17TH CENTURY BIBLES: EARLY ENGLISH PRINTED BIBLES:
(And a few other languages.)

1610 Hebrew Bible: This quarto-size Hebrew Bible has been newly rebound in full, light-
0 brown leather with gold stamping on the spine. The Psalms are dated 1615, Proverbs 1614, Daniel, Hezra and Nechemian are dated 1611, with other dates on other title pages, indicating that this edition was pieced together from several printings, or else the final publication was delayed.

1611-11 First Edition King James Bible: This is a fine tall, crisp and clean copy of the first of the great folio Bibles called the King James Version. It is missing the general title and the last leaf of the Revelation, which has been added in facsimile. All of the preliminaries are present, except the two-page map. (Please see the 1617 edition.) All 34 pages of the genealogies are present. Judged by all of the "identifiers" present that check with Darlow and Moule and Francis Fry's analysis, this is a very early edition of the pure 1611 King James Version Bible. It is in contemporary binding with a repaired spine, and is in tight condition to be handled and exhibited.

1613-13 King James Version in the 72 line Folio Bible: This is known as the true 1613 edition, this being a near perfect copy. It has been rebound in the late 18th or early 19th century with gold stamping. The binding is in excellent condition for handling and exhibiting.

1613 Quarto King James Version: This rare edition still contains the error of Ruth 3:15 of "she" for "he" of the first edition of 1611 King James Version. There had already been printed a 1612 quarto with the correct pronoun, so it is rare to see it carried over to 1613. It is bound in contemporary binding and it is in sound condition. It has brass corners and at one time had leather and brass closing hasps.

1617 third great folio of the King James Version Bible: This is a near perfect copy of the third great KJV. It includes the two-page map in perfect condition. This map has no tears, no faded portion, etc.; the date the wood block plate was made, 1611, is very evident. This edition is the most difficult to obtain of the 5 folio editions where the type was set leaf for leaf as the first edition of 1611. The fold-out two-page map in perfect condition makes it a very rare copy. It is in a good, sound contemporary binding with only one small piece of leather missing—less than a square inch—on the spine.

1617 Johannis Calvini Institutionis, Christian AE Religionis: Geneva, Apud Johannem Vignon, Petrum & Iacobum Chouet, 1617, folio edition (8 ¾ by 14 ¼ by 2 ¼), 311 pages in Latin. There is a nice wood block picture of Calvin on the title page and many other wood-cut decoration devices throughout. It is bound in full, contemporary leather boards, with a new leather spine that is beautifully blind-stamped, with the lettering in gold. The volume is in excellent condition.

1619 Luther's Commentary on Galatians: (First English Edition?) This commentary is dated 1524, but these dates have been determined by the Huntington Library to have

been very carefully hand-penned in to correspond to the date of the first German edition. This jewel of early commentary by Luther is an exposition on the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith. Reading this book is like reading the heart of the Reformation! It is bound in full leather, and is in its original binding, with crude hasps made of iron. It measures 6 ¼ by 7 ½ by 1 ¾ inches. (An interesting study would be determining how many copies of this edition have survived?)

1619-20 King James Quarto with Robert Barker's signature: The paper of this edition is of inferior quality, so many of the edges of the pages are deteriorating. However all of the pages are present, just worn at the edges. The major distinction of this volume is the signature of Robert Barker, the printer of the First Edition King James Bible of 1611, opposite the title page. There are other signatures in this volume, but without further research, this is the only one of distinction. It is bound in full, black leather with the leather fasteners missing.

1625 Exposition of the Second Epistle of the Apostle Paul to Timothy: This commentary is by John Barlow, minister at Plymouth. It is printed in London by I.B. for John Bellamie. The text is complete and this quarto volume is bound in full, blind-stamped leather in excellent condition. Research is needed to determine more about this author.

1628 Latin Vulgate Bible bound in beautiful "high ridge" binding: Printed by Ex Officina Plantiniana, it contains an elaborate title page done on wood-block, with other wood-block decorations in other places. It contains a topical index at the end of the text. Some collectors collect books simply for their "high ridge" bindings. This one is a superb example of such.

1631 Wicked Bible, one of eleven known copies in the world: It is called the "Wicked Bible" because the word "not" was omitted from the seventh commandant in Exodus 20: 14. This special page, as well as the entire Bible is in excellent condition for exhibiting, missing only the general title page. The printers were fined 300 pounds for allowing the error to get into the printing, and they were ordered to destroy the whole printing of 1,000 copies. This is the reason for only 11 of these rare Bibles known to exist in the world. It is bound in contemporary, full, brown leather and it is in good very condition.

1632 Hieronymus, Platus, The Happiness of a Religious State, translated into English: Anno Domoni 1632, quarto, translated by H. More, BM 1240, information from Early English Printed Books, number 6269. The book measures 6 ¾ by 9 ½ by 1 ¾ inches, is bound in full, brown leather with the spine of the book being repaired with 4 high ridge cords, but long ago to need to be repaired again! Though the cords hold it tight, the boards are cracked at the spine. The book has many decoration devices as chapter heads and endings, as well as wood block letters as chapter headings. It was sold to me as a 1590s book, and it is without a title page, but the research above indicates otherwise. It is interesting reading of what was being read in the 17th century.

1641 French Commentary on Matthew, Mark, Luke and John:(2 volumes in one) R. P. Corn. Cornelii, A Lapide E Societate Jesu, S. Scripture Olim Lovanii, Commentarii in IV. Evangelia, Tomus Primus. The book measures 9 ½ by 14 by 3 ¼ inches, and is bound in pigskin that has five high ridge cords across the spine, with the whole of the binding elaborately blind-stamped. In the center of the front cover is the Cross and HIS symbol within an oval; around this is a square with various figures, and there is continuing design within the rectangular border clear to the edges of the volume. The same is true of the back board, except the center design is of the Virgin and Infant within the center oval. The volume has had leather and brass closing straps at one time, but now all that remains are the two brass closures on the front board. The volume is in excellent condition and is a good example of elaborate blind-stamp binding.

1642 Jesu Christi Domini Nostri Novum Testamentum, Sive Novum Foedus, Theodori Bezae: Joachimi Camerarii, Cantabrigieae: Anno Dom. MDCXLII. It measures 9 by 13 ½ by 2 ¼ inches and has been rebound in probably the 20th century with ¾ marbled paper and a leather spine and is in excellent condition. I believe I am right that it is the most complete of all of the Greek texts to date. It contains the Greek text and two Latin versions, and much commentary/critical examination. (I am not a Greek scholar; and my books that might give me more information are already packed up!)

1641-1655 King James Version, quarto printed by John Field: All preliminaries, including the genealogies, as well as all text is in very perfect condition. It contains the Book of Common Prayer, which is dated 1641. The Old Testament title page is 1648. This is followed by the Psalms of David, of the "old translation"—or the Great Bible version. The Apocrypha follows the Old Testament, presumably of the same date as the Old Testament. The Bible measures 7 1/8 by 9 1/8 by 3 ½ inches. The binding is full brown leather, with a high ridge spine of five cords, and the volume is in excellent condition.

1648 Biblia Sacra: This is a Latin translation of the Hebrew Old Testament by Fr. Junio, and a Latin translation of the Greek New Testament by Theodore Beza. The title page is engraved with a very lovely wood block of Moses and David and the 4 Gospel writers along with the symbols associated with them, Lion, Angel, Eagle, and Bull. It was printed at Amsterdam and is a complete copy bound in vellum and is in excellent condition.

1649 French Book of Psalms: It contains many lovely wood-block decorations throughout. It is bound in full leather and is in excellent condition.

1662 Cambridge Concordance; six copies are recorded in existence; presumably this is a seventh copy. It is a small folio, printed at Cambridge, by John Field, printer to the Universitie. "A more exact Method then hath hitherto been extant," by S.N. It is signed on the title page by; Gilbertus Burroughs, with a date of 1713. It is bound in full, contemporary leather over boards, and both the boards and the spine have been artfully repaired.

1666 "Preacher's Bible" as it was called, beautifully rebound with tooled leather in 1821: This near perfect copy was nicknamed "the Preacher's Bible." It was so called because the very small type enables this one volume—about the size of a study Bible today—to have the full text, the Prayer Book, two editions of the Psalms—one being the famous poetic version of Sternhold and Hopkins—and a hundred and ninety pages of concordance. **The silver hasps carry the date Sept. 7, 1821 on the upper clasp, and "George Forbes" on the bottom one.** According to a hand written note of sentiment on the inside, this would have been the date when John Ashburner presented it to George Forbes, and about the time it would have been rebound. The covers and spine are very ornately decorated in blind stamping. (1666 was the great fire of London, by the way, when many early Bibles would have been destroyed.) **The cover is in beautiful condition,** but the front board was separated when dropped while I was preparing for a recent exhibit. It can easily be reattached, and I continue to exhibit it now along with other beautiful bindings, with a mylar band around the covers with the silver clasps showing the engraving mentioned above.

1675 Henry Hammond Paraphrase of the New Testament: This folio edition (10 by 14 ¼ by 2 ½ inches) was first printed in 1653, this being the fourth edition. Hammond was President of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Chaplain to Charles I. He also assisted Brian Walton in his famous London Polyglot of 1657. It is bound in very fine leather on the spine and leather corners, with marbled paper on the remainder of the boards, and it is in excellent condition.

1677 Thomae A Kempis, Cannonici Regularis Ordinis S. Augustini, De Imitatione Christi: A small edition of the famous Imitation of Christ, by Thomas A Kempis, printed in Venetiis, 1677, A pud Milochum, Superiorum Permissu. The size of the vellum bound book is 2 ¼ by 4 by 2 ½ inches thick. It has one small engraving on the title page of the Holy Spirit descending on two persons; one with a small cross in his hand, I assume to be Christ. It is in excellent condition.

1682 Greek New Testament: The title page includes a wood-block print of Jesus and his disciples. It is signed on the frontis page by Rev. Barby. It is bound in dark brown, full leather. The spine leather has been renewed and this New Testament is in good condition.

1698 Novum Testamentum Domini Nostri Jesu Christi: The folio text (10 by 13 by 2 ¾ inches) is the Latin Vulgate with Henrici Hammondi paraphrase and annotations. It was printed in Amsterdam and is listed in Darlow and Moule, p. 981 as number 6250. The binding is full brown leather with 6 high ridge cords over the spine. Some of the leather is missing, and it needs to be restored.