

Wikimedia and the British Library



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A collaboration of Wikipedians to gather at the British Library

By **Ian Douglas** | **Internet** | Last updated: January 10th, 2011

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Meet at the statue of Blake's vision of Newton

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BL & Wikimedia e-volunteer projects

1: Jan 2011 **British Library** edit-a-thon

- 20 contributors, 4 staff, 2 days
- Coincided with Wikipedia 10th anniversary
- Live link with Hong Kong
- 8 major articles created

2: June 2011 **English and Drama** edit-a-thon, 1 day

- 22 contributors, 6 staff
- 30 articles created, 5 wikisource documents

3: March 2011-current, **Philatelic Collections**

- 2 contributors, 2 staff
- 14 articles about the collections, proposal for catalogue

4: Nov-Dec 2011 **Stonyhurst Gospel**

- 3 contributors? 1 staff?

THE NEW YORKER

"Nerd Out"

...

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...

29 August 2011, New Yorker, v.87, no.25, p.24



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<http://www.imperica.com/features/in-the-know>

Articles created at an Editathon June 2011 (selection)

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Stonyhurst Gospel

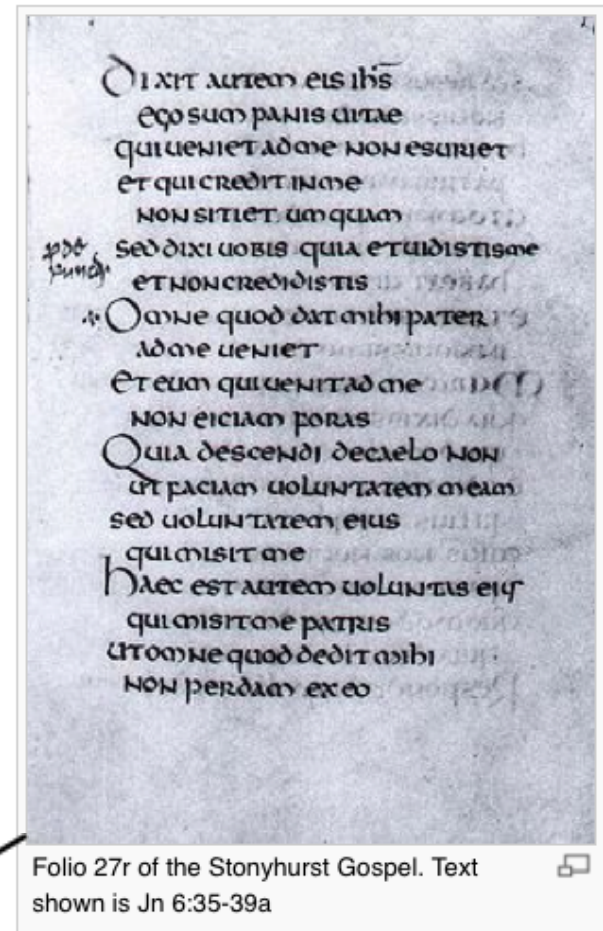
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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Stonyhurst Gospel**, also known as the **St Cuthbert Gospel** or the **St Cuthbert Gospel of St John**, is a small 7th-century pocket [gospel book](#), written in [Latin](#), which belonged to [Saint Cuthbert of Lindisfarne](#), who died in 687. Its finely decorated leather binding is the earliest known Western book-binding to survive, and both the [vellum](#) pages and the binding are in outstanding condition for a book of this age. The book was discovered in 1104 when Cuthbert's tomb was opened so that his relics could be translated to a new shrine behind the altar of [Durham Cathedral](#). It was then kept with other relics in the cathedral, although the bishops and important visitors were able to wear the book in a leather bag around their necks.^[1] After the [Dissolution of the Monasteries in England](#) by [Henry VIII](#) between 1536 and 1541, it passed to collectors.

It is now on long-term loan to the [British Library](#), catalogued as Loan 74. On 14 July 2011 the British Library launched a fundraising campaign to buy the book for £9m (\$14.3m), two-thirds of which has already been raised. The Library plans to display the Gospel for half the time at the British Library in London, and half the time in [Durham](#). The library describes the manuscript as "the earliest surviving intact European book and one of the world's most significant books".^[2]

At only 3.5 by 5 inches (8.9 × 13 cm) the Stonyhurst Gospel is one of the smallest surviving [Anglo-Saxon](#) manuscripts. The text is the [Gospel of John](#). It was written at the monastery of [Monkwearmouth-Jarrow Abbey](#) during the abbacy of [Ceolfrith](#), so at the same time and place as the very large [Codex Amiatinus](#).



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penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia.../stonyhurst.html

Measuring only three-and-a-half by five inches, the **Stonyhurst Gospel** is one of the smaller manuscripts to survive from the Anglo-Saxon period (the Codex ...

[The case of the missing Gospel - Telegraph](#)

www.telegraph.co.uk/...view/.../The-case-of-the-missing-Gospel.html

16 Jun 2007 – Professor Brown notes that the **Stonyhurst Gospel** had been placed in Cuthbert's coffin when it was moved to the high altar at Lindisfarne in 698 ...

[Images for Stonhurst Gospel - Report images](#)



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[St. Cuthbert Gospel of St. John, Formerly Known as the Stonyhurst ...](#)

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30 Nov 2007 – St. Cuthbert Gospel of St. John, Formerly Known as the **Stonyhurst Gospel**. A lecture presented by Jim Bloxam, Senior Conservator, and ...

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en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonyhurst_Gospel

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[BBC News - British Library launches bid to save St Cuthbert Gospel](#)



www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-14155862

14 Jul 2011

The British Library announces a £9m bid to save the 7th Century **St Cuthbert Gospel** - the earliest surviving intact European book - for the ...

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www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=18617

14 Jul 2011 – The British Province of the Society of Jesus has decided to sell the Anglo-Saxon manuscript known as the **St Cuthbert Gospel** to the British ...

[The St Cuthbert Gospel - Medieval and Earlier Manuscripts](#)

britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/.../2011/07/the-st-cuthbert-gospel.html

14 Jul 2011 – The British Library has today announced an ambitious fundraising campaign to acquire the **St Cuthbert Gospel** for the nation. Created in the 7th ...

[The St Cuthbert Gospel](#)

support.bl.uk/Page/The-St-Cuthbert-Gospel

Find out how the British Library's acquisitions programme plays an essential role in safeguarding the nation's heritage.

[British Library seeks £9m to buy oldest book in Europe | Books | The ...](#)

www.guardian.co.uk/books/.../british-library-seeks-buy-oldest-book

Maev Kennedy · guardian.co.uk, Thursday 14 July 2011 17.08 BST. **St Cuthbert Gospel**. The **St Cuthbert Gospel**, the earliest intact European book, is still in its ...

[Campaign starts to bring St Cuthbert Gospel back to Durham ...](#)

www.journallive.co.uk/.../campaign-starts-to-bring-st-cuthbert-gospel...

15 Jul 2011 – ONE of the world's most significant books will be exhibited regularly in the North East if a major fundraising campaign announced by the British ...

The New York Times

Venerable British Museum Enlists in the Wikipedia Revolution

By [NOAM COHEN](#)

Published: June 4, 2010

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British Museum.



The Washington Post

Conversations: Dominic McDevitt-Parks, National Archives connects with Wikipedia

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Production Date(s):	1866
Part Of:	Series: Petitions and Memorials Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, compiled 06/03/1813 - 1998
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Online Resource URL:	http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Nonsense_of_It
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The Wikimedia Foundation's 2nd steward election in 2011 has started. [Please vote.](#)

[Hide] [Help with translations!]

The Nonsense of It

The Nonsense of It (1866)

Anonymous



a printed pamphlet arguing for women's suffrage

related portals: [Women's suffrage.](#)

[1]

THE NONSENSE OF IT.

"It would never do for women to vote, it would lead to such divisions in families." But political divisions do not, after all, make men quarrel half so much as religious divisions; and if you allow wives to do their own thinking in religion, why not in politics? Besides, nothing makes a man so coaxing and persuasive as when he tries to induce his neighbor to vote "our ticket." Husbands who are boors all the rest of the year would become patterns of politeness for a month before election day,—if the wives only had a vote!

"The polls are not decent places for women, at present." Then she is certainly needed there to make them decent. Literature was not decent, nor the dinner table, till she was admitted to them, on equal terms. But already, throughout most parts of the country, the ballot-box is as quiet a place to go to as the Post-office; and where it is not so, the presence of one woman would be worth a dozen policemen.

"Politics are necessarily corrupting." Then why not advise good men, as well as good women, to quit voting?

"I should not wish to hear my wife speak in town meeting." I should think not, unless she spoke more to the point than the average of men. Perhaps she would; no telling till she tries. And you are willing to pay a high price occasionally to hear somebody's else wife *sing* in public—and if it is proper for a woman to sing nonsense before an audience, why not to speak sense?

"Woman is sufficiently represented already, through her influence on men." How is it then that the whole legislation of Christendom, in regard to her, was "a disgrace to any heathen nation," till the Woman's Rights Conventions began to call attention to it, ten years ago?

[2]

"Women are entirely distinct from men, altogether unlike, quite a different order of beings." Are they indeed? Then, if they are so distinct, how can men represent them, make laws for them, administer their rights, judge them in court, spend their tax-money? If they are the same with men, they have the same rights; if they are distinct, they have a right to a distinct representation, distinct laws, courts, property, and all the rest. Arrange it as you please, it comes to the same thing.



Wikimedian in Residence projects 2011

- **University of Bristol** Outreach Ambassador, a 2011 10-week summer placement to support Wikimedia partnerships across Bristol and explore Wikimedia projects and learning initiatives.
- **ARKive**, a global archive of films and photographs of the world's species. This was a Wikipedian in Residence project to improve information on endangered species using ARKive's fact-files.
- **Museums Galleries Scotland**, a 6 month Wikimedian coordinator across Scotland agreed to start from December 2011.

British Library Wikimedian in Residence

- Proposed as an initial stage of six months to establish a long term e-volunteer programme
- Coordination of events including multilingual and international virtual environment
- e-volunteer support - networking events, identification and incentives, access, innovation
- Establish workflows to encourage Wikimedian ask-a-curator and request-an-image
- Assess and report on issues with public reuse of British Library media for Wikimedia projects
- Support of four departments

Joint objectives for 2012

- Policy reform for access and copyright
- Integrate an active e-volunteer network and a sustainable programme of engagement rather than separate externally driven events
- Advise on metadata standards and authority control for Wikimedia projects
- Active image, audio and video uploads

My Valentine: 500 year-old letter is first Valentine's Day card

by [Sean McLachlan](#) ([RSS feed](#)) on Feb 14th 2011 at 2:30PM

People often think [Valentine's Day](#) is a modern invention, a diabolical conspiracy of florists and greeting card companies to suck money out of poor chumps who should be able to show their love without spending a dime. Actually, sending Valentines is older than modern commercialism.

The BBC reports that the first use of "Valentine" in the English language was in a letter dated 1477 from Margery Brews to her suitor John Paston.

Opening her letter to John with "Me ryght welebeloued Voluntyne", the 17 year-old Margery shows some old-school teen angst by asking why he hasn't written her recently. John, who was 33, had asked for her hand in marriage but didn't get the dowry he wanted. The relationship between Margery's father and John deteriorated and it looked like the marriage would never happen until the pair's mothers intervened and saved the day. Love triumphed, something that didn't happen as much as it should have in the 15th century.

To hear the whole letter read in Middle English, check out [this link](#). It's amazing just how much you can figure out.

The love note comes from a collection called the [Paston letters](#). More than a thousand letters from this wealthy family dating from 1422 to 1509 survive and give an amazing insight into the life of the gentry in the decades before Henry VIII. They're housed in the British Library in [London](#). Watch the video below for a quick tour courtesy of Rick Steves.



[Painting of Saint Valentine by Jacopo Bassano, 1575, courtesy [Wikimedia Commons](#)]

<http://www.gadling.com/2011/02/14/my-valentine-500-year-old-letter-is-first-valentines-day-card/>