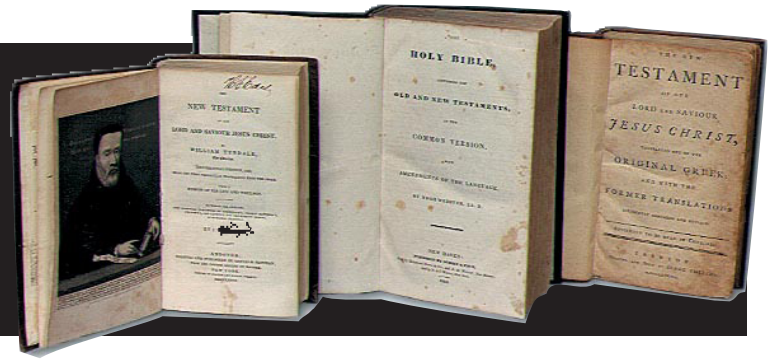


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Winter 2016

Vol. 13, Issue 2

A 500th Anniversary to Celebrate!

2016 marks the 500th anniversary of the first printing of the Greek New Testament by Desiderius Erasmus, and the Dunham Bible Museum will mark the event with a special exhibit, *Renaissance of the Bible: 500th Anniversary of Erasmus' Greek Text, the Foundation for Reformation*. Along with HBU's department of Theology, we'll be hosting a conference February 25-27, 2016, *Ad Fontes, Ad Futura: Erasmus' Bible and the Impact of Scripture* (see www.hbu.edu/TheologyConference).

Recognized throughout Europe as the greatest scholar of his day, Erasmus believed all Christians should have their lives transformed through the true "philosophy of Christ." He dedicated his life to the study and publishing of the Bible and the writings from the earliest centuries of the Church. In 1499, Erasmus went to England where in Oxford he met John Colet, later to be dean of St. Paul's in London. Colet was lecturing on the epistles of Paul, favoring a historical, grammatical interpretation of Scripture rather than the allegorical, mystical methods of the medieval scholastics. With Colet's encouragement, Erasmus began an intensive study of Greek while writing what became a four volume commentary on Paul's epistle to the Romans, published in 1502.

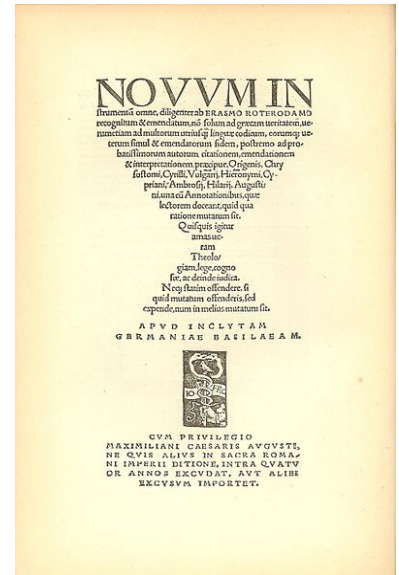
"If you love true theology, read this, understand it, and then pass judgment."

In 1504, Erasmus discovered a manuscript by Lorenzo Valla which was an annotated comparison of the Latin Vulgate translation, which dominated the middle ages, with Greek biblical manuscripts. In 1505 Erasmus printed Valla's work and wrote of the importance of recovering true spirituality by recovering the true text of the Bible. Erasmus then began a Latin translation of the Greek New Testament, correcting errors in the Latin Vulgate.

Erasmus believed the corrupt and dead Church of his day could be spiritually transformed by a return to its roots in the Bible, as understood by the biblical commentaries of the early

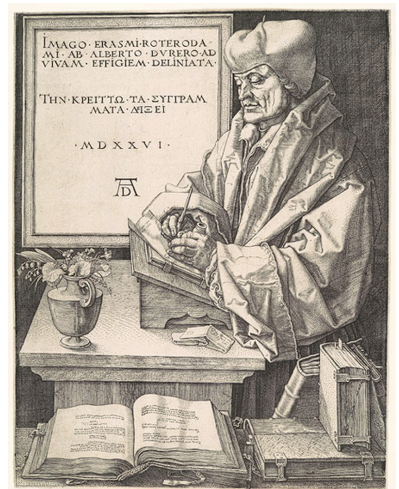
church, including Jerome, Chrysostom, Origen, Irenaeus, Ambrose, Augustine, and Basil. In contrast with medieval scholastic philosophy, which only the educated could comprehend, Erasmus believed the philosophy of Christ was for everyone. His publication of the Greek text, editions of biblical commentaries of the Church fathers, and his own paraphrases and commentaries on the Bible all were to revive a knowledge of Christ which would transform individual lives.

On April 17, 1515, Johann Froben, a printer in Basel, Switzerland, encouraged Erasmus to print a Greek text of the New Testament. When the text was printed, Erasmus called it *Novum Instrumentum*, believing the Greek text with his new Latin translation accompanying it was a new instrument for the revival of Christian spirituality,



(Top) Title page of *Novum Instrumentum*, the first published edition of the Greek New Testament, 1516.

(Bottom) Albrecht Durer's engraving of Erasmus.



cont. pg. 2

"I vehemently dissent from those who would not have private persons read the Holy Scriptures nor have them translated into the vulgar tongues, as though either Christ taught such difficult doctrines that they can only be understood by a few theologians, or the safety of the Christian religion lay in ignorance of it. I should like all women to read the Gospel and the Epistles of Paul. Would that they were translated into all languages so that not only Scotch and Irish, but Turks and Saracens might be able to read and know them."

~Erasmus' Preface to 1516 Greek/Latin New Testament

going back to the biblical source of the faith. He also noted that a person leaving a will would make an oral testament or statement of intent. The written document itself would be the “instrumentum.” Jesus made the oral statement to the disciples; when it was written down, it became an instrument. No one really accepted Erasmus’ reasoning, and future editions used the standard title *Novum Testamentum*. The hour glass shaped title on the title page focused at its smallest portion on the phrase meaning “If you love true theology, read this, understand it, and then pass judgment.” Erasmus was challenging scholars to compare the Greek and his new Latin translation before defending the traditional Latin Vulgate Bible.

In his Latin translation, Erasmus sought to correct errors in the Latin Vulgate translation the church had used for 1000 years. The Church protested many of these changes, since they affected church doctrines. Most notable were his translations of the Greek words *metanoia* and *mysterium*. Erasmus translated the Greek *metanoia*, as in Matthew 3:2, to mean “a change of mind” or “repent;” the Latin Vulgate had translated the word to mean “do penance,” and the practice of doing penance came to support the Roman Catholic sacramental system. Erasmus translated the Greek word *mysterium*, as in Ephesians 5:32, as “mystery.” The Latin Vulgate translated it as “sacramentum,” which supported the formal sacramentalism of the Roman Church.

Martin Luther carefully studied Erasmus’ Greek text, and the first three of his 95 theses are based on Erasmus’ corrected translation of repentance in Matthew 3:2. Erasmus shared many of the ideas so central to the Reformation: importance of the Scriptures as the foundation of faith, justification by faith, foolishness of ceremonialism, the error of veneration of saints and relics, and the corruption of the contemporary clergy. However, he never did break with the Church of Rome and became a critic of the leaders of the Reformation, thinking them divisive of the unity of the Church. Nevertheless, the Council of Trent, which dealt with issues from the Reformation, placed all of Erasmus’ books on the Index of Prohibited Books.

Erasmus’ Greek Text went through five printings, with Erasmus making revisions and improvements in each edition. His work became the basis for numerous common translations of the Scriptures. Martin Luther’s German translation and William Tyndale’s English translation were both based on Erasmus’ Greek text.

The Dunham Bible Museum possesses the first three editions of Erasmus’ Greek text, as well as several 16th century printings of Erasmus’ *Paraphrases* and *Annotations*. They will be part of the Museum’s special exhibit throughout 2016.

McKinney Hymn Discovered



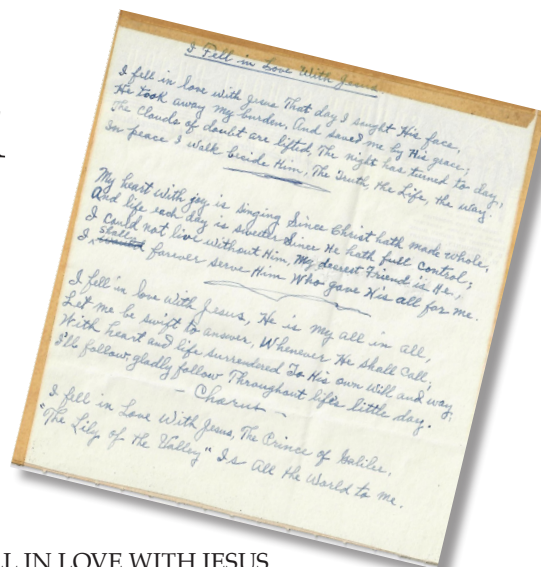
Dr. Rhonda Furr, professor, School of Fine Arts, was sorting through things in the department of music last summer when she found a large box with a framed manuscript inside. There was no note or any identification on the box except “For Houston Baptist University.” The frame contained the handwritten words and music for a hymn written by Baylus Benjamin McKinney (1886-1952), famed Baptist musician and songwriter.

The most famous of his 149 hymns and gospel songs are *The Nail Scarred Hand*, *Satisfied with Jesus*, and *Wherever He Leads I’ll Go*. A note at the bottom of the framed manuscript reads:

“Written in August 1950 – Paisano- Occasion - Dr. Kyle Yates pastor, Second Baptist, Houston – Bible Teacher at Assembly. Teaching John’s Gospel. Made statement “John fell in love with Jesus.” B.B. said to me, as were seated on platform – “Bill, there is a song.” Whereupon he dashed off the lines below. Later he brought me the above. Wm. Turner” Turner was pastor of a church in West Texas. The music is addressed “To my very dear friend, Brother Bill Turner. B.B. McKinney.”

The hymn was apparently never published, for it is not in any hymn catalogues....that would bring McKinney’s composition to 150 from the previous 149!

The manuscript is now in the Dunham Bible Museum’s Lyceum, along with an exhibit of the Museum’s collection of hymnals and medieval hymn leaves. Here are the words to the hymn:



I FELL IN LOVE WITH JESUS

*I fell in love with Jesus That day I sought His face,
He took away my burden, And saved me by His grace;
The clouds of doubt are lifted, The night has turned to day.
In peace I walk beside Him, The Truth, the Life, the way.*

*My heart with joy is singing Since Christ hath made whole,
And life each day is sweeter Since He hath full control;
I could not live without Him, My dearest Friend is He,
I shall forever serve Him Who gave His all for me.*

*I fell in love with Jesus, He is my all in all,
Let me be swift to answer, Whenever He shall call;
With heart and life surrendered To His own will and way,
I’ll follow gladly follow Throughout life’s little day.*

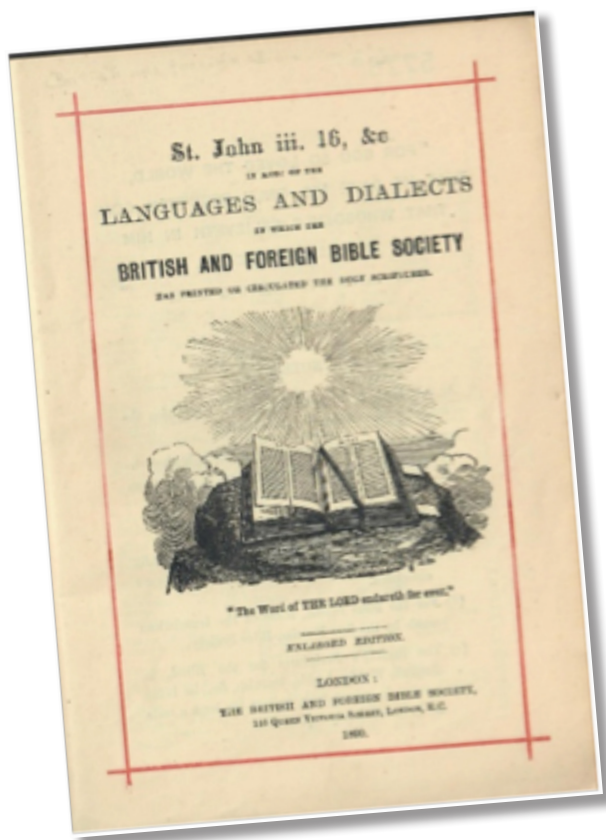
Chorus

*I fell in Love with Jesus, The Prince of Galilee.
“The Lily of the Valley” Is all the world to me.*

*We have no record of who the donor for this musical treasure was.
If anyone has additional information, we would be most grateful for it.*

Additional Acquisitions

Recently the Dunham Bible Museum was able to add two volumes to its collection. *The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* in the Bengali Language was translated from the Greek by The Calcutta Baptist Missionaries with native assistants and published in 1839. This is the third edition of William Yates' Bengali Testament. Yates was a Baptist missionary who first worked with William Carey in Serampore and then was connected with the Baptist Mission Press in Calcutta.



The *Souvenir of the British and Foreign Bible Society*, published in 1890, has John 3:16 "printed in more than 250 living languages and dialects, including those of American Indian tribes and Africa, Asian, and Pacific island nations, as well as the usual European ones and unusual European ones (Romansh, Manx, Wogul). There are even a few dead languages represented (Latin, Classical Greek). In some instances the verse presented is from a different Gospel because John had not yet been translated in a given language. Here you can find John 3:16 from Acra (spoken on the Gold Coast) to Zulu!

Two volumes of The *St. John's Bible* Donated

2015 was "The Year of the St. John's Bible" at the Dunham Bible Museum. Many enjoyed the special lectures on the creation of this beautiful 21st century manuscript Bible. Funds for two volumes have been donated, so that we have been able to purchase the two New Testament volumes. Colonel Newton V. Cole, retired Chaplain in the U.S. Air Force, donated funds to purchase the Gospels in memory of his wife, Linda Langham Cole. Dr. Diana Severance, director of the Dunham Bible Museum, donated funds for the volume containing the Epistles and Revelation in memory of her husband Gordon Barker Severance. Gordon especially loved to study the Pauline epistles; now he is with Paul and the saints who have gone before in the New Jerusalem so gloriously described in the book of Revelation.



We continue to seek funds to purchase the remaining five volumes of *The St. John's Bible* Heritage Edition. Donating an entire volume is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a very special person, but smaller donations towards the purchase of additional volumes are also welcomed. All donations to the Dunham Bible Museum for *The St. John's Bible* are tax deductible.



"The sum of all Christian philosophy amounts to this: - to place all our hopes in God alone, who by his free grace, without any merit of our own, gives us every thing through Christ Jesus; to know that we are redeemed by the death of his Son; to be dead to worldly lusts; and to walk in conformity with his doctrine and example, not only injuring no man, but doing good to all; to support our trials patiently in the hope of a future reward; and finally, to claim no merit to ourselves on account of our virtues, but to give thanks to God for all our strength and for all our works. This is what should be instilled into man, until it becomes second nature."

~Erasmus



HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
7502 Fondren Road
Houston, TX 77074-3298

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Mail-Sort, Inc.

281-649-3287

dseverance@hbu.edu

Visit our website at
www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum

"The most exalted aim in the revival of philosophical studies will be to obtain a knowledge of the pure and simple Christianity of the Bible."

~ Erasmus

UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

Ad Fontes, Ad Futura: Erasmus' Bible and the Impact of Scripture, conference on the 500th anniversary of Erasmus' Greek New Testament, February 25-27, 2016. Information and registration at ww.hbu.edu/TheologyConference. Lectures by Timothy George, Craig Evans, Herman Selderhuis, and Daniel Wallace are free and open to the public – check the website for details. Schedule for the plenary speakers:

- Thursday, February 25, 7:30 pm - Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School.
- Friday, February 26, 9:00 a.m. - Craig A. Evans, John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins, HBU.
- Friday, February 26, 7:30 p.m. - Daniel B. Wallace, Senior Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary and executive director of the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts.
- Saturday, February 27, 9:00 am - Herman Selderhuis, professor of church history at the Theological University Apeldorn and director of Refo 500.

This program was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"200th Anniversary of the American Bible Society," lecture by Dr. John Fea, chair of the department of history at Messiah College and author of *The Bible Cause: A History of the American Bible Society*, October 6, 2016, 7 pm, Belin Chapel.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT -- *Renaissance of the Bible: 500th Anniversary of Erasmus' Greek Text, the Foundation for Reformation* commemorating the 500th anniversary of the printing of Erasmus' Greek New Testament, throughout 2016.



Like us on
Facebook!



Refo500

CONNECTING YOU,
THEN AND NOW

THE DUNHAM BIBLE MUSEUM IS OPEN:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday,
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**