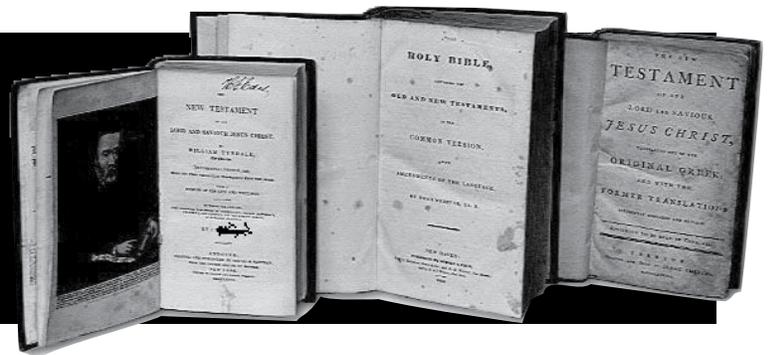


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Fall/Winter 2010

Vol. 8, Issue 1

KJV@400 - Be a Part of the Year of Celebration!

No one in 1611 could have imagined the global importance the English language would have 400 years later – neither King James, who authorized the new translation of the Bible into English, nor the translators themselves. When the King James Version (KJV) was first published in 1611, there were *four million* English speaking people, all living on the island nation of Great Britain, at the edge of Europe. Today, 400 years later, English is a global language with *two billion* English speaking people and 70 nations with English as the majority language. Wherever English speakers have gone on the globe – and into space – they have taken with them the King James Version of the Bible.

Film Premier

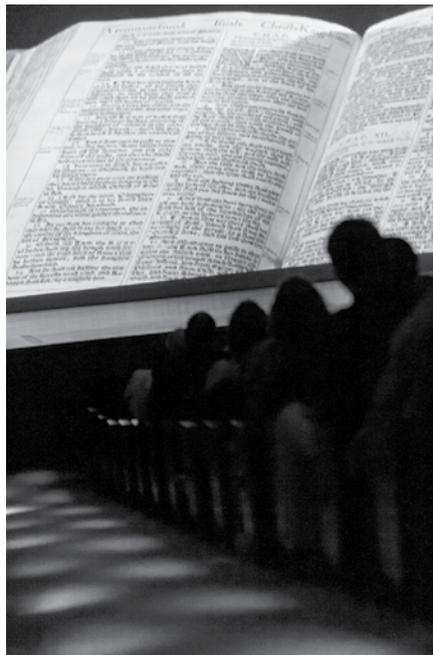
The Dunham Bible Museum began its KJV@400 celebration on September 2, with nearly 600 people attending the premier of the documentary *KJV: The Making of the King James Bible*. The documentary, produced by Christian History Institute in cooperation with the Dunham Bible Museum, included scenes filmed in the Museum as well as close up photos of Bibles from the Museum's collection. The DVD, for sale at the Museum's gift shop for \$15.99, includes additional interviews with scholars **Ward Allen**, **Adam Nicolson** and **Leonard Greenspoon**.

Special Exhibit

January 10, 2011 — *KJV @400: from Hampton Court, around the Globe, and to the Moon* will open as a special exhibit on the King James Bible. As far as we know, this is the first American event of many commemorating the 400th anniversary of the KJV! The exhibit will continue through December 16, 2011.

Psalm Festival

January 18-21 — The Museum will host a special exhibit of psalters from the 16th and 17th centuries. The psalters are a small portion of the Bible collection of **Michael Morgan**, organist of the Central Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. Mr. Morgan will be presenting a special **Psalm Festival Friday**, January 21 at 7 p.m. in Belin Chapel, with a prefestival lecture at 6 p.m. Reservations are required for this special event.



Astronaut to Speak

February 9, 2011 — **Astronaut Jeff Williams** will reflect on scenes of earth from his Space Shuttle flights. Williams became an astronaut in 1996. He has logged over 362 days in space, longer than any other astronaut, having been on three Space Shuttle missions. Each of the last two was for six months. Williams, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston, will address themes of the goodness of divine Providence, God's care for His creation, and His wisdom in ordering the universe.

Back to the Sources

March 31, 2011 — **Dr. Dan Wallace**, professor of New Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary and founder and Executive Director of the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts, will speak in Belin Chapel. Wallace has the ability to make the history of the textual transmission of the New Testament understandable to the nonspecialist. He'll address the subject of the Greek text behind the King James translation compared with that of the modern translations.

KJV@400 Conference

October 28-29, 2011 — A culmination of the Dunham Bible Museum's 2011 celebration activities will be a conference – *KJV@400: A Story of Biblical Proportions*. Distinguished scholars scheduled to speak include **Donald Brake**, **Gerald Bray**, **Leonard Greenspoon**, **David Jeffrey**, **Timothy Larsen**, **Liana Lupas**, **Leland Ryken** and HBU's own **President Robert B. Sloan Jr.** Together they will consider the historic background of the King James Bible, and its cultural influence on England, America, and around the globe.

Mark your calendars! Plan to be a part of the celebration in 2011 of one of the most historic and important Bible translations!

Information about all of these events can be found under the "Events" section of the Museum's website – www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum.

From the Bronze Age to the *Space Age*

Though rooted in time and history, the Bible is a timeless book with a message for all time and eternity. It reveals God to men in the Bronze Age or the Space Age. Fittingly, the Dunham Bible Museum has recently received collections from both eras:

Paul and Virginia Smith served over 40 years as Southern Baptist Missionaries in the Middle East – Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Iraq and briefly in Saudi Arabia. The Baptist School of Amman, which they established in Jordan, continues to be one of the best in the country. More than 1000 students attend the school, including princes and princesses. While in the Middle East, Paul participated in a number of archaeological digs and accumulated a small collection of ancient artifacts – oil lamps, pottery vessels, stones from Nabataean buildings, and even an ancient sling shot stone – all of which the Smiths have given to the Dunham Bible Museum. Perhaps most valuable are a pottery pot and jug dated c. 1200 BC, near the time of the conquest of the land of Canaan by Joshua.

Author **Carol Mersch's** donation dates from three millennia later. Mersch has written a soon-to-be-released book, *Apostles of Apollo*, telling the story of the Apollo Prayer League and the Bible taken to the moon on the Apollo missions. Most valuable in the collection is an authenticated and certified complete microform copy of the King James Bible taken to the moon and back with Apollo XIV in 1971 (the Museum had a portion of one before; this is the complete Bible on a 1" x 1" square of microform ... it has to be magnified 200 times to read it!). Along with the lunar Bible, Mersch donated numerous other space and Bible related artifacts, including a facsimile of the communion cup used by Buz Aldrin after the first lunar landing, and before he walked on the moon (the original is in Webster Presbyterian Church); a copy of notes of Scripture read by Aldrin on the moon; a painting of Dave Scott placing a Bible on the lunar rover just before Apollo XV left the moon; and photos of Rev. Stout, organizer of the Apollo Prayer League, and other astronauts involved with the Bible on the moon.



Apollo XIV Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, left, presents lunar Bibles he took to the moon to Rev. John Stout, organizer of the Bible on the moon project and founder of the Apollo Prayer League.



Framed microfilmed "Lunar Bible"-1971

February 2011, will be the 40th anniversary of Apollo XIV, when the Bible was brought to the moon – one of the reasons for Mersch writing *Apostles of Apollo* at this time. Many items from the lunar collection are now on display in the Dunham Bible Museum's vestibule and will be part of the 2011 exhibit *KJV@400: from Hampton Court, around the Globe, and to the Moon*.

Dunham Bible Museum Friends

With the expanded exhibits and scheduled events for the King James Bible's 400th anniversary, we are especially thankful for Dunham Bible Friends. Their support enables the Dunham Bible Museum to expand its outreach and effectiveness. 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.

Memberships are available at several levels:

- **King James Level** (\$50) – members receive 10% discount on Museum store purchases;
- **Geneva Level** (\$75) – members receive 10% Museum discount and copy of Donald Brake's *A Visual History of the English Bible*;
- **Coverdale Level** (\$250) – members receive Geneva Level benefits and 20% discount on Museum store purchases;

- **Wycliffe Level** (\$500) – members receive Coverdale Level benefits, a pre-1650 King James Bible leaf, quarto size, and a private reception with Dr. & Mrs. Robert B. Sloan Jr.;
- **Tyndale Level** (\$1000) – members receive Wycliffe Level benefits, and an original 1611 King James Bible leaf, folio size;
- **Gutenberg Level** (Corporate Benefactor - \$2000 or more) – members receive Tyndale Level benefits, and a recognition notice in each *Dunham Bible Museum News*;
- **St. Jerome Level** (Lifetime Individual Membership - \$10,000) – members receive Tyndale Level benefits and an original 1611 King James Bible leaf.

Visit the Dunham Bible Museum website,
www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum
for more information and a membership form,
or contact Dr. Diana Severance at
dseverance@hbu.edu, 281-320-0487.

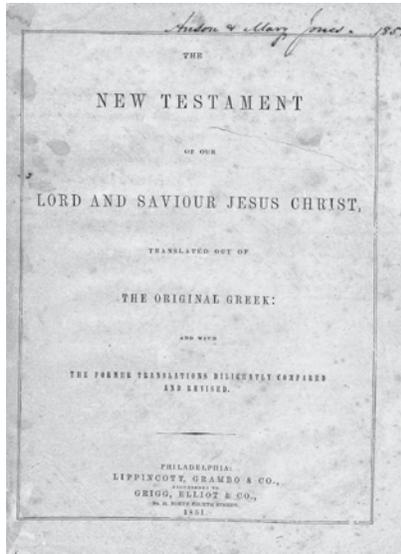
A Bible with Historic Texas Connections

Mary Jo and William K. Robbins made a generous gift to the Dunham Bible Museum of an 1851 Bible they recently purchased. The Bible originally belonged to Anson and Mary Jones and had been in the Jones' family for five generations until it was sold with other items from the Anson and Mary Jones estate.

Anson Jones was the last President of the Republic of Texas. A medical doctor who came to Texas in 1833, Jones set up practice in Brazoria, where he soon became involved in the politics for Texas' independence. After the fall of the Alamo, Jones enlisted as a private and served in Sidney Sherman's Second Regiment at San Jacinto. When Sam Houston became President of the Republic of Texas, he chose Jones as Minister to the United States. During Houston's second term, Jones served as Texas' Secretary of State. Jones' diplomacy culminated in the annexation of Texas in 1845, when Jones himself was serving as President of Texas. At the annexation ceremony, it was Jones who lowered the Texas flag and proclaimed, "The Republic of Texas is no more."

In spite of his many areas of success, Jones had wrestled with a sense of loneliness and failure much of his life. In time, Jones felt that his services for Texas were not properly appreciated. He became bitter at Sam Houston, who he felt was at times working against Texas' true interests. In 1857, both U.S. Senate positions were vacant, and Jones thought he would be elected one of the Senators. When he was not, he became increasingly despondent. January 1858, he took his own life while staying alone at the Rice Hotel (then called the Capitol Hotel) in Houston.

Anson and Mary Jones were married in 1840 and had four children. The Jones Bible was purchased in 1851 and includes personal family records in the center of the Bible, some written by Anson or Mary Jones' own hand. The record of births, deaths, and marriages include the record that "Charles Elliot Jones [Anson and Mary's son] fell mortally wounded on the battle field of Shiloh April 7th, A.D. 1862. He was a member of



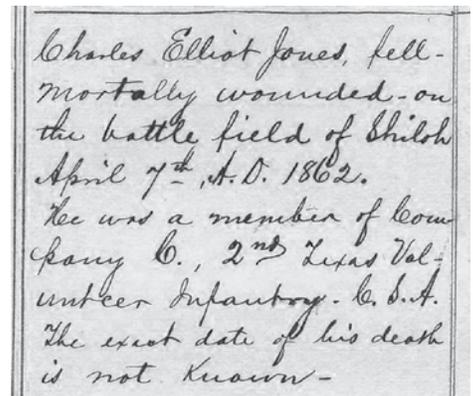
Company C, 2nd Texas Volunteer Infantry, C.S.A." Another remark notes that an account of the "Cromwell, Jones, and Strong" relatives would be found in Anson's "Memoirs" and Vol. II of his "Records." Anson had spent several months in New England tracing his American ancestry to 1660. He also found that he was related to Oliver Cromwell, having descended through Cromwell's sister. This Cromwell connection was always a source of pride to Anson. He felt he had fought against tyranny in Texas as Cromwell had done in England.

The Jones Bible contains at least 15 Scriptures marked in pencil. Whether these were marked by Anson, Mary, or one of their descendants cannot be determined. But, if they were marked by Anson, they offer a glimpse into his spiritual longings and struggles. Almost half of the marked Scriptures are the prayers of a despairing soul seeking the Lord's deliverance. Very moving in light of Jones' suicide and feelings of being unappreciated is Psalm 31:12: *I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.* Other pleas include: *When I cry unto thee, then shall my enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.* (Psalm. 56:9); *Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man* (Psalm. 60:11).

Other marked Scriptures proclaim the glory and kingdom of the Lord over all the earth (Psalm 24) and rejoice: *Thou hast turned my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with*

gladness; to the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God. I will give thanks unto thee for ever (Psalm 30:11-12).

After Anson's death, Mary Jones moved with her four children to Goose Creek, near present day Baytown. She well managed the land holdings her husband had left her, and had Anson's history, *Republic of Texas* published. Mary also served as the first President of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Mary was a widow for 50 years and died in 1907, at the age of 89. Anson and Mary Jones are both buried in Houston's Glenwood Cemetery. Thanks to Mary Jo and William Robbins, their Bible is now part of the Dunham Bible Museum's permanent collection.



Record of Charles Elliot Jones' mortal wound at the Battle of Shiloh, 1863

In 1856, when dissolution threatened the United States over the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Anson Jones gave an impassioned speech about the preservation of the Union from sectional conflict. He thought this sectionalism a much more serious threat to the nation than the new waves of immigrants bringing foreign influence into the country. He believed that as long as there were a free press and the Bible freely available, the American democracy would survive: "I believe I can say for the Democracy, we will see to it that the press shall always be left untrammelled, and also that the Bible, without note or comment, should be stately read in all the public schools throughout the republic; for there can be no national virtue, no true liberty, no permanence to our political and social institutions, without the recognition of God as he has revealed himself in his word."



Houston Baptist University
7502 Fondren Road
Houston, TX 77074-3298

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281-649-3287
dseverance@hbu.edu

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www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum

"The foundations of our society and of our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible, that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings should cease to be practically universal in our country."

~ President Calvin Coolidge

Please notify us of any changes or corrections in your address.

If you would prefer to receive the *Dunham Bible Museum News* by e-mail (saving the University printing and postage costs), please send your e-mail address to dseverance@hbu.edu.



This summer, members of the Church and Synagogue Library Association visited the Dunham Bible Museum a part of their annual national convention in Houston.

>> COMING EVENTS <<

- **January 10, 2011 – KJV@400: from Hampton Court, around the Globe and to the Moon.** Special exhibit on the King James Bible opens at Dunham Bible Museum.
- **January 21 – Psalm Festival,** 7 p.m., Belin Chapel, with pre-festival lecture by **Michael Morgan** at 6 p.m. Psalters will be on display in the Bible Museum in the days preceding the festival. RSVP at 281-649-322 or www.hbu.edu/psalmfestival.
- **February 9 – Lecture by Astronaut Jeff Williams, "The Work of His Hands,"** 7 p.m., Belin Chapel.
- **March 31 – Lecture by Dr. Dan Wallace on New Testament text behind the King James Bible,** 7 p.m., Belin Chapel.
- **October 28-29 – Conference, KJV@400: A Story of Biblical Proportions.**

**For more information, see
"Events" at www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum**

The Dunham Bible Museum is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, except University Holidays and the Saturdays before Monday holidays. To make an appointment for group tours, or for further information, contact:

**Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287
or dseverance@hbu.edu.**