

For my senior thesis, I went beyond undergraduate work, using the William H. Hannon Library to conduct graduate-level and professional research. My work not only utilized the Hannon Library's resources, but also gave back, contributing to the library's own scholarship and reputation.

Last summer, I began work on a 16th century manuscript in the Hannon Library's Special Collections. Thus, my project was not only facilitated by the library, but was also inextricably tied to its holdings. The manuscript, entitled *The Rych Cheyne*, is anonymous, with almost no clues as to the author. Teaching myself the paleographical skills to read Elizabethan shorthand, I transcribed the two hundred-page-text. I spent my summer coming into the Special Collections for several hours, five days a week, working tirelessly to further my work. In my transcription, I found that it contained all of the verses in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, rearranged into a concatenation, which create a new level of meaning to the Scriptures. This manipulation of Scripture suggests a radical ingenuity and incredible creative artistry. Comparing the verses against library's many Bibles, I found a match in Hannon's facsimile of the 1560 Geneva Bible. This showed me that the scribe was using this Bible for his work, a fact which has great theological significance for the period. I also discovered what might be original translations of the Greek biblical text, opening up new avenues in Biblical Studies.

I also began research on the manuscript's origins, attempting to identify the author with hardly any evidence at my disposal. The only clues I had were the initials E. C. on the cover, and I knew that I would have to be creative to pursue them further. Going to the library's reference section, I poured through the extensive Dictionary of National Biography, searching for everyone in English history with the initials E. C. After a great deal of research, I came upon Edmund Calamy, who appeared to fit the profile of ownership. Consequently, I theorized that *The Rych Cheyne* was authored by Calamy's mentor, Bishop Nicholas Felton, a highly respected Cambridge academic and theologian in the period.

I also pursued the provenance of the manuscript, for which there was little to no verifiable information. There was only an archival note pasted to the inside, saying that it was donated by J. Kerrigan, and that the manuscript was apparently found in Windsor Castle. Searching for J. Kerrigan, I looked through all the donor records throughout the university's history in the library's archives. I also searched the archive records to see if there might have been a Jesuit named Kerrigan. Yet none of these avenues proved fruitful, and I knew I needed to search elsewhere.

Going forward, I realized that I must go to England, the source of the manuscript, to continue my research. Although there were no grants available, I proposed my ideas to Dean Brancolini of the Hannon Library, who graciously granted my request to travel abroad. While in England, I spent time researching at several major libraries, searching for handwriting which might match that of the *Cheyne*. I also visited Windsor Castle, where the manuscript is said to have been discovered, where I furthered the existing knowledge of the manuscript's provenance.

After returning, the Hannon Library was contacted by the Folger Shakespeare Library, who had read my blog on the library website, and revealed that they had an almost exact copy of the *Rych*

Cheyne. This has since fostered dialogue between the two institutions and opened even more doors, showing that my research has only begun to realize the scope of its potential.

Through the project, I was able to refine my skills in paleography and codicology for my future career as a medieval scholar. I also learned the intricate process of textual analysis, and the resourceful detective work of a professional medievalist. Using the information that I gleaned in my research, I compiled a critical edition of the manuscript, which can now be used as a tool for scholarly research in the Hannon Library's Special Collections. Later, I hope to publish the critical edition, bringing the Hannon Library into the forefront of the academic community. I believe that the implications of my work can make the Hannon Library stand out amongst other major institutions in Southern California and the world. My research also has the potential to change the face of Theological Studies and contribute an entirely new piece of history.