



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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A PATH TO WORLD PEACE AND PROGRESS

By Mo Siegel, president, Urantia Foundation, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

In these tumultuous times of global unrest and conflict, it's clear that the profound teachings in *The Urantia Book* are the long-term solution to achieve world peace and progress. Adversity may spur growth, but prejudice, hatred, and war only impede our collective journey toward a peaceful and united world.

Your financial support has never been more significant. Here are seven reasons why:

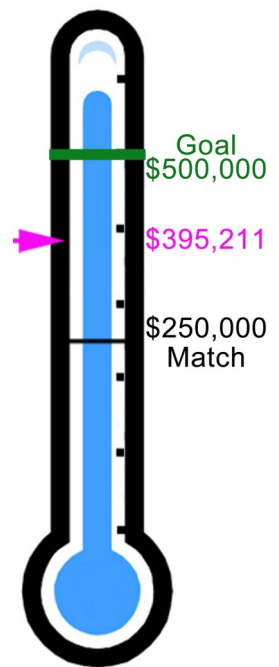
1. *The Urantia Book* illuminates the way to true and enduring peace—recognizing and living by the truth that we are all children of the same divine, loving Creator and,

therefore, inherently brothers and sisters.

2. "Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it." 196:1:3 (2090.4) *The Urantia Book* offers an unparalleled account of his life and teachings.

3. No spiritual movement thrives without its adherents sharing its redemptive message. The most effective dissemination occurs by placing the inviolate text of *The Urantia Book* into the hands of spiritually hungry people.

4. Since 1950, Urantia Foundation has been the dedicated custodian of this revelation. With the book now in 26 languages and physically and digitally



available across the globe, we continue our unwavering commitment to protect, translate, and disseminate *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

5. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Given the current economic climate worldwide, we lose money on book sales. The more we sell, the more we lose. Yet, our mandate is clear: to share this revelatory text and its teachings unreservedly.

6. Your giving has a direct and lasting impact on our world's spiritual evolution. Your donation is more than a gift;



it's a legacy that will echo through time. You are part of an extraordinary chapter in our spiritual history—a time that future generations will look upon with gratitude.

7. A group of five generous donors has pledged a combined total of \$250,000, promising to match every dollar raised. Your matched gift is not just a donation—it's

an investment in a brighter, more enlightened future for our planet.

Please help us achieve our goal by December 31.

Donate Now

Your contribution not only aids in disseminating a pivotal message, but it is

also crucial in bringing a transformative message to humanity. Please give until it hurts. Looking back from the mansion worlds, you will be glad you did.

May our heavenly Father's love fill you and your family with unfailing goodness and enduring peace.

Happy holidays!



UPDATES FROM THE OCTOBER 2023 TRUSTEE MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, secretary, Urantia Foundation, Idaho, United States

Operations Overview

Books

Sales this quarter were the strongest this year—up 7%. Numbers are still down YTD, but this coincides with the trend of the book business worldwide. Such is expected as we move past the banner years of 2020–2022.

We anticipate an upward trend in sales through the remainder of the year, and hope for a strong finish through the holidays.

So far this year, Urantia Foundation has distributed 18,371 Urantia Books worldwide, and the team will continue its work to accomplish the goal of 7% growth over 2022.

Education

- Registration for the current trimester of Urantia Book International School (UBIS) opened on September 11. Registrars enrolled a total of 207 individuals in 22 courses, which were led by 25 volunteer teacher-facilitators. Courses are offered in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Hungarian, and Polish. The monthly Spotlight Series enjoyed a



Bill and Share Beasley

summer hiatus and resumed in October.

- “The Marriage and Family Adventure! An Online Symposium” is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 14–15, 2024. The goal of this event is to offer inspiration and guidance for individuals and families who seek to navigate the complexities of human relationships. So far there are 11 confirmed speakers, with more hoped for. Bill and

Share Beasley will serve as emcees. For information, contact joanne@urantia.org.

- The Urantia Study Group Directory team reported that account cleanup has been going smoothly. Taiwan was added to the list of countries with registered study groups. The countries with the most study groups are the United States, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Spain, Australia,

France, the Philippines, South Korea, and Venezuela. There are now registered study groups in 19 languages, with the addition of Turkish and Chinese. The top 5 languages are English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Korean.

Fundraising and Finances

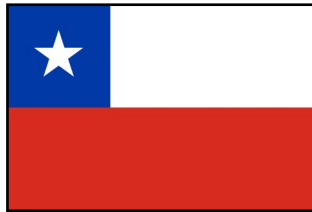
- Donations—YTD unrestricted donations were 44% below 2022 and 10% below budget.
- Restricted donations were 23% below 2022 but significantly above budget thanks to a generous donation to the Mustard Seed Fund.
- Estate gifts totaled \$391,612.
- Total income increased by 56% compared to 2022 and was 48% above the projected budget.
- Administrative expenses declined by 1% and are 7% below budget.
- Total expenses increased by 6% and are 21% under budget.

Outreach—Mustard Seed Grants Program (MSGP)

The MSGP completed its second round of funding, and six award recipients were notified on October 25. Once again, the MSGP Committee members worked tirelessly, analyzing and fairly assessing each application. Much gratitude goes to Sherry Cathcart Chavis, Minoo Claire, Gary Deinstadt, Geri Johnson, Mo Siegel,

Tamara Strumfeld, and Chris Wood.

Congratulations to the Round 2 Mustard Seed Grant recipients!



1. Hawaii and Chile Book Placement

- Applicant: Marian Hughes
- Country: United States
- Focus Area: Library Placement



2. Africa Urantia Revelation Zoom Conference

- Applicant: Paul and Monica Kemp
- Country: Uganda
- Focus Area: Education



3. Urantia Book Video Channel

- Applicant: Nugroho Widi
- Country: Indonesia
- Focus Area: Digital Outreach



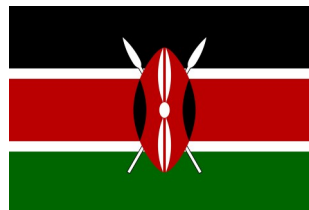
4. The Parables, Jesus' Teachings

- Applicant: Eugenia Gutierrez-Gomes
- Country: Mexico
- Focus Area: Digital Outreach



5. Urantia Book Science and History Videos

- Applicant: Josh Abernathy
- Country: United States
- Focus Area: Digital Outreach



6. Healing the Pain of Grief in Internally Displaced Persons: Study Groups

- Applicant: Lilian Muthui
- Country: Kenya
- Focus Area: Education



Translations

The board received report No. 100 (!) from Manager of Translations Georges Michelson-Dupont. This report was a regular accounting of the progress, devotion, and challenges encountered by the translators, revisers, and their teams. It included updates on the Chinese, Esperanto, Farsi, and Filipino translations, and the Portuguese revision.

Spanish Revision Update

The Spanish Revision Strategic Planning Team met with a company of professional evaluators to begin the process of forming reader focus groups.

Beginning soon the company will conduct a two-hour session with up to six focus groups. The information gathered will form the basis for a survey to be sent to the readership at large.

All Spanish-speaking readers of *El libro de Urantia* are welcome to register for participation in a focus group by clicking on this link: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7568967/prod-1>.

We would like to have representatives from the entire Spanish-speaking world.

DOING GOOD TO OTHERS— OUTREACH IN THE PHILIPPINES



By Maricor Elquero-Doctor,
Camarines Sur,
the Philippines

Editor's Note: Maricor was a recipient of the first round of Mustard Seed Grant awards on behalf of the FER-UB (Fifth Epochal Revelation-Urantia Book) group. She proposed a project to fund stronger internet connections for Urantia Book study group members, and to make and post four short videos for outreach.

"Love is the desire to do good to others."

56:10.21 (648.4)

This message from *The Urantia Book* motivated us to apply for funding from the Mustard Seed Grants Program (MSGP) of Urantia Foundation. We desire to do good to others.

For us, doing good to others means sharing the love—the truth, beauty, and goodness—of the fifth epochal revelation. So we thought of a project that could help us share the

love, the joy, and the good news with God-seeking people both directly and indirectly: in our neighborhood through in-person study meetings, and across the internet by making *Urantia Book*-inspired video clips.

Because I had a lonely childhood, I enjoy making children happy. After reading about the MSGP in News Online, I seized the chance to apply on behalf of the [FER-UB project](#). I was helped and supported by the entire Urantia Philippines family, and received special encouragement from the amazing Eugene and Belen Asidao.

We hold several weekly study groups. Brother Eugene hosts The Second Milers group every Monday and Thursday. A Friday group is led by Brother Allan Bancairen. This is where between 5 and 20 children, a couple of youths, and several adults gather to hear a reading from *The Untold Story of Jesus*. Urantia Philippines donates funds for snacks and game rewards, making the study more fun and exciting for kids. On the last Friday or Saturday of each month, we celebrate and acknowledge diligent attendees with an array of awards.

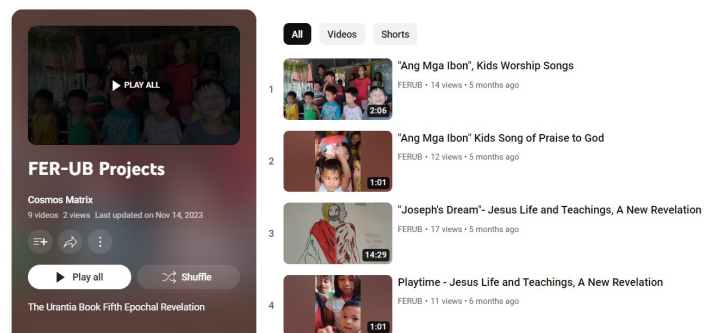
The short video portion of the project has involved some trial and error. There is much to learn about the

rules, regulations, and policies of Meta, YouTube, TikTok, and other platforms. I have found more inspiration in making Facebook reels, and was recently recognized as one of the top 4% and 2% Rising Creators, a label that Facebook introduced to make it easier for users to discover up-and-coming creators on the platform. Even so, I am still learning!

All of these activities wouldn't be possible without the strong Wi-Fi

connection that we now enjoy thanks to our grant from Urantia Foundation. It has also helped with monthly electric bills and content uploading costs.

The MSGP has been an answer to our prayers. We were granted both financial and moral support for our project. Thank you for putting smiles in our hearts and on our faces. We are forever grateful!



URANTIA BOOK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL— A SILVER JUBILEE



Dorothy Elder and Georges Michelson-Dupont

By Georges Michelson-Dupont, international vice president, Urantia Foundation, Recloses, France

It is a privilege for me, as the co-founder of the Urantia Book International School (UBIS), to write this testimonial as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the creation of the UBIS. We've come a long way since the idea for an online school was first considered in 1998—a quarter of a century ago!

Indeed, it has been 25 years since the school offered its first courses in 1999. Under the leadership of Dorothy Elder, UBIS began its mission of helping readers familiarize themselves with the exceptional and sometimes highly complex teachings revealed in *The Urantia Book*.

It should be remembered that the goal of the revelators is to expand our

cosmic consciousness by delivering knowledge, opening our mind framework to the universal cosmos, and enhancing our spiritual perception of God and divine realities.

The study and sharing of these teachings with our brothers and sisters in a safe, organized, and caring environment is essential for many reasons. The school's pedagogy is based on the Jesusonian method of questions and answers, making the student a

dynamic participant. It is also non-interpretive. Participants are encouraged to read the suggested and related texts firsthand, so as to be able to respond, according to their understanding, to questions posed by the teacher-facilitator.

The answers are then shared among the participants, who comment online, allowing each participant to individually progress through contributions from the group.

A true brotherhood of thought and soul is established in the courses, as sharing thoughts is a judgment-free experience. What a joy it is to get to know each other and be able to share one's religious life in this way, across borders and languages.

Recently the school launched a new Spotlight Series, where speakers are invited to present a topic of interest around the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. This is becoming popular among the readership.

All this represents an extraordinary amount of

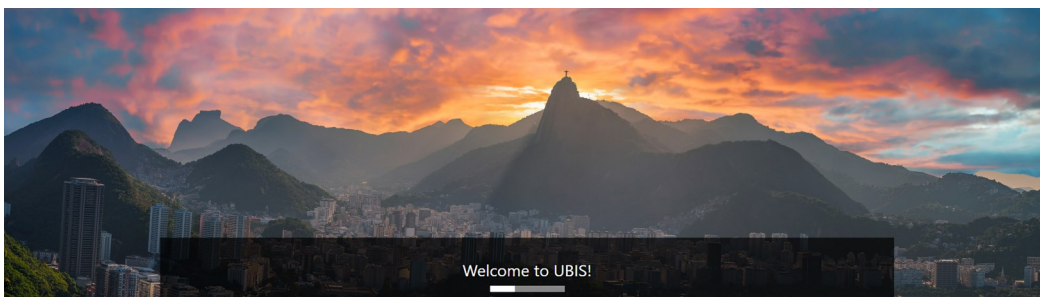


devotion on the part of passionate volunteers, eager to serve the myriad communities of students of the revelation.

What began as a way for Urantia Foundation to enable isolated readers with no access to study groups to study the revelation with others has become, over the years, a true school run by over 100 volunteers.

I would like to take this opportunity, on the occasion of this 25th anniversary, to pay a tribute to my dear friend Dorothy Elder. Her exceptional leadership made this adventure a reality. My thoughts and thanks also go to the pioneers who ensured the progression of the school in the early years. Together, in a great spirit of teamwork and responsibility, they built the foundations of its organization and operation.

To conclude, I thank all those who currently participate in the realization of UBIS and to those in the future who will continue to expand the school worldwide.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE CULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Compiled by Urantia Foundation staff

The purpose of the Cultural Advisory Council is to facilitate the mission of Urantia Foundation in seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally; enhance the cultural awareness, compassion, and wisdom of our dissemination efforts; provide for council members to acquaint themselves with Urantia Foundation—its mission, vision, and values; foster partnerships between council members and the Foundation to support readership within their respective cultures; and facilitate relationships and mutual understanding among members of the council.

For the first two-year term, the advisors represented Taiwan, Poland, Colombia, and Brazil. They attended quarterly meetings to learn about different aspects and programs of Urantia Foundation. In addition, they each made a presentation to the board describing the history, culture, and inroads the book is making into their country.

Everyone involved concurs how beneficial the experience has been. We have invited our current advisors to join the new members in the upcoming second term by attending our meetings. This way the

council grows and maintains continuity.

Following is a list of the five most important things our advisors learned and gained by participating on the council.



Stephy (Yi-Hsuan) Hsu of Taiwan, currently living in New York

1. I gained an appreciation of the passion and dedication of readers of *The Urantia Book*.
2. Sharing Taiwanese culture and learning from other members of the council inspired me and fostered a mutual appreciation for cultural exchange.
3. I enjoyed connecting and networking with a global community of individuals who are enthusiastic about *The Urantia Book*.
4. Discussing and participating in the workshops provided me with a deeper understanding of the

book's teachings, leading to greater spiritual insight.

5. My experience with CAC gave me a deeper sense of purpose.



Krystyna Wardega-Piasecka of Poland, currently living and working in Norway

1. The people at Urantia Foundation are warm and friendly; it is not a cold institution.
2. None of us can have a full understanding of the nation or culture from which we come.
3. I learned some possible reasons for the lack of mutual trust of Poles and how this probably has led to a misconception of Poland in other countries.
4. Revising one's culturally entrenched views through conversation, observation, and exploration is an important step in one's development.
5. Everyone should have the experience of

acquainting themselves with other cultures and their perception of the content of *The Urantia Book*.



Jaime Eduardo Rey Albornoz of Colombia

1. I gained an understanding of the internal workings of the Foundation and its efforts to preserve and make the revelation known.
2. I developed a better grasp of the work of different Urantia-related organizations.
3. I became more aware of the work that is done by Urantia readers within Colombia.
4. Working with the CAC confirmed the importance of Urantia study groups.
5. I became conscious of the efforts being made by different cultures to make the revelation known, and some common challenges that arise from those efforts.



Marcos Dalmolin of Brazil

1. I learned more about not only the external work, but also the thinking that governs the Foundation's decisions and actions.
2. I gained an understanding of the complexity involved in the process of making the book available in different languages while

maintaining fidelity to the original text.

3. My understanding grew through interactions with people from other countries and cultures, and I learned about the doubts and difficulties that can arise when working to acquire collaborators, financial resources, and in disseminating *The Urantia Book*.

4. I realized that as much as we have already achieved in terms of dissemination in Brazil, we are far from being finished with our work; there is much more to do.

5. Moving forward, I am curious to see how the Foundation will use the CAC initiative to deepen its relationship with local associations.

MEMORIES OF THE THIRD LATIN AMERICAN URANTIA CONFERENCE IN MEXICO



Tamara Strumfeld and Judy Van Cleave

By Tamara Strumfeld, executive director, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States

Our adventure began on October 26, when Judy Van Cleave, trustee and secretary of Urantia Foundation, and I flew into Mexico City, 45 minutes from the magical town of San Juan Teotihuacán.

Named for its famous and historic pyramids, the ancient city is now a vast Mexican archaeological complex, and the site of two Mesoamerican pyramids built in pre-Columbian America, the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon.

We attended Urantia Association's regional conference for readers of *El*

libro de Urantia. The theme was "The Fifth Revelation in the Twenty-First Century," and the locale provided a colorful juxtaposition of ancient culture and new revelation. It was delightful to meet so many readers from Mexico as well as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, and the Netherlands.

The presidents of Urantia Association International and Asociación Urantia de Mexico, Enrique Traver and Hector Landin, gave inspiring welcomes. The presenters gave talks that were thoughtful and insightful. Their deep

knowledge of the teachings is impressive. I also gave a presentation about Urantia Foundation, its programs, and the progress that has been made in Latin America and around the world since the book was first printed in 1955.

There was a large number of enthusiastic younger people in attendance, and their presence was an inspiration for all of us. They shared their passions, ideas, and hopes for the future. Many have excellent projects in mind, so I encouraged them to apply for Mustard Seed Grants when the time comes.



The entertainment was outstanding, as one would expect in Mexico. We enjoyed the music of a mariachi band on the first night. On the second night the talented Ramiro Ramírez entertained us with his guitar and enchanting voice. Several attendees were brave and sang, including Mariana, Ramiro's lovely wife, who has an angelic voice. It was wonderful to listen to the many songs of Latin America. Our last night of the conference ended with a fabulous dance party!

Throughout the event there was much love, brotherhood, and



camaraderie. What a surprise to encounter an old friend, Rob Davis, who used to work for Urantia Foundation and now resides in Mexico. And with every conference, there is always someone who shows up for the first time after reading alone for years. This time it was

Sebastian Balcazar from Bolivia. Sebastian, you were instrumental to Judy and me, acting as our faithful translator. Thank you!

Words cannot express my appreciation and gratitude for everyone involved with the planning of this memorable event. A big thank you goes to the Association of Mexico for sponsoring this conference. Most importantly, I treasure the lifelong memories made with everyone who shared this time together in Teotihuacán. Our stay was short, but the relationships made will be lasting!



Arturo García, Sebastian Balcazar



Enrique and Suely Traver



Fabiola Dominguez, Sara Espinoza



Temple of the Sun, Teotihuacán, Mexico



Third Latin American Urantia Conference Attendees



Laura and Lina Cristancho Tovar, Tamara Stumfeld, Judy Van Cleave



Judy Van Cleave, Tamara Stumfeld, Arturo Garcia, Fabiola Dominguez, Sarah Espinoza, Antonio Schefer



Alfredo Esquivel, Fernando Maldonado



Alfredo Esquivel, Jorge Wilczyk



Alfredo Esquivel, Andre Ramirez



2023 3rd Latin American Urantia Conference Young Adults

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Yeesook Yoon, Incheon, South Korea

Ever since childhood, I have been interested in God, humanity, the universe, and truth, so I found and read many books on these subjects. As an adult, I deliberately searched for and met intellectuals, monks, pastors, and priests who could answer my questions. But my thirst for knowledge was never quenched.

When I was 33 years old, I accidentally typed the words “spirit adjuster” into the internet search bar and unexpectedly the words “thought adjuster” came up instead. What I read made my heart leap!

It was through the medium of the internet, which was new to the world in the spring of 2000, that I first encountered *The Urantia Book*. At the time, I was working two jobs, as president of YESLINK—a company I founded—and as the managing director of a construction company.

I made a request to the president of the construction company, saying, “I have come across

a book that is very important to my life, but it is more than 2000 pages and I need two months of time to read it. So please give me a vacation.” He looked at me and shook his head. In his eyes I had become strange after finding a strange book! Nevertheless, he graciously agreed.

After finishing the book, I began meeting with a Urantia study group. Seven to ten of us would meet every Saturday to study. The group included David Kim, who was in charge of the Korean translation of *The Urantia Book*, Won Myung Lee, Si-Young Jang, Pan Soo Park, Dr. Lee, and Dr. Hong, who now resides on the mansion worlds. At that time, we would raise our voices and argue over our different interpretations of the content and topics. But looking back, I now remember it as a time of great innocence and passion. Since that time, our members have valued each other like a family.

Korea hosted the World Cup in 2002. Mr. Piobak of Seattle, Washington, visited at the invitation of the Korean World Cup organizers, and I was asked to pick him up at the airport. He elected to stay at my house, preferring my son’s bedroom over the best hotel suites because he craved home-style baekban and miso jjigae like his mother used to cook. Before he returned to Seattle, I gave Mr. Piobak a gift of *The Urantia Book*.

His spiritual thirst was so great that he read it and thanked me. A precious connection was made!

The Urantia Book, which describes the universe as supporting the creation, evolution, and growth of all life in all dimensions, has guided me, even as I was reading it, to change the way I view my own life, bringing me new realizations and profound spiritual joy as an active organizer of my life, rather than a passive nobody who is dragged along by events.

Matter, mind, and spirit. When I understood how the functions of these three entities were organically connected and affecting me, the difference between soul and personality, and the relationship between the divine indwelling spirit and the material intellect, I became deeply grateful to my Thought Adjuster, who was undoubtedly an experienced one.

By the time I finished reading *The Urantia Book*, I

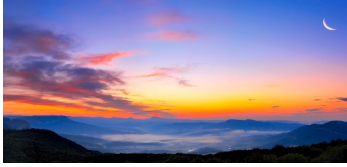
knew the answers to questions I’d had since childhood; the biggest thing that changed for me after reading the book was that my love for God grew. Knowing that a fragment of God is in my heart has given me a great sense of security and has led me to deepen my relationship with God.

“The greatest affliction of the cosmos is never to have been afflicted. Mortals only learn wisdom by experiencing tribulation.” 48:7.14 (556.14) This epigram has been a great comfort, giving me the courage to treat misfortunes and suffering as learning episodes, and to remain serene in the knowledge that my seemingly insignificant life marches along in an orderly, intellectually progressive universe with great meaning and value.

To me, *The Urantia Book* is a great gift from God.



Seoul World Cup Stadium



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**Stay tuned for a coming announcement
about the next round of Mustard Seed Grants!**



Mustard Seed Grants Program

**2024 CONFERENCE
URANTIA ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL
BALTIMORE | MD | USA
MARCH 28-31, 2024**



uas.urantia-association.org/about-us/events/

*Mind is your ship, the Adjuster
is your pilot, the human will is
captain. The master of the mortal
vessel should have the wisdom to
trust the divine pilot to guide the
ascending soul into the morontia
harbors of eternal survival."*
111:1.9 (1217.4)

Join us for an enjoyable study of the
soul, culminating with worship and
remembrance of Jesus on Sunday.



Hosted by:
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INTERNATIONAL**



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FOUNDATION**



Not as we wish, our loving Father,
but as you desire the eternal good of your mortal children,
Even so may it be.

The Urantia Book, 144:5:71 (1623.20)