on a listener’s notes and memory.
Johann Stoltz (1514–1556) — Poem on the Life of Martin Luther (c. 1550–1556)

Disticha de uita et praecipuis rebus gestis uiri Dei et ..., c. 1550–1556.

1 item (on 2 leaves); 14.5 x 19 cm.

contained on these leaves is a poem, written in twenty couplets, celebrating pivotal moments in the life of Martin Luther (1483–1546). The manuscript was written between 1550 and 1556. At the end of the poem appears the author’s name, along with a dedication to “that best of men D. Johann Kestner.” A protégée of Luther, Stoltz assisted in compiling the Jena Edition of the Reformer’s works.
Johann Stoltz (1514–1556) — Funeral Sermons for Johann Frederick I, Elector of Saxony, 1554

Vier Trostpredigten über den Leichen des Churfürsten zu Sachsen, Hertzogen Johans Fridrichen etc.: und seiner Gemahel Hertzogen Sibilla, geborne zu Jülich und Cleue, etc; Gethan zu Weimar durch Niclas von Amsdorff etc. und Johan Stoltzen [Weimar?: publisher not identified], 1554.

1 item (on 2 leaves); 14.5 x 19 cm.

This work contains three sermons given by Johann Stoltz at the funeral of Johann Frederick I (1503–1554), Elector of Saxony, as well as the funeral of his wife, Sibylle of Cleves (1512–1554), who died within a month of Frederick. The volume, which includes several other tracts, was once owned by George Leveson-Gower, 1st Duke of Sutherland (1758-1833), whose arms are on the cover. It also contains the signature of a later owner, Leonard Forster (1913–1997), Professor of German at University College of London and at the University of Cambridge.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1554 MENI:4
Kasper Cruciger (1504–1548) — Letter to Veit Dietrich (1506–1549). 1544

Kasper Cruciger letter to Veit Dietrich, 1544 July 8.


This manuscript contains a Latin letter dated July 8, 1544, from Cruciger to Dietrich—both frequent scribes for Martin Luther. In the letter, Cruciger discusses personal matters concerning Dietrich, Luther, Philipp Melanchthon, and himself. Cruciger also writes about the collection of Luther’s sermons he and Dietrich planned to publish the following year. At this time, Cruciger was professor and minister at Wittenberg; Dietrich was pastor of St. Sebald’s Church at Nuremberg.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library MSS 138
Case 12

Manuscript Parchment Bindings

Older manuscripts were frequently used to bind books. The binding process was expensive, and materials were limited, so resourceful binders used what they could find. Since parchment was made from untanned animal skins, it made for an excellent binding material that provided durability and protection. In addition, an inscribed parchment manuscript also added a decorative element to the book, especially if it was rubricated or illuminated. Bindings, therefore, are at times the location of discovery of older materials.
Johannes Reuchlin (1455–1522) — On the Cabalistic Art, 1517


[4], LXXIX, [1] leaves; 29 cm (folio in 6s).

The Book: In this work, the Christian humanist and Hebraist Johannes Reuchlin examines the principles of Cabala, an esoteric Jewish philosophy and system of biblical interpretation, in defense of Christianity.

Provenance: This volume is bound in a medieval parchment manuscript leaf with the Latin (Vulgate) text of Psalm 16 with illuminated initials. On the inside cover is the bookplate of Daniel M. Friedenberg (1923-2011) an American journalist and collector who worked as curator of coins and medals for the Jewish Museum in New York.
Nicolaus von Amsdoff, Nicolaus Gallus, and Matthias Flacius Illyricus — Statement by Magdeburg Clergy, 1551

Deren zu Magdeburgk, so widder die Adiaphora geschrieben haben ihres vorigen schreibens beschlus,: auff der Adiaphoristen beschuldigung vnnd lesterung, die zeit ihrer belagerung, und jetzt zum teil neulich unter diesen friedshandlungen wider sie ausgang. Magdeburg: Michael Lotter.

[23] pages; 20 cm (4to).

The Book: Several Lutheran protestant pastors from Magdeburg produced this statement against Philipp Melanchthon’s support of “Adiaphora” or liturgical and other minor compromises with Catholicism.

Provenance: The pamphlet is bound in an 18th century German music manuscript. On the front inside cover is a 19th century woodcut bookplate designed by A.M. Hildebrandt for the library of Otto Licht (1828-1885) of Magdeburg-Sudenburg, an entrepreneur in the sugar industry.
Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) — Refutation of Andreas Osiander’s Teachings on Justification. 1552


32 pages (last 2 pages blank); 20 cm (4to).

The Book: Among the several works bound together in this volume is Philipp Melanchthon’s response to Andreas Osiander’s (1498–1552) teachings on justification. Osiander argued believers are not merely declared righteous by God but actually made so through the presence of God’s justice, mediated through faith in Christ.

Provenance: This Sammelband, a term used to describe several works bound together by the works’ previous owner, is bound in a musical chant manuscript on parchment over wooden boards with a spine that is blind tooled pigskin. Inside the book is the ownership signature of Christian Gottlieb Gilling (1735-1789), a Lutheran theologian and pastor.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1552 MELA A
Pedro de Soto (1493–1563) — Commentary on the Württemberg Confession, 1555

Assertio Catholicae fidei circa Articulos confessionis nomine illustissimi Duci Wirtenbergensis: obletae per Legatos eius Concilio Tridentino, XXIII. Ianuarij Anni M.D.LII.; autore F. Petro a Soto, ordinis sancti Dominici, professore Theologiae. [Cologne]: Ioannes Nouesianus, 1555.

[307] pages; 20 cm (4to).

The Book: This volume includes the Württemberg Confession along with the commentary by Pedro de Soto, a Spanish Catholic theologian and, for a time, confessor to Emperor Charles V. The Württemberg Confession, written Johannes Brenz in 1552, was one of a number of interims or statements drafted by Protestant Reformers as the basis of discussion with Catholic theologians.

Provenance: The book is bound in a medieval liturgical manuscript leaf with rubrication. Inside the book, on the blank page facing the title, is a handwritten note “Duplum Bibliothecae Regiae Monacensis” (“duplicate of the Royal Library in Munich”). The Royal Library in Munich is now the Bavarian State Library.
Case 13

Personalized Bindings

Before the 19th century, books were issued by printers without bindings. After buying a book, an owner would often take it to a bookbinder and have it bound and sometimes personalized, either by choosing a particular type of binding or by having specific designs, initials, or dates tooled into the leather cover. It was not uncommon for owners to bind several titles together, either because they were thematically related or for practical reasons, such as if they were of similar size.
Philip Melanchthon (1497–1560) — Translation of Aristotle’s Ethics, 1544


[303] pages; 17 cm (8vo).

The Book: The University of Wittenberg constantly required new textbooks, and Melanchthon felt it his duty to provide them. This volume is on ethics and features the fifth book of Aristotle’s Nichomachean Ethics, a new work for the 16th century.

Provenance: The book is bound in pigskin over wooden boards with blind-tooled ornamentation, a process where an impression is created in the leather through heated metal stamps or rollers. The front cover is personalized with the initials I.B. and the date 1546. The initials likely refer to a Ioannes Bergerus (Johannes Berger?), who inscribed the book on the inside cover and indicated it was given to him by Leonh. Dephner (Leonhard Dephner?). Nothing else is known about these two individuals.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1544 MELA A:2
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — French Translation of Luther’s Lectures on Galatians, 1552

Declaration entiere des fondemens de la doctrine Christiener, faicte sur l’Epistre de S. Paul aux Galatie[n]s ; en laquelle est con[t]enue vne vraye & parfaicte exposition de la instification qui est par la foy en Iesus Christ. Geneva: De L’imprimerie de lean Crespin, 1552.

[307] pages; 20 cm (4to).

The Book: This volume is a rare French first printing of Luther’s lectures on Galatians, printed at Geneva by Jean Crespin in 1552.

Provenance: The book is bound in blind-tooled paneled calf with gilt-tooled corner fleurons, framing a crowned dolphin. The dolphin indicates the personal binding of its owner, Francis II, Dauphin of France (1544–1560). Francis was briefly King of France (1559–60) and also of Scotland (1558–1560) on account of his marriage to Mary Queen of Scots, but he died young at the age of 16.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1552 LUTH A. This volume was acquired through the generous subvention of Munich American Reassurance Company.
Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) — Selected Orations, 1565

Orationes postremae / scriptae a reverendo viro Philippo Melanthone, proximis annis ante obitum; his adjunctae sunt aliae orations ab illius obitu recitatae publicè in Academia Witebergensi. Wittenberg: Johannes Crato, 1565.

[14], 1,056 pages; 18 cm (8vo).

The Book: This is a collection of Melanchthon’s academic orations, c. 1550–1560, and eulogies delivered following his death.

Provenance: This binding is blind-stamped bleached pigskin over wooden boards. The front cover shows the personification of Justice, a female figure holding scales and a sword. The back cover displays the image of the Jewish heroine Judith beheading the Assyrian general Holofernes. The year 1566 and the initials D.F.N. correspond to two inscriptions inside the book dated 1582 by a “Daniel Fugman Newkyrchensis.” This likely refers to Daniel Fugman of Neukirchen in Saxony, who served as pastor in Bockau, Saxony, from 1572 to 1603, and in Tannenberg, Saxony, after 1610.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1565 MELA A
Pope Boniface VIII (1230–1303) — Book Six of the Decretals, 1523

Sextus decretaliu[m] liber / per Bonifacium octauum pontificem sanctissimum in Lugdunensi consilio editus. Paris: Jehan Preuel, 1523.

lx leaves ; 15 cm (8vo).

The Book: The Liber Sextus Decretalium is a collection of canon law compiled at the order of Pope Boniface VIII at the end of the 13th century. Boniface called the collection “book six” because he saw it as continuation of five books of decretals by Pope Gregory IX (1145–1241).

Provenance: Bound in polished calfskin over wooden boards, the front cover of the book displays King Henry VIII’s coat of arms. The back cover shows the Tudor Rose. The binding is signed “I.N.” by the binder Ihon Norins and bears his trade device.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1523 CATH C:1
Case 14

Bookplates in the Collections of Pitts Theology Library

Perhaps the clearest mark of prior ownership is the bookplate or “Ex Libris,” a formal stamp or sticker placed in a single book or in all items of a collection. Bookplates range from the ornate to the simplistic, from large to small. William M. Ivins, past curator of the department of prints at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, once noted, “The size of a book-plate is usually in inverse proportion to the owner’s interest in books.” Regardless of their size, they often provided an opportunity for a collector not only to mark his or her ownership, but also to tell future readers something about the owner’s values or priorities behind the collecting. Most often, though, bookplates indicate ownership by families or individuals whose information is not readily available in the historical record. Catalogers use archives, book catalogs, and personal networks to try to trace details about specific designs and individuals, and the results are often more suggestions than definitive identifications. The items here show a couple of the more interesting trails that Pitts catalogers follow.
74 A BOOK MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

SECTION 4. BINDINGS AND BOOKPLATES

Martin Luther (1483–1546)—Chronological Table, 1551


246 unnumbered pages: illustrations; 16 cm (8vo).

The Book: This is the second printing of Joannes Aurifaber’s (1517–1568) German translation of Luther’s “Chronological table of the years of the world.” The Latin work was finished in manuscript in 1540 and first published in 1541.

Provenance: This volume includes two bookplates. In the corner is a small plate indicating the Luther Collection of W.H. Stifel. Wilhelm Heinrich Stifel (1822–1902) was a merchant in the South German town of Biberach. Records indicate he had a sizable collection of historical books, which was sold in the mid-1880s.

A larger, hand-drawn bookplate indicates prior ownership by Matthaus Somm[er?] Aurimontanus. The surname of Aurimontanus could be a Latinization of the German name Goldberg, but the more common convention of such entries was “first name-last name-town,” and Aurimontanus may refer to Ormont, a German town in the Lower Palatinate near the Belgian border. The challenge of identification is amplified by the fact that the last few letters in the presumed last name are covered, and while Sommer is a likely reconstruction, it is by no means certain. The date 1569 may suggest the owner of the book was a certain Matthäus/ Matthias Sommer, who is known to have taught in the Hungarian town Bela in Szepes County (now Spišská Belá in Slovakia) during the mid to late 16th century.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1551 LUTH
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — Church Postils, 1549


4 unnumbered pages, cccxxxii, 10 unnumbered leaves (last leaf blank): illustrations; 34 cm (folio).

The Book: This is the second part of Luther’s postils or short homilies, including lectionary sermons for Sundays between Easter and Advent. The sermons were preached in German, recorded in shorthand, and then edited for publication.

Provenance: This bookplate displays the coat of arms of the Kress von Kressenstein family, one of the oldest patrician families in Nuremberg. They were early supporters of the Lutheran Reformation and one family member had signed the Augsburg Confession on behalf of the city of Nuremberg. The owner of the book is identified on the plate as Johannes Guilhelmus Kress a Kressenstein or Johann (Hans) Wilhelm Kress von Kressenstein, a documented German who lived from 1589–1658. This name corresponds to the initials HWK tooled into the front cover binding. The motto above the coat of arms reads in German “May God’s mercy and compassion be with me in all eternity”. Below the coat of arms is a quotation from Psalm 85:7 in German: “Lord, grant us your mercy and help us.”

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1549 LUTH H:1
A bookplate is “a label, usually affixed inside the front cover of a book, illustrated with a crest or other decorative device.” Bookplates on items in Pitts Theology Library’s collection help catalogers identify the previous owners and readers of any given volume.

A BOOK MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

SECTION 4. BINDINGS AND BOOKPLATES

A bookplate is “a label, usually affixed inside the front cover of a book, identifying the person or institution to which it belongs, and often illustrates with a crest or other decorative device.” Bookplates on items in Pitts Theology Library’s collection help catalogers identify the previous owners and readers of any given volume.


Branding with Bookplates
Gottfried William Leonhard Fritschel (1836–1889) was born in Nuremberg, where his father, Martin Fritschel, was a Lutheran pastor. He and his brother, Conrad Sigmund Fritschel (1833–1900), studied theology in Neuendettelsau before relocating to Iowa in 1854, where they served as pastors. Both became leading Lutheran theologians in the Iowa Synod of the Lutheran Church and taught theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA. Pitts Theology Library purchased items from Wartburg in the early 2000s, which brought many of the Fritschels’ books here.
Johann Bugenhagen (1485–1558) — Commentary on the Psalms, 1524

Ioannis Pomerani Bugenhaeii in librum Psalmorum interpretatio. Mainz: Johann Schöffer.

8 unnumbered pages, 318 pages; 32 cm (folio).

The Book: This volume contains Bugenhagen’s commentary of the Psalms, printed at Mainz in 1524 by Johann Schöffer.

Provenance: This copy is bound in blind-tooled, paneled pigskin over beveled wooden boards, with clasps. On the inside front cover appears the bookplate of Gottfried Fritschel. On the title page are two early ownership inscriptions—dated 1591 and 1628—as well as a library stamp of Wartburg Seminary.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1524 BUGE C
Georg Witzel (1501–1573) — Collected Letters and Homilies, 1537

*Epistolarum quae inter aliquot centurias uidebantur partim profuturae theologicarum litterarum studiosis partim innocents famam adversus syncophantiam de fensurae, libri quatuor.* Lipsiae: Excudebat Nicolaus Vuolrab.

520 unnumbered pages (last 2 pages blank); 23 cm (4to).

**The Book:** This *Sammelband* (volume of several works bound together) contains publications by Georg Witzel, an early supporter of Martin Luther and the Reformation who rejoined the Catholic Church in 1527. Many of Witzel's works were placed on the index of forbidden books by the Council of Trent (1545–1563).

**Provenance:** The book is bound in 16th or 17th century blind-tooled leather over wooden boards. On the inside front cover appears the bookplate of Gottfried Fritschel (1836–1889). Below it is a plate of Wartburg Seminary.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1537 WITZ A
Georg Witzel (1501–1573) — Breviary Containing 50 Psalms, 1549

_Vespertina Psalmia: die fünfzig Vesperpsalme[n], so die heilige Kyrche Gottes, alle Tage durch die Wochen, öffentlich zu singen vnd lesen pflegt, gedeutschet vnd darzu ausgelegt, dem christlichen Priester vnd kyrchischen Bürger zu Liebe vnd Dienst. Gedruckt zu Köln: In Kosten Johan Quentels._

216 unnumbered pages (last pages blank); 19 cm (4to).

The Book: This breviary contains 50 Psalms for evening prayers (vespers), translated and annotated by Georg Witzel.

Provenance: The inside front cover is signed by Sigmund Fritschel, the title page has a library stamp from Wartburg Seminary. There are marginal inscription in an earlier hand throughout the book.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1549 BIBL A
Case 16

Books Brought to America by Immigrants — Herman Zubke

Many books published in Europe before the 20th century were brought to the America by immigrants. Their stories are often lost to history, but occasionally they can be partially reconstructed, with the help of immigration or institutional records and clues left behind in books. One such story is that of Herman Zubke, who was born in 1845 in Prussia and immigrated to America in 1868 at the age of 23. He was a wagon-maker who could read and write English, but could not speak it. He was married in 1874 to a woman born in Wisconsin to German immigrants, who was named either Emilia or Louisa. They lived in Germantown, WI, and had two children—Arthur (born 1875) and Ella (born 1887). Records show that in 1910 Arthur Zubke lived in Milwaukee by himself and was a music teacher.
Tilemann Heshusius (1527–1588) — Ten Sermons on Justification, 1568


536 unnumbered pages (last 2 pages blank); 22 cm. (4to).

The Book: This volume contains a collection of ten sermons by the Gnesio-Lutheran Theologian Tilemann Heshusius on the subject of justification from sin.

Provenance: The book is bound in red vellum. There are several 20th century inscriptions on the inside cover relating to the content of the book. On the title page is a 17th century inscription “Johann Lencker me possider” (“Johann Lencker owns me”). In the right corner above the title is an inscription in English “Herman Zubke A.D. 1906. South Germantown Wash. Co. Wisconsin to Ella Zubke.”

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1568 HESH
Veit Dietrich (1506–1549) — Summary of the Bible. 1548

*Summaria vber die gantze Bibel: das Alte vnd Neive Testament, darinn auffs kürtzte angezeygt wirdt, was am nötigsten unnd nützten ist dem jungen Volck, vnd gemeinem Mann, auss allen Capiteln zu wissen unnd zu lernen, darnach sie ir Leben richten unnd solcher feiner Lehre, zu ihrer Seelen Seligkeyt brauchen können.* Nürnberg: Johann vom Berg und Vlrich Newber.

680 unnumbered pages; 31 cm (folio).

**The Book:** Shown here is a chapter-by-chapter summary of the Bible, written by Veit Dietrich—Luther’s secretary, and later preacher at St. Sebald’s Church in Nuremberg. Also included are Psalm summaries by Luther and content by Melanchthon and Johann Brenz (1499–1570).

**Provenance:** The front and back cover depict a withered tree and a flourishing tree, a common Lutheran motif representing law and grace. On the front inside cover is a 19th century stamp of a Leipzig book-dealer Oswald Weigel and a label of the Milwaukee book-dealer Paul Brunquell. On the blank fly-leaf is an inscription “Herman Zubke 1892 to Arthur Zubke.” There is also a hand-written transcription of an inscription from the cathedral in Lübeck and a numerical calculation intended to show that the Pope is the Antichrist.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1548 DIET A. This volume was acquired through the generous subvention of Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Caron Morgan in honor of Rev. Dr. Robert F. Sims.
SECTION 5. JOURNEY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC
Case 17

A Book from the Library of Calvin E. Stowe

Catholic Missal, 1521

Missale romanum nuper ad optatum modum quorumcumque sacerdotum summa diligentia distinctum, et ex orthographia castigatum, ita ex novo ordine digestum vt appositis introitibus gradualibus offertoriis & communionibus.

Venetiis i.e. Venice: Impressum in aedibus domini Luceantonij de giunta florentini.

8 unnumbered pages, 303 leaves: illustrations; 32 cm (folio in 8’s).

The Book: This Catholic missal contains a calendar of saints’ days and collection of altar chants.

Provenance: This copy’s binding is dated 1607, and it displays the initials “M.E.K.,” the reference of which is unknown. On the title page is a purchase inscription by former owner Calvin E. Stowe (1802–1886), a noted biblical scholar and educator, and husband of Harriet Beecher-Stowe (1811–1896). The inside cover bears a bookplate with a Latin motto and the word “Stowe.”

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection – Pitts Theology Library 1521 CATH A
SECTION 6. LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES
Case 18

The Provenance of a Collection

“Provenance” is a term used most often refer to the story of a single item, of its prior ownership and the path that brought it to its present home. Entire collections, though, also have stories. Pitts Theology Library’s story includes several inflection points, when major collections built by others were acquired by Emory University. The library began with one such acquisition, its collection of materials connected to John and Charles Wesley and the origins of Methodism. In the early 20th century, Bishop Warren Akin Candler (1857-1941), the founder of the Candler School of Theology, solicited donors to purchase a significant collection of “Wesleyana” from the United Kingdom. Robert Thursfield Smith was a 19th century iron manufacturer from Shropshire. An avid Methodist, Smith used his means to acquire Methodist materials from all over England. In 1911, Candler purchased the collection from Smith’s son, W. H. Smith, for a total of $5,000 (roughly $135,000 today), despite only raising half of the necessary funds. Candler brought it to Georgia (“the only American state in which Wesley ever lived”) and installed...
it in the Wesley Memorial Church in Atlanta, where there was a “fire-proof compartment for the preservation of just such treasures.” This collection moved to Emory’s Druid Hills campus when the School of Theology was built in 1917. This collection continues to grow and serve as the source of scholarly activity and teaching every year. On exhibit here are a few items that document the history of Pitts’ Wesleyana Collection, now among the finest in the world.

Robert Thursfield Smith — Collection Catalog

This manuscript copy of the original catalog of the Robert Thursfield Smith collection contains the books and manuscripts of the collection purchased by Warren Akin Candler for Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in 1911. The catalog is divided into two sections: (1) original letters of John and Charles Wesley and other early Methodists, and (2) printed materials by and about early Methodists.

Pitts Theology Library RG 022
Who were the loyal Methodists that answered Bishop Candler’s call for donations to secure the Robert Thursfield Smith collection? This manuscript documents that there were 120 donors in all. The list includes a Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Governor-elect of Georgia, a future bishop, college presidents, prominent businessmen, local politicians, attorneys, and ministers from both Methodist Episcopal Church, South conferences in Georgia. The list is a cross section of affluent and influential society in Georgia in 1911.

Pitts Theology Library RG 022
Amongst the dozens of manuscript letters in the Thursfield Smith collection is this important one John Wesley wrote his mother Susanna, dated July 6, 1738. The letter was written during John’s visit to Germany to meet with Count Nicolaus Zinzendorf (1700–1760), the leader of the Moravian Church. The letter documents well how influential were the Moravians on Wesley’s spiritual development. Wesley uses Christ imagery to describe the presence and work of Count Zinzendorf.
Some of Pitts’ most significant items related to the Wesleys were not part of the Thursfield Smith collection. Bishop Candler continued to acquire materials, and two of his prize acquisitions came from Bishop Eugene Russell Hendrix, who had bought some materials from Smith before Candler did. In this letter, dated February 12, 1901, Hendrix informs Robert Blair Reppard, a Savannah businessman, about the acquisition of materials for Wesley Monumental Church in Savannah. Hendrix notes that he purchased the Charles Wesley Psalter manuscript from Robert Thursfield Smith for the sum of $36.68 (roughly $1,000 today). It is unclear when the Psalter became a part of the Wesleyana collection at Pitts Theology Library.

Pitts Theology Library MSS 450
Charles Wesley (1707–1788) — Poetic Version of the Psalms Manuscript (c. 1750)

The psalter played a prominent role within Protestant worship, and there is a great tradition of translating the Psalms loosely to fit congregational singing. Presented here is the metrical Psalms of Charles Wesley, his attempt at producing a poetic edition of the Psalms. The majority of this bound manuscript is written in the hand of John Perronet (1732–1767), the youngest son of Charles’s friend Vincent Perronet (1693–1785), but the last twelve pages were written in the hand of Charles Wesley himself.

Pitts Theology Library MSS 159
Perhaps the most significant item in the Pitts Wesleyana Collection is Wesley’s manuscript diary from his time in Georgia. Bishop Hendrix had plans to bequeath the diary to Vanderbilt University. However, after Vanderbilt broke ties with the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1914, Hendrix gave the diary to Bishop Candler in 1918. Wesley used shorthand and wrote in a coded system that was only intelligible to his close circle. Methodist scholar Richard Heitzenrater discovered the key to this coded shorthand in 1969 while evaluating the papers of Benjamin Ingham (1712–1772), one of Wesley’s traveling companions. This discovery made it possible for scholars to access Wesley’s diary, which in its present form was never meant for publication.
Case 19

Books from the Library of Ernest Stroehlin, Bound by Hans Asper

Ernest Stroehlin (1844–1907) was a Swiss Church historian at the University of Geneva, specializing in French Protestantism. An avid collector of books, he possessed an impressive number of imprints from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. When his library was sold in 1912, the auction catalog was issued in 3 volumes. His bookplate depicts John Calvin preaching in Geneva and the motto *Mente Libera* (“free the mind”) below. Many of Stroehlin’s books were bound by the Swiss bookbinder Hans Asper (1855–1911), often with fine morocco leather and gilded ornamentation.
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — Geistliche Lieder, 1567

*Geistliche Lieder D. Martini Luth. vnd anderer from[m]en Christen, nach Ordnung der Jarzeit, mit Collecten vnd Gebeten. Auffs new zugericht. Franckfurt an der Oder: [Johann Eichhorn], 1567.*

219, [7] pages; 15 cm (8vo)

**The Book:** This volume is a 1567 printing of the Wittenberg hymnal *Geistliche Lieder* (“Spiritual Songs”), first published by Joseph Klug in 1529. Many of the hymns were written by Martin Luther himself.

**Provenance:** This copy was bound by Hans Asper in black morocco with gilt tooling and dark green leather intarsia. The spine is also gilt tooled with ornamental designs and the title “Martin Luther – Chants Spirituels” and the year 1567. The edges of the textblock are gilded and the inside cover has marbled paper.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1567 GEIS
Erasmus Sarcerius (1501–1559) — Catechism, 1550

*Catechismus Erasmi Sarcerii: plane nouus, per omnes ferè quaestiones & circumstantias, quae in iustam tractationem incidere possunt, in usum scholarum & templorum, Lipsiae conscriptus.* Lipsiae: Volphgangus Gunter excudebat, Anno M. D. L.

[8], 170 (i.e. 169) leaves; 18 cm (8vo)

**The Book:** This volume contains a catechism by the Lutheran theologian and superintendent, Erasmus Sarcerius.

**Provenance:** The book was bound by Hans Asper in gilt-tooled blue morocco with marbled endpapers on the inside cover, which also displays Stroehlin’s bookplate. Like most of Asper’s bindings, the ornamental gilt tooling of the binding extends to the inside edges of the cover. The spine bears the gilt-tooled title “Sarcerius – Catechisme” and the year 1550.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1550 SARC
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — Sermon on 1 Timothy and Summary of the Law, 1526

[64] pages; 16 cm (8vo)

The Book: This tract by Luther on 1 Timothy and the summary of the Law is based on 3 sermons preached in March 1525 and was printed at least four times in 1526.

Provenance: This copy was bound by Hans Asper in plain dark green morocco with marbled endpapers. While the outside cover of the binding is not ornamented, the inside borders are gilt tooled. Stroehlin’s bookplate appears on the front inside cover and Hans Asper’s name can be seen stamped at the bottom center of the front inside cover. The spine title is tooled in gilt “M. Luther – Le Sommaire de Decalogue” with the year 1526 at the bottom.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1526 LUTH CC
Jakob Strauss (c. 1483–c. 1533) — Instruction on the Meaning of Fellowship, 1522

Vnderricht D. Jacob Straussen, wartzü die Brüderschaften nütz seyen, wie man sy bissher gehalte[n] hat, vn[d] nu frühin halten sol. [Augsburg: Silvan Otmar], M.D.XXII.

[7] pages; 20 cm (4to)

The Book: In this pamphlet, Jakob Strauss, a Protestant preacher in Southern Germany, contrasts true Christian fellowship with what he considered the false fellowship of the Catholic clergy.

Provenance: This copy was bound by Hans Asper in plain purple morocco with marbled endpapers. Only the inside borders are gilt-tooled, as is the spine title “Strauss – De L’utilité des corporations” and the date 1522. Stroehlin’s bookplate appears on the front inside cover.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1522 STRA D
Johann Bugenhagen (1485-1558) – On the Protestant Mass, 1524

*Von der Eua[n]gelischen Messz: was die Messz sey, wie vnd durch wen, vnnnd warumb sy auffgesetzt sey. …Eyn Ratschlag herr Johan Pommer ...Wittenberg: [s.n.], 1524.*

[31] pages; 21 cm (4to)

The Book: This work is a discussion of Protestant liturgy. The term “Protestant Mass” (*evangelische Messe*) was coined by Lutherans as an attempt to show that they were the preservers of the true tradition of the Lord’s Supper.

Provenance: This copy was bound by Hans Asper in plain black morocco with marbled endpapers. Only the inside borders are gilt-tooled, as is the spine title “Pomeranus – *De la messe evangel*” and the date 1524. Stroehlin’s bookplate appears on the front inside cover. The use of the name Pomeranus for Bugenhagen is in reference to the Reformer’s home region of Pomerania on the Baltic Sea.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1524 BUGE
Case 20

Willibald Pirckheimer, the Duke of Norfolk, and the Arundel Library

Willibald Pirckheimer (1470–1530) was a Renaissance humanist, lawyer and scholar in Nuremberg, where he was an important figure on the city council. A close friend of Albrecht Dürer and of Erasmus, he was one of the leading intellectuals of his time. Much of his library was acquired by Thomas Howard, 21st Earl of Arundel (1586–1646), who became known as “the Collector Earl” for his extensive collection of art and historical manuscripts. His grandson Henry Howard, the 6th Duke of Norfolk (1628–1684), a confessed Catholic at a time of strong anti-Catholic sentiments in England, donated the Earl’s library to the Royal Society, which eventually split it up and sold much of the collection.

Judas Nazarei (pseudonym) — Of the Old and the New Faith, 1521


[44] pages; 22 cm (4to)

The Book: This pseudonymous, anti-Catholic polemic has been attributed by some to Joachim Vadianus, since it reflects the Swiss dialect spoken in St. Gallen. Others have doubted this attribution, as the text is written in an awkward and unsophisticated style, uncharacteristic of the humanist educated Vadianus.


Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1521 NAZA C
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — Reply to Henry VIII’s Treatise on the Seven Sacraments, 1522

Contra Henricum regem Angliae Martinus Luther. VVittembergae: [Johann Rhau-Grünenberg], 1522.

[48] pages; 20 cm (4to)

The Book: This volume is Luther’s reply to “Assertio septem sacramentorum,” King Henry VIII’s treatise on the seven sacraments. For his critique of Luther and defense of the seven sacraments, probably drafted by Thomas More, Henry VIII was bestowed the title “Defender of the Faith” by Pope Leo X.

Provenance: The book is half bound in vellum over marbled paper, a binding likely created while the book was in the possession of the Duke of Norfolk. The donation stamp of the Royal Society of London is seen on the title page. It was transcribed in pencil on the blank flyleaf facing the title, most likely by an early 20th century librarian at Hartford Theological Seminary, which owned the book prior to Pitts Theology Library.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1522 LUTH JJJ
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — Luther’s Propositions at the Leipzig Debate, 1519


52 unnumbered pages; 21 cm (4to)

**The Book:** In this volume, Luther analyzes propositions he and his colleague Andreas Karlstadt (1486–1541) debated with Johann Eck (1486–1543) at the Leipzig Disputation of 1519.

**Provenance:** In addition to the stamp of the Royal Society of London, which documents the donation by Duke Henry Howard, there is a bookplate on the front inside cover identifying Pastor Dr. Julius Rieger (1901–1984) as one of the book’s former owners. Rieger was a Lutheran pastor who served German churches in London between 1934 and 1953. A close friend and supporter of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, he was instrumental in providing refuge in London to German opponents of the Nazi regime during World War II.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1519 LUTH DD
Martin Luther (1483–1546) — Luther’s Response to Johann Eck’s (1486–1583) Accusations at the Leipzig Debate, 1519

Disputatio et excusatio Fratris Martini Luther; aduersus Criminationes. D. Iohannis Eccij. [Leipzig: Martin Landsberg, 1519].

[8] pages; 21 cm (4to)

The Book: In this German volume, Luther responds to Johann Eck’s accusations at the Leipzig Disputation.

Provenance: The donation stamp by the Royal Society of London “Soc. Reg. Sond ex dono Henr. Howard Norfolkensis” appears on the title page. Like “Luther’s Propositions at the Leipzig Debate,” also exhibited in this case, this pamphlet bears the bookplate of the Lutheran pastor and Bonhoeffer friend Julius Rieger.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1519 LUTH EE
Henry Edward Manning (1808–1892) was one of the most influential English Roman Catholic figures of the 19th century. From his ordination in the Church of England in 1832, through his conversion to Catholicism in 1851, and to his death in 1892, his words and actions were powerful influences in England and in the Roman Catholic Church. Pitts Theology Library’s Cardinal Manning Collection consists of over 2,000 manuscript items and 4,000 books. In 1974, the library acquired 800 volumes from Manning’s personal library. Five years later, the library acquired a second, larger collection of 3,500 books and 1,500 manuscripts. The two large acquisitions, along with several later acquisitions, constitute the world’s preeminent collection of materials related to Cardinal Manning, including Manning’s personal correspondence, items from Manning’s personal library, financial records, and photographic material. In 1980, Emory Magazine published an article written by Pitts Director Channing Jeschke, documenting the importance of these two acquisitions.
Correspondence between Cardinal Manning and Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) is celebrated as the founder of modern nursing. After serving as a nurse in the Crimean War, she founded the nursing school at St. Thomas’ Hospital in London, the first secular nursing school in the world. She was a prolific writer, both in personal correspondence and published works. Her letters with Manning, all from the 1850s, are mostly personal in nature, though they do touch on theological topics. In this letter, dated June 30, 1852, Nightingale, who was baptized as a child in the Church of England and considered converting to Catholicism but was later discouraged from doing so by Manning, notes, “I dislike & despise the Church of England. She received me into her bosom. But what has she ever done for me?”

Pitts Theology Library MSS 002
Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) – Notes on Hospitals (London: John W. Parker and Son, 1859)

This is the first publication of two essays on hospital reform by Florence Nightingale presented in 1858 to the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science. The work is intended as a companion to Nightingale’s Notes on Nursing published the same year. Her use of statistical data in these papers shows that her “common-sense approach” to nursing was supported by rigorous social-scientific data.
Correspondence between Cardinal Manning and William Gladstone

William Ewart Gladstone (1809–1898) was a British politician. He served as Prime Minister for 12 years, spread over 4 terms. Pitts Theology Library holds dozens of letters written from Manning to his close friend Gladstone, whom Manning always addresses as “My Dear Gladstone.” The letters, which date from the 1830s through the 1890s, cover personal matters, politics, church polity, theology, and Manning’s famous conversion. On display here is Manning’s letter to Gladstone dated April 5, 1851, the eve of Passion Sunday. Manning asks Gladstone to “Bear me in mind in your prayers tomorrow.” On the following day, Manning was received into the Roman Catholic Church in London.

Pitts Theology Library MSS 002

This three volume Greek New Testament belonged to the British politician William Gladstone (1809–1898). He had this item re-bound with blank pages interleaved to provide space for his personal annotations. His annotations and references to classical Greek and Latin literature demonstrate the work many translators undergo to best understand a source text.
Henry Edward Manning — The Eternal Priesthood (Manuscript Copy)

This partial manuscript of one of Manning’s best known books, The Eternal Priesthood, published in 1883 by Burns and Oates in London. This work, in which Manning defends Catholic priesthood as “the express image of Christ,” was highly influential, being issued in 19 editions by 1924 and translated into multiple languages. This manuscript is not complete, but rather appears to be an early working copy of the book with many edits and corrections.

Pitts Theology Library MSS 002

Henry Edward Manning — The Eternal Priesthood (Presentation Copy), (London: Burns and Oates, 1883)

This first edition copy of Manning’s book contains Manning’s gift inscription to Henry M. Bayley dated October 11, 1883. Bayley is likely Rev. Henry M. Bayley, who was listed in 1874 as a secretary of the Diocese of Westminster. The book also includes the bookplate of the library of St. Charles College in London. This refers to a school founded at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Kensington, which Manning founded and where he served as Provost.

Pitts Theology Library 1883 MANN A (pictured right)
Scholarship Generated by the Manning Correspondence

Manning’s personal correspondence has been the subject of scholarly discussion. Shown here are two examples related to Pitts’ holding. Alphonse Louis Eugene Chapeau (1905-1989) wrote a 1955 Sorbonne doctoral thesis, “The Letters of Manning to Gladstone, 1837-1851,” which included transcripts of several letters. Chapeau donated a number of Manning letters to Pitts in 1989, along with drafts of this unpublished dissertation. Shown here is a letter from Chapeau to Pitts Director Channing Jeschke, dated March 24, 1989, discussing the Manning correspondence Peter C. Erb (1943–), Professor in the Religion & Culture Department at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada, continued Chapeau’s work on Pitts’ Manning collection. In 1995, Erb delivered the Thomas Aquinas Lecture at Pitts Theology Library, entitled “A Question of Sovereignty: The Politics of Manning’s Conversion.” In this lecture, Erb uses the correspondence and sermons of Manning, from before and after his conversion, to explore the internal motivations and external influence of one of the 19th century’s most significant religious conversions. Shown here is the lecture, published by Pitts Theology Library.

Pitts Theology Library MSS 002
While physical exhibitions create the opportunity to share these rare treasures with the general public, the digital age opens the possibility of making these books and manuscripts accessible around the world. Pitts Theology Library understands “access” to mean much more than just scanning the books and putting them online. For specialized items like the books in the Kessler Collection, readers need translations and guides to help them understand what they are seeing. Pitts’ digital critical editions project is an attempt to fulfill that understanding of access. On the screen above is the first such edition, a digital critical edition of the 1521 pamphlet Passional Christi und Antichristi, the physical copy of which is on display in the case. The new online version of this pamphlet includes introductory essays, translations of the text, transcriptions and translations of the manuscript annotations, and explanations from the perspective of art history, reformation history, and theology. Users can click on the images, the text, or the annotations to see translations and explanations. Contributors to this project include Dr. Ulrich Bubenheimer of the University of Heidelberg, Dr. Roberta Dykema of First Church of the Brethren, Springfield, Illinois, Dr. Martin Lohrmann of Wartburg Seminary, and Dr. Larry Silver of the University of Pennsylvania.
The Passion of the Christ and Anti-Christ, 1521

Passional Christi vnnd Antichristi. [Erfurt: Matthaeus Maler], 1521.

[28] pages; 20 cm (4to)

This polemical pamphlet consists of 13 pairs of woodcuts with German captions, depicting scenes from the life of Christ contrasted with scenes from the life of the pope. A Latin version of the work contained text from Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) and Johann Schwertfeger (1488–1524), while Luther supplied written material for this German edition, consisting of quotations from the Gospels and the canon law. The woodcuts, attributed to Lucas Cranach (1472–1553) and Hans Cranach (c. 1513–1537), derive in part from Luther’s “An den christlichen Adel Deutscher Nation” (1521).

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1521 LUTH WW
Johannes Cochlaeus (1479–1552) — Seven-Headed Luther, 1529


[35] pages; 20 cm (4to).

Catholics released polemical tracts against Luther. In this first edition of an anti-Lutheran tract by Cochlaeus, one of Luther’s most vehement opponents, the title-page image portrays Luther as a seven-headed monster, one of the most famous images from anti-Lutheran polemics. Each head is explained in detail in the text. At the head of the page is an ownership mark, partly illegible due to trimming during rebinding. The date 1655 and the name Wolfgang Engelb[?] can be deciphered. These translations and images of the pamphlets are online at pitts.emory.edu/catholicopponents.

Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection - Pitts Theology Library 1529 COCH B
I would like to thank my co-curator Dr. Ulrich Bubenheimer, without whose knowledge and expertise this exhibition would not have been possible, and Dr. Bo Adams, Director of the Pitts Theology Library, who provided many good ideas for this exhibition and a great deal of content of the descriptive labels and graphic illustrations. Special thanks go to Dr. Eric Moore for drafting the case descriptions, to Dr. Brandon Wason, Curator of Archives and Manuscripts, who curated the portion of the exhibit on the archive of Bishop Warren A. Candler, and to Debra Madera for providing the photographs in this catalog and for pulling the display items from Special Collections. I am also grateful to Anne Marie McLean, who was responsible for all the graphic design work and many of the logistics surrounding this exhibition and to the rest of the library staff who helped with the exhibit. Finally, this project would not have been possible without Richard C. Kessler and his daughter Laura Kessler, whose continued generosity and support of the Pitts Theology Library’s Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection enables scholars, students, clergy, and Reformation enthusiasts to have direct access to the original documents of the 16th century and to continue the discussion about how we should understand the past and work towards creating a better future.
**Suggested Reading**


This image is a calligram or graphic inscription of verses about John the Baptist. It was inscribed inside a copy of Martin Luther's Kirchen-Postilla (Leipzig: Nikolaus Wolrab, 1549) in 1638, to mark the gift of the book to Johann Wilhelm Kress von Kressenstein (1589-1658) on the occasion of his name day (June 24, the Feast of John the Baptist).