

# A Rare Find

In 1946, officials at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, bought a copy of a famous document called the Magna Carta. They paid less than \$28 for it. But the document is likely worth millions of dollars. Why? It's not a **replica**—it's one of only seven originals left in the world!

David Carpenter is a professor at King's College London in England. He made the discovery while reviewing the document online. He couldn't believe it had gone unnoticed for nearly 80 years.

"I was astonished and excited," Carpenter says. "It was the real deal."

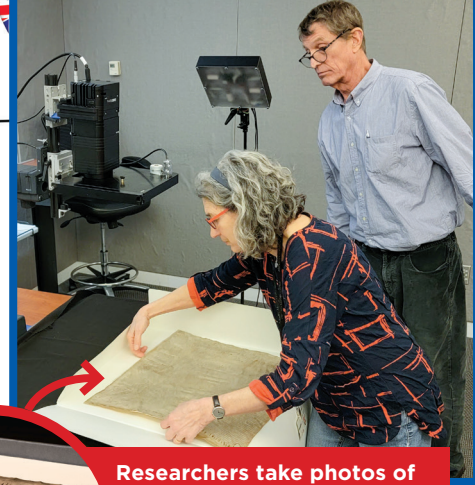
The Magna Carta was first

signed in 1215 by King John of England. The document says that kings must obey laws like everyone else. It also protects the rights of ordinary people.

Over the next several decades, the Magna Carta was revised many times. The last revision took place in 1300, the year the version at Harvard was created.

The Magna Carta played an important role in American history too. Our nation's founders used it as inspiration when writing the Declaration of Independence nearly 250 years ago.

Carpenter spent about a



Researchers take photos of the Magna Carta to prepare it for spectral imaging. That technique shows details that the human eye can't see on its own.



year reviewing Harvard's Magna Carta. He compared it with the six other originals, reading every word and reviewing the handwriting.

"It was nerve-racking," explains Carpenter. "But it matched up exactly."

—by Alicia Green

## WORD TO KNOW

**replica** *noun*, an exact copy or model of something

Natalie Behring/Guinness World Records (Reggie, Pearl); Shutterstock.com (banners); ©2025 Debra Mayer/Harvard University (Spectral Imaging); ©2025 Harvard Law School (John Granger (Magna Carta))

## PICTURE THIS

Reggie

Pearl



# TALL Meets TINY

There's a saying that opposites attract. These two pups are proof! Reggie is the world's tallest dog. The Great Dane stands 3 feet 3 inches tall. He can easily rest his head on a kitchen counter. Pearl, a Chihuahua, holds the world record for shortest dog. At just over 3.6 inches tall, she's about half the size of a pencil.

The pooches have more in common than meets the eye. In April, officials at Guinness World Records set up a playdate at Reggie's home in Idaho. The dogs hit it off right away. They ended up cuddling on Reggie's couch.