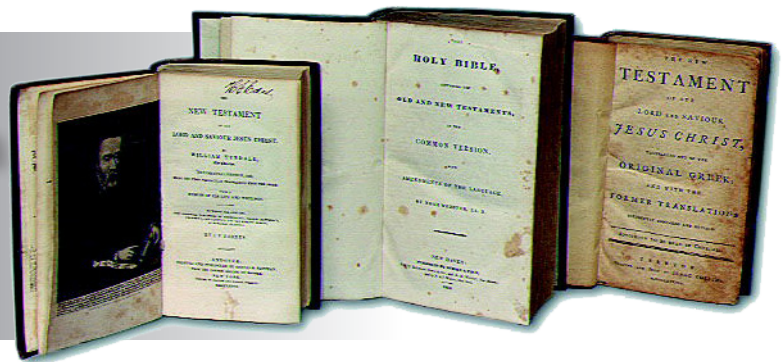


# Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

FALL 2019

Volume 17, Issue 1

## Bibles with Connections

The Dunham Bible Museum's collection includes numerous rare and precious volumes with fascinating histories – the “Wicked Bible,” first editions of the Geneva and King James Bibles, a 1536 Tyndale New Testament, the first three editions of Erasmus' Greek Testament, and more. Each of these volumes is of interest in its own right, but also of interest is who might have owned the volumes previously. While we don't know the provenance of these volumes, several other volumes in the collection have known connections of interest.

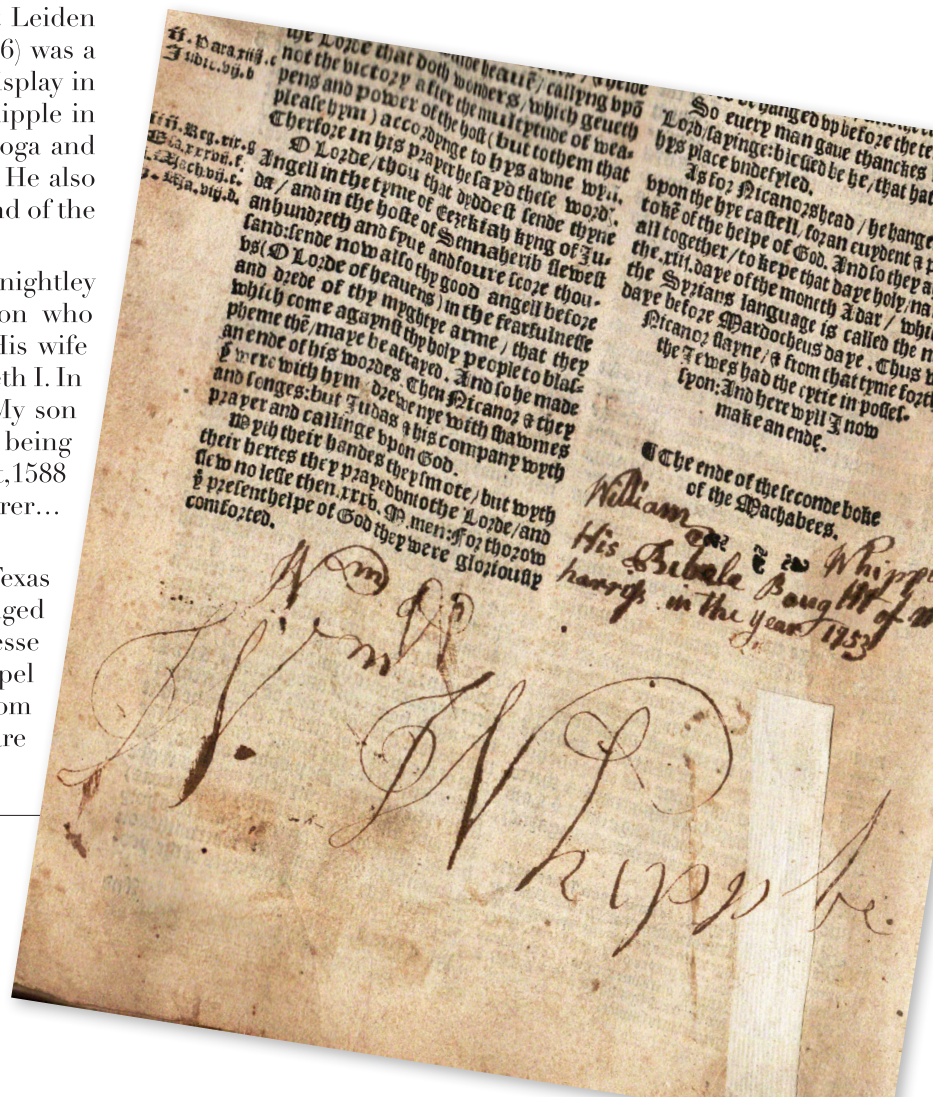
The 1516 polyglot psalter printed in Genoa has inscriptions and notes by three individuals – Jacob Ryter (1543-1611) was a preacher in Basel, Switzerland; Aland Uchtman (1612-1680) was professor of Hebrew at Leiden University; Cnais Cornelius Uythage (c. 1640-1686) was a Dutch theologian. The 1537 Matthew's Bible on display in the Dunham Museum was bought by William Whipple in 1753. Whipple was a leader at the Battle of Saratoga and a signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. He also signed his Matthew's Bible in a large hand at the end of the Old Testament.

A 1577 Geneva Bible belonged to Sir Richard Knightley (1533-1615), who was the Sheriff of Northampton who oversaw the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. His wife was Elizabeth Seymour, a relative of Queen Elizabeth I. In the genealogical list of her children, she notes, “My son Robert was born at Norton the xv of September, being Saturday, between xii and one of the clocke at nyght, 1588 her Majesty [Queen Elizabeth] and my Lord Treasurer... being witnesses.”

Several of the Museum's Bibles have Texas connections. A water-stained Bible from 1829 belonged to Kindred Mercer, nephew of Baptist minister Jesse Mercer, who moved to Texas to preach the Gospel after Texas' independence secured religious freedom for the country. The water stains on the Bible are

from when the wagon filled with water while crossing creek on the journey to Texas. An 1814 folio of John Brown's *Self-Interpreting Bible* was used on the Battleship Texas. A thumb Bible of the book of Colossians, printed in the 1830's, was formerly in the collection of Stanley Marcus, of Nieman Marcus fame. A Bible from 1851 was the family Bible of Anson Jones, the last President of the Republic of Texas, and includes genealogical records of the family.

These are a few of the fascinating connections in the Bible Museum's collections.



*William Whipple, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, signed his 1537 Matthew's Bible at the end of the Old Testament, with a note that he had bought the Bible from Mr. Harris in the year 1753.*



## New Displays on St. John's and Gutenberg Bibles

The Dunham Bible Museum's collection includes many wonderful items we cannot regularly display because of lack of space. However, the Museum was able to fit in two more display cases this summer. One houses The *St. John's Bible*, with five of the seven volumes being displayed at one time. The Dunham's *St. John's Bible* is one of the 299 limited Heritage Edition. Only three institutions in Texas have the Heritage Edition of this beautifully calligraphied and illuminated Bible.



*The St. John's Bible, Heritage Edition, at the Dunham Bible Museum.*

Opposite the Gutenberg Press, a new case has been installed to exhibit the 1913 Gutenberg facsimile. This 2 volume Bible was the first and most beautiful facsimile of the original Gutenberg Bible. It was produced by Insel Verlag in Leipzig from the illuminated copy in the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz Berlin. Gutenberg had printed the black text of the Latin Bible but included instructions



*Case with 1913 Facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible, the first and most beautiful of the Gutenberg facsimiles.*

for hand illumination and additional lettering in color; the Staatsbibliothek's Gutenberg Bible is one of only two copies known which followed Gutenberg's scribal instructions completely. Only 300 sets of the 1913 facsimile were printed.

After Harry Truman's mother died in 1947, the citizens of Independence, Missouri gave Truman the two volume 1913 Gutenberg facsimile as a memorial to his mother. When Truman was sworn in as President in 1949, he took the oath of office on the Gutenberg Bible opened to the ten commandments at Exodus 20. On top of the Gutenberg Bible, Truman had his personal Bible opened to the Sermon on the Mount at Matthew 5.



*Harry Truman kisses Gutenberg Bible facsimile at his 1949 inauguration.*

*"I believe in a moral code based on the Ten Commandments found in the 20th chapter of Exodus, and on the fifth, sixth, and seventh chapters of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, which is the Sermon on the Mount. I believe a man ought to live by those precepts, which, if followed, will enable a man to do right. I don't know whether I have followed these precepts or not, but I have tried."*

*~President Harry S. Truman*

## PRESERVING THE WORLD'S RAREST BOOKS

The Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC), a project of St. Andrews University, is a searchable database of all books printed in Europe between the invention of printing and the end of the sixteenth century. Many of the books printed during that period are very rare, and 30% survive in only one known copy.

Under the sponsorship of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York, the USTC has a new program called "Preserving the World's Rarest Books." The program analyzes a library's collection with the USTC data base and provides the library with a list of its rarest books. Its books would also be added to the USTC if not already there.

The Dunham Bible Museum joined some of the elite libraries of Europe and America in becoming a partner with Preserving the World's Rarest Books. It will be fascinating to learn the rarity of the items in our collection.

Further information about Preserving the World's Rarest Books can be found at <https://pwrp.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>.

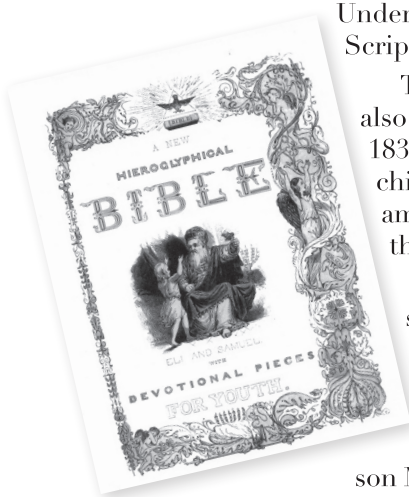
## FIND SPECIAL GIFTS AT THE DUNHAM BIBLE MUSEUM

A number of special gifts for your purchase are available from the Dunham Bible Museum. The Museum has an assortment of leafs from old Bibles which are suitable for framing. These include leaves from a 1610 Geneva Bible (\$50 each), a folio 1611 King James Bible (\$190 each), and leaves from pre-1650 King James Bible, both folio (\$100) and quarto (\$50) sizes. Also available are a number of illustrations from 19th century Bibles (\$25-\$15). These are all from Bibles which received incomplete and in fragments.

Understandably, the selection of Scriptures available is limited.

The Dunham Bible Museum also produced a facsimile of an 1836 Hieroglyphic Bible for children (\$9.99); the original is among the Museum's exhibit on the Bible and education.

Also available is a very special facsimile of a 1385 Wycliffe New Testament. This photographic reproduction is of one of the finest remaining Wycliffe Testaments, Rawlinson MS 259 in the Bodleian Library of Oxford University. This facsimile of a 15th century manuscript (yes, it's a manuscript, not printed!) has been bound in blue buckram (\$40). A numbered, limited edition version with gilded pages has been bound with red buckram and placed in an attractive slipcase (\$50).



## A SPECIAL ASSISTANT

Over the years we have been blessed with student assistants who have worked diligently in keeping the records of the museum's collection and guiding people through the Bible Museum. For the last few years Philip Morrow has been an important part of the Bible Museum's team, first as an undergraduate in the Honors



College and now as a graduate student in biblical languages. As a Covenant Fellow, Philip has developed skills and tools for Christian ministry throughout his time at HBU. He serves as Youth and Worship Minister at First Baptist Church of Rosenberg while completing his Masters in Biblical Languages at HBU his fall. For his thesis, Philip is writing on the 1516 Genoan Psalter in the Dunham's collection, a polyglot psalter in Hebrew, Latin, Greek Arabic, and Aramaic. In December he will take his fifth trip to Israel as part of the Passages program, sponsored by Museum of the Bible, where he will help oversee the students touring Israel.

Visitors to the Dunham Bible Museum always enjoy Philip's tours. They appreciate his depth of knowledge as well as his passion for the truth of the Scriptures. We're thankful for his time with the Dunham Bible Museum and anticipate a fruitful ministry for Philip in the years ahead.

### Wiedmann Bible Coming to the Dunham

After over a year at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., the Wiedmann Bible is coming to the Dunham Bible Museum in December. Created by Stuttgart artist Willy Wiedmann, the work consists of 3,333 artistic renderings of the entire Old and New Testament. Painted over a period of sixteen years, Wiedmann wanted to create a visual Bible for those around the world who could not read or were more visual learners than readers. If the images are connected and laid out end to end, they would be almost a mile long! The HBU Art Gallery will have special exhibits of some of Wiedmann's religious work while the Dunham will have the Wiedmann Bible exhibit. Look for special events in January and the spring of 2020 featuring this amazing artwork.



HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
7402 Fondren Road  
Houston, TX 77074-3298

281-649-3287

DSeverance@HBU.edu

Visit our website at  
[HBU.edu/BibleMuseum](http://HBU.edu/BibleMuseum)

*“There is not anything in the Scriptures which can be considered unimportant; there is not a single sentence of which does not deserve to be meditated on for it is not the word of man, but of the Holy Spirit, and the least syllable of it contains a hidden treasure.”*

~ John Chrysostom (347-407, Bishop of Constantinople and greatest preacher of the Greek church)



**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!