



Reconstructing a Lectionary Fragment



Leaves from a 16th century lectionary include Scriptures from the Gospels to be read during Passion week.

Among the Greek manuscripts in the Dunham Bible Museum's collections are four parchment leaves from a sixteenth century lectionary. The leaves are of Scripture to be read during Passion week and include Matthew 26:59-27:2; John 13:31-38; 14:20-15:4, and Luke 18:23-38. Andrew Patton, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Birmingham with a focus on biblical manuscripts and early Christianity, became acquainted with the Dunham's manuscript leaves when the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts digitized the Museum's manuscripts and early Greek

texts in 2019 (see csntm.org for more on the remarkable work of CSNTM and its digital collection).

Through extensive research, Patton has discovered forty-five leaves of this lectionary in twenty-four locations! While the Dunham Museum has four leaves, all other museums or libraries in the United States have one leaf. The only institution outside the United States possessing leaves is The Parker Library in Corpus Christi College Cambridge, which has sixteen leaves.

How did the lectionary become disconnected and scattered? Patton shows this to be the work of Otto

Ege (1888-1951). Ege was a teacher, lecturer and book-seller who specialized in the history and art of the book. In the early twentieth century, he collected numerous books of illuminated manuscripts, dismantled them, separating the pages and sorting them into portfolios which he distributed worldwide. He justified his taking apart the books by saying it was educational: "Surely to allow a thousand people 'to have and to hold' an original manuscript leaf, and to get a thrill and understanding that comes only from actual and frequent contact with these art heritages, is justifiable

Reconstructing a Lectionary Fragment *Continued*

for the scattering of fragments. Few indeed, can hope to own a complete manuscript book; hundreds, however, may have a leaf.”

The leaves in the Dunham Bible Museum collection are part of the collection purchased from Donald Brake, who had purchased the lectionary leaves from Swann Galleries.

Andrew Patton’s lecture “The Fragmentation and Digital Reconstruction of a Greek Lectionary” is available on YouTube. A link to Patton’s article about discovering the many locations of the lectionary fragments can be found on the Dunham Museum’s website, under Touring the Museum, “From Manuscript to Printed Word.”

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Life of Jesus in 3D Art

Last January, Chinese artist Yi Yang gifted the Dunham Bible Museum with 12 laser art wood pieces on the life of Jesus. The artistic pieces are wonderful additions to the Museum’s exhibit “The Life of Jesus in Bible Art.” A native of China, Yi Yang’s specialty of 3D art has been used in major museums in China as well as in movie productions. Yang immigrated to the United States from China three years ago and became a Christian in America. Since becoming a Christian, much of his art creations have been of the life of Christ and Christian themes. We are deeply grateful to him for sharing his artistry with us.



Yi Yang with his 12 scenes from the life of Jesus in 3D wood art.

Joseph and Mary with Jesus on journey to Egypt, one of 12 wood art scenes from the life of Jesus, designed and crafted by Chinese artist Yi Yang.



Piece of the Past Winners

This year marked the 13th annual Piece of the Past Essay contest, sponsored by the Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation. The contest encourages student research into the artifacts of the Dunham Bible Museum, the Museums of Southern History and Decorative Arts, and the Fine Arts and Contemporary Arts Museums.

Awards were announced at a special awards dinner in the Morris Center for Law and Liberty April 18. In the Dunham Bible Museum category, Alyssa Jemela won first place for her essay on the Wycliffe Bible. Alyssa, a junior and a recent transfer student from Lone Star College, is an English major and plans to be an English teacher. She was attracted to the marginal notes in the Wycliffe manuscript as well as the sacrifices people made in order to have the Scripture in that day. Justina Smith, a junior and a Spanish education major planning to be a high school Spanish teacher, won second place for her essay on Thomas Jefferson’s *The Life and Morals*



Alyssa Jemela won 1st place in the Bible Museum category for her essay on the Wycliffe Bible.



Justina Smith won second place in the Bible Museum category for her essay.



The Baptism of Jesus, one of 12 scenes from the life of Jesus crafted by artist Yi Yang.

of *Jesus of Nazareth*. She found very interesting Thomas Jefferson's decision to respect others' rights to practice their religion, whatever their religion might be.

For the first time there was a tie for the Grand Prize, with both essays written about artifacts in the Dunham Bible Museum! Josiah Carr, a junior English major minoring in Speech Communications, wrote on Symon Patrick's 1727 paraphrase of the wisdom books of the Bible (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon). Catie Wunsche, a senior and English major with a Mass Media minor, had always been fascinated by beliefs of Native Americans. She was delighted to discover the Old Testament translated into Cherokee among the Bible Museum's collections. Since the Cherokee had a spoken language but not a written language, the alphabet of the Cherokee had to be developed before the Bible could be translated and printed. Catie was fascinated with the alphabetic characters developed for the Cherokee.

We are delighted with the research and discoveries these students made in the Bible Museum's collection, as well as all who completed essays for the contest. Thank you to the Stewart and Joella Morris Foundation for making this all possible.



Josiah Carr and Catie Wunsche tied for the Grand Prize. Both wrote on volumes in the Dunham Bible Museum.

Dunham Bible Museum Friends

The Dunham Bible Museum Friends support the programs and collections of the Dunham Bible Museum through annual contributions and participation in Museum events. Friends have the satisfaction that their tax deductible gift will benefit the Dunham Bible Museum and enable it to achieve its goal of being a premier museum dedicated to the Bible, its message, history, and influence. Friends also help spread the word about the exhibits and activities of the Dunham Bible Museum. Become a Dunham Bible Museum Friend and spread the word about the exhibits and activities of the Dunham Bible Museum. A membership form can be found on the Museum's website – www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum.

Kennicott Bible

Through a gift of Sadie Hodo, the Bible Museum has acquired a beautiful facsimile of the Kennicott Bible, which meticulously recreates the original manuscript. This beautiful manuscript of the Hebrew Bible was produced in Spain in 1476, shortly before the Spanish expulsion of the Jews in 1492. The manuscript was commissioned by Isaac, son of Don Solomon de Braga. It was designed and hand-written by Moses Ibn Zabara, a famous scribe of the day, and lavishly illuminated by artist Joseph Ibn Hayyim. The leather box-binding is elaborately tooled.

The manuscript includes the *Tanakh*, or Hebrew Bible, together with *Seker Mikhol*, a grammatical treatise on the Tanakh by Rabbi David Kimchi. Notes by the Massoretes are included throughout the text.

The original manuscript is in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. The manuscript is named after Benjamin Kennicott, a British Hebraist who acquired the manuscript and placed it in the Bodleian.



Opening of book of Jonah in the Kennicott Bible.



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Visit our website at
HC.edu/biblemuseum

*"The Bible is worth all other books
which have ever been printed."
—Patrick Henry*



Visit our website at www.hc.edu/biblemuseum
There you will find virtual tours of the
Museum's exhibits, past and present, as well as
videos of past lectures and much more.

Current Special Exhibits

- ✦ Celebrating the life of Jesus, the Christ:
Three Centuries of Bible Art
- ✦ The Treasured Word
- ✦ Out of this World – the Bible on the Moon

The Dunham Bible Museum's regular exhibits include:

- Bible manuscripts
 - American Bibles
 - Early printed Bibles
 - *The St. John's Bible*
 - English bibles
 - Foreign Bible translations
- ...all designed to show the Bible's history, influence,
and impact.

Upcoming Special Events

- ✦ "Discovering the Dead Sea Scrolls", lecture
by Dr. Randall Price. January 11, 2024,
7pm, Belin chapel
- ✦ Scribe and Scripture Conference with
Drs. John Meade and Peter Gurry.
January 20, 2024, 9:30-4:30.



The Dunham Bible Museum is OPEN
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday – Saturdays,
except University holidays.

To make an appointment for group tours, or
for further information, contact

Dr. Diana Severance at
281-649-3287 or DSeverance@HBU.edu

On your next Dunham Bible Museum visit, try out our new audio tour using your cell phone!