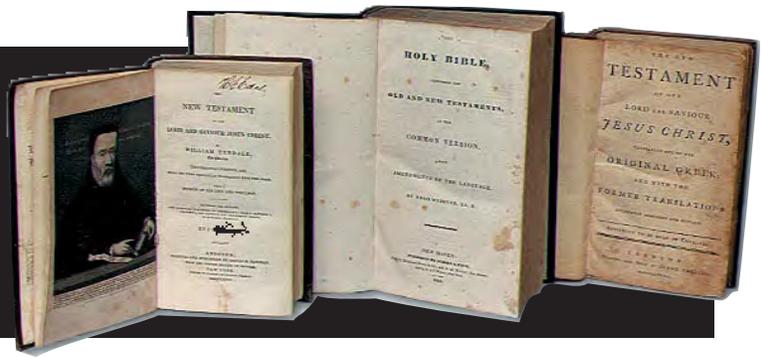


# Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Fall 2014

Vol. 12, Issue 1

## Israel in Egypt



"Israel in Egypt" is the subject of the October 9, 2014, lecture by Doug Petrovich. With degrees in theology as well as Syro-Palestinian archaeology, Petrovich is a specialist in the fields of biblical history and the biblical languages. Petrovich also is experienced in Egyptian hieroglyphics and archaeology. He served for ten years as founder and academic dean at Novosibirsk

Biblical-Theological Seminary in Siberia and currently is professor and Chief Academic Officer of the Shepherds Seminary in North Carolina. The lecture will be at 7 p.m. in Belin Chapel.

## The Bible in Hawaiian

One of the unique Bibles in the Dunham Bible Museum's collection is the first edition of the New Testament in Hawaiian, published in 1832. This translation was largely the work of Hiram Bingham and his missionary associate Asa Thurston. Bingham and Thurston were among the 14 missionaries the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions sent to Hawaii in 1820. Hiram and Sybil Bingham settled in Honolulu; Asa and his wife Lucy settled in Kailua-Kona.

Diligently learning the Hawaiian language, Hiram and Asa planned to translate the Bible into Hawaiian, which did not then have a written language. Hiram developed an alphabet and wrote a grammar for the written language. By 1828, the team had translated and printed the Gospel of Matthew in Hawaiian. Mark, Luke, and John followed in 1829-1830, and the rest of the New Testament was completed in 1832. The early translations were printed in New York, but by 1830, the missionaries had their own printing press on Oahu. The first edition of the New Testament is a compilation of the various sections printed from 1828-1832.

The Hawaiian Queen Ka'ahumanu was very receptive to Christianity. She encouraged her people to embrace Christianity and established laws based upon the ten commandments and Christian ethics. She faced opposition for this, largely from foreign traders who saw some of their lucrative practices restricted.

In his history of the Sandwich Islands published in 1855, Bingham noted it was the privilege of the missionaries "to

## Refo500

The Dunham Bible Museum and HBU are now partners in Refo500, a platform of over 120 international partners collaborating to tell the story of the Reformation, whose 500th anniversary will soon be upon us. Partners include universities, publishers, museums, libraries, churches, and more. Wanting to reach a wide audience, Refo500 focuses on the historical, theological, religious, political, social, and cultural meaning of the Reformation. Refo500 isn't simply looking back 500 years, but also looking forward to the continuing impact of the Reformation in its many spheres. Refo could be understood as rewind, looking back, and forward. The Dunham Bible Museum and HBU are planning an important exhibit and conference to bring added reflection on the turning point of the Reformation 500 years ago. Visit [www.refo500.nl/en](http://www.refo500.nl/en) for more on Refo500!



The New Testament in Hawaiian. This first edition, in the Dunham Bible Museum's collection, is signed by translator Hiram Bingham to Lt. Stephen B. Wilson, 1832.

bring the Bible to the whole people"; it was the people's privilege "to bring themselves, by the blessing of God, to the Bible."

Bingham recounted that "[Queen] Kaahumanu and [Chief Officer] Kalanimoku, and others most fully published their views of God's Word, and regarded his statutes as binding on all, without any civil, secular, or ecclesiastical enactment to make them so. Not specifically adopting the ten commandments as a criminal code, they still sought to follow these divinely inspired teachings. ... Kalanimoku expressed his desire to see the laws of God observed, and the people conforming their lives to his will; and both he and the queen seemed determined to maintain the Christian ground they had taken in interdicting crime, and to persevere in their efforts to bring the people to respect, not only their own authority, but also the authority of God."



Hiram and Sybil Bingham, courtesy of Hawaii State Archives

Some objected, "What had the Hawaiian government to do with the Word of God?" Bingham replied: "With the same propriety it might be demanded, What has ecclesiastical government to do with the Bible, or what has family government to do with the Word of God? The Bible is the inspired charter of the marriage institution which God has established, that through well regulated families he might seek a godly seed; and shall family government have nothing to do with the Bible? It is the charter too, of the church by which the worship and ordinances of God are to

be maintained ... Has the great Lawgiver ordained civil government, and founded the state for the execution of his will, and put his statute-book into the hands of magistrates for their guide, and yet has civil government nothing to do with his statutes in judging of the rights and duties of rulers and subjects? Are chief magistrates to be God's ministers for the punishment of evil doers, and for a praise of them that do well, (1 Peter 2:14) and be denied the right to point out what is evil doing, or to publish the divine rules of duty, and the chief motives or incentives to well doing?"

In recognizing how the Scriptures can impact a government and society without having an established religion, Bingham was in part reflecting the situation in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. He wrote that in the United States, "Christianity is a part of the common law of the land; that Christian schools are encouraged by legislation; that presidents and governors appoint fast and thanksgiving days expressly for the worship of Almighty God; that Christian chaplains of legislative bodies, and of the army and navy, are approved and supported by the state for the acknowledgment and service of Jehovah, and for the inculcation of the principles of his inspired statute book."

After 21 years in Hawaii, the Bingham family returned to the United States because of Sybil's poor health. When they left Hawaii, there were about 20,000 Hawaiian Christians, roughly 18% of the population.

## THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

Coming in 2015! -a special exhibit of the St. John's Bible. The St. John's Bible is a beautifully calligraphied and illuminated manuscript Bible commissioned by the monks of St. John's Abbey in Minnesota. Fifteen years in the making, this is the first completely handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey since Gutenberg. Lectures by participants in the Bible's creation will also be held. Watch the next edition of the *News* for details of the exhibit and lectures.

### GO FIGURE

- There were 6,135 visitors to the Dunham Bible Museum 2013-2014, up from 5,984 figure last year. 1,245 of the visitors came in 60 tour groups. Twelve school groups visited the Museum in 2013-2014, as well as numerous classes and students from HBU.
- Visitors came from all across Texas, at least 17 other states, and over 8 foreign countries (*it would be nice if we had room for a larger display of the Bible's foreign translations, their history and impact!*)

### How Readest Thou?

Luke 10:26

Pasted inside the cover of one of the Museum's 19th century Bibles:

'Tis one thing friend to read the Bible through,  
Another thing to read to learn and do;  
'Tis one thing too to read it with delight  
And quite another thing to read it right.

Some read it with design to learn to read,  
But to the subject pay but little heed;  
Some read it as their duty once a week,  
But no instruction from the Bible seek.

Some read to bring themselves into repute,  
By showing others how they can dispute;  
Whilst others read it with uncommon care  
Better to find some contradictions there.

One reads with father's specs upon his head,  
And sees the things just as his father did;  
Another reads through Campbell or through Scott.  
And thinks it means exactly what they thought.

Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,  
They understand but little what they read:  
And every passage of the book they bend  
To make it suit that all important end.  
Some people read, as I have often thought,  
To teach the book instead of being taught.

# American Patriot and Bible Translator

When Charles Thomson's mother died in 1739, his father left Ireland and set sail for America with Charles and his two brothers. Before the ship reached Philadelphia, Charles' father died and was buried at sea, leaving the eleven year old boy an orphan. The brothers were separated, and Charles was cared for by a blacksmith. When the blacksmith planned to legally apprentice Charles, who did not want to be a blacksmith, he ran away. A lady (whose name is unknown) found him walking along the road, and in conversation asked Charles what he wanted to do with himself. When he said he wanted to be a scholar, she took him to her home and began to provide him an education. Charles excelled at Latin and Greek, and in a few years became a tutor in Latin at the Philadelphia Academy.

One day Charles noticed a portion of a Greek text for auction and bought it, not knowing what it was. He soon discovered it was the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures made in the second century B.C. Amazingly, a few years later, he found the rest of the text for sale and was able to buy it as well.



the Congressional Resolution approving the printing, signed by Secretary Charles Thomson.

During the war, Thomson began a translation of the Greek Septuagint into English. Thomson recognized that when the New Testament writers quoted the Old Testament they were usually quoting from the Greek Septuagint rather than the Hebrew, making the study of the Septuagint especially important. Thomson went on to translate the entire Bible, which was published in four volumes in 1808. Thomson's translation is a "first" in a number of ways. It was the first English New Testament

to be translated and published in America and the first English translation of the Septuagint. It was also the first Bible printed by a woman. Jane Aitken was the daughter of printer Robert Aitken.

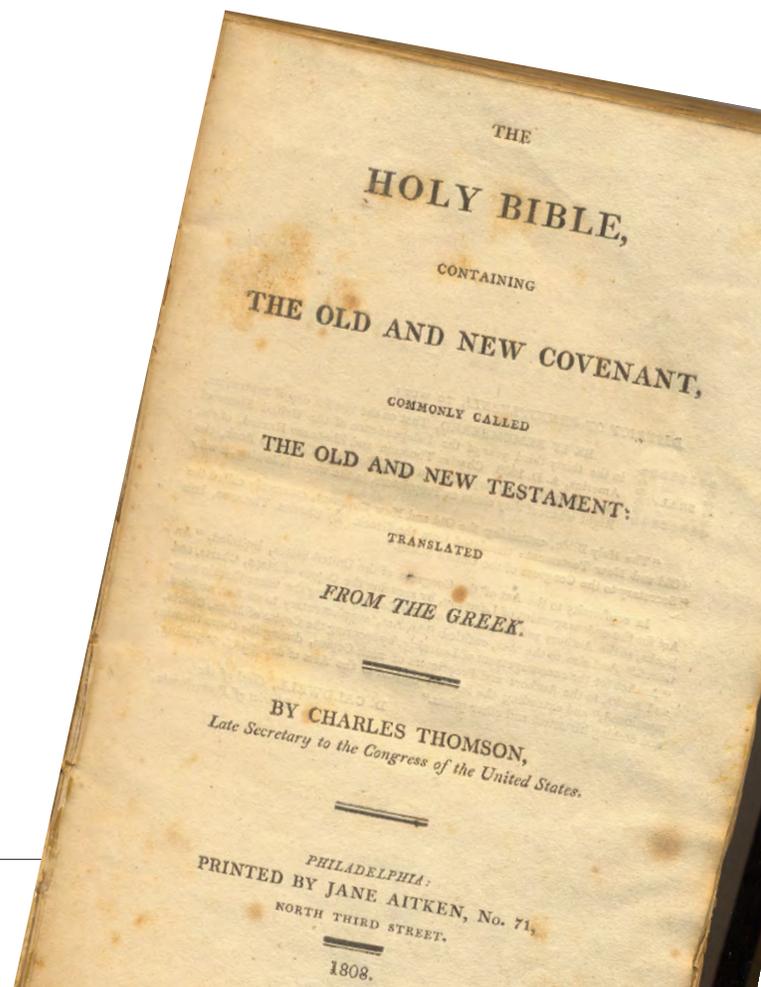
In 1815, Thomson published his *Synopsis of the Four Evangelists*, which includes numerous notes by Thomson on the historical background and geography of the Gospels.

The Dunham Bible Museum recently acquired a copy of Thomson's *Synopsis*, to accompany the two copies of his 1808 Bible already in the collection. Both witness to the biblical faith of one of America's founders.

"I have sought for truth with the utmost ingenuity, and endeavored to give a just and true representation of the sense and meaning of the Sacred Scriptures; and in doing this, I have further endeavored to convey into the translation, as far as I could, the spirit and manner of the authors, and thereby give it the quality of an original"

—Charles Thomson on his translation

Charles Thomson established an import business which was doing quite well until the Stamp Act began restricting colonial trade. He soon became a leader of the colonial cause in Philadelphia. When the Continental Congress assembled, Thomson was chosen to be the Congress' Secretary, a position he held throughout the American Revolution and through the writing of the Constitution. His name, along with that of President of Congress John Hancock, was printed on the first published Declaration of Independence. Thomson also was important in the design of the Great Seal of the United States. When Robert Aitken printed the first complete English Bible in America in 1808, he printed in the front of the Bible





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

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HOUSTON TX  
PERMIT #8634

281-649-3287

[dseverance@hbu.edu](mailto:dseverance@hbu.edu)

Visit our website at  
[www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum)

"I always have said, and always will say,  
that the studious perusal of the sacred  
volume will make better citizens, better  
fathers, and better husbands."

— Thomas Jefferson

## Coming Events

**OCTOBER 9, 2014, 7 P.M., BELIN CHAPEL**

"Israel in Egypt" – a lecture on archaeological finds and inscriptions from Israel's time in Egypt, by Douglas Petrovich, a specialist in biblical languages, Egyptology and Bible history, and professor at The Shepherds Seminary.

**FEBRUARY 26, 2015, BELIN CHAPEL**

"Heaven in a Nightclub" — lecture and performance by Dr. William Edgar, professor of apologetics at Westminster Theological Seminary, on the Bible and Jazz.



Khirbet el-Maqatir: History of a Biblical Site will be at the Dunham Bible Museum through December 19, 2014.

Over 40 artifacts were brought from Israel to HBU for this exhibit.



A portion of every purchase made from amazon.com through the link [www.amazon.com/?tag=bibleinameric-20](http://www.amazon.com/?tag=bibleinameric-20) will go to the Dunham Bible Museum - without any extra charge to you!

The link can also be found on the Bible Museum's home page ([www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum)). If you are an amazon.com shopper, we would be most appreciative if you began linking to amazon.com through the Dunham Bible Museum!

### 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](mailto:dseverance@hbu.edu)**



Like us on Facebook!