

## **A MODEST TREASURE**

By Michael E. Stone

A straightforward, modest book,  
stands proudly alongside  
jewelled, gold-crusted treasures  
made for bishops and kings.

Sewn with twine,  
and bound with leather  
over wooden boards, lovingly.  
Copied in a village church  
by a priest, for love of God,

in black, blocky letters  
by stylus in carbon ink  
on thick stiff yellow paper  
laid and polished by hand.

A note by a reader  
three centuries ago,  
a memorial for his soul,  
and that of his dead mother.

A later owner says he  
ransomed it from bondage,  
from the hands of "the others".

Cherished, it enfolds  
past lives and future hope.

TLG October 17, 2009

(<http://www.groong.com/tlg/tlg-20091017.html>)