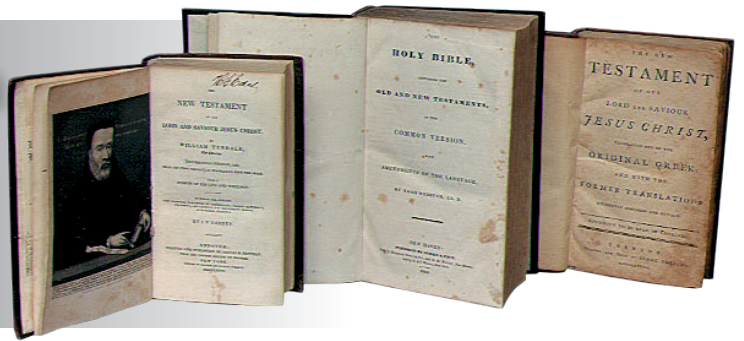


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Christian University

Fall 2022

Volume 20 Issue 1

Let's Celebrate!

25 years is certainly something to celebrate, and November 2 is the day we'll celebrate the Dunham Bible Museum's 25th anniversary in the Morris Cultural Arts Center. The celebration will begin at 11 am in the Dunham Theater, with Dr. Roy Peterson speaking at convocation. Dr. Peterson served as President of Wycliffe Bible Translators for 28 years and was President of the American Bible Society during its 200th anniversary, move to Philadelphia, and establishment of its Faith and Liberty Discovery Center. After convocation, the celebration will continue with a luncheon in McNair Hall. Reservations can be made for the luncheon at <connect.hbu.edu/dbm25>. We hope many of you will be able to join us for this festive occasion.

The Dunham Bible Museum at 25



With the acquisition of the Bible collections of Dr. Donald Brake and Dr. John Hellstern, the Museum's exhibits expanded to include manuscripts and the earliest printed Bibles.

In our last issue, we looked at the beginnings of the Dunham Bible Museum in 1997. A major turning point in the Dunham Bible Museum's twenty-five year history was the Museum's 2008 move from the Moody Library (where Java City now is!) to the new Morris Cultural Arts Center. The move into a larger space was an opportunity to expand the Museum's collection beyond American Bibles to include manuscripts and early printed Bibles. Providentially, at this time Dr. Donald Brake and Dr. John Hellstern were seeking to sell their impressive Bible collections. Drs. Brake and Hellstern had collected historical Bibles for thirty years. They had amassed two of the richest Bible collections in the country for breadth and depth. Co-founding the Living Word National Bible Museum, over the years they held major exhibits in Fort Worth, Dallas, Branson, and Tulsa. Through a generous donation from Linda and Archie Dunham, the University was able to acquire the Brake/Hellstern collections. Included in the purchase was a working Gutenberg-style printing press, which had been crafted by Joe Hellstern, Dr. Hellstern's brother, as a focal point of the Living Word exhibits. Acquisition of the Brake/Hellstern collections enabled the Dunham Bible Museum to tell the story of the Bible's history, preservation, transmission, and influence, as well as become a resource for scholarly research and teaching.



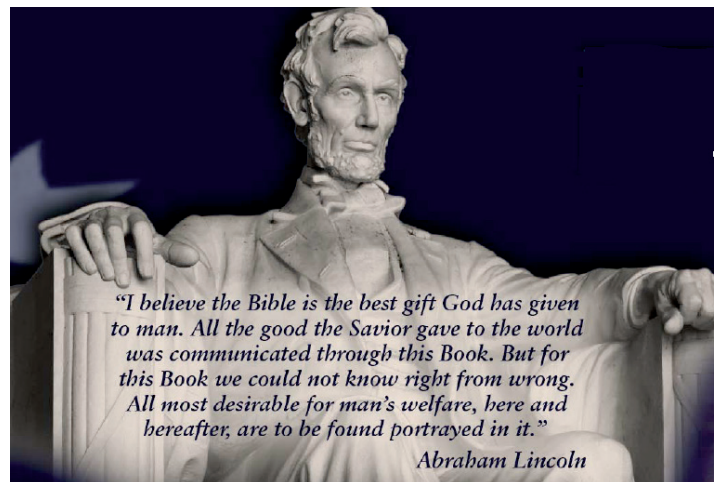
Johann Gutenberg's development of printing with moveable metal type led to an increase in the availability of Bibles. It is fitting that a Gutenberg-style press is a focal point of the Dunham Bible Museum's exhibits.

Charles Paramore and his company, Museum Arts of Dallas, helped create the Bible Museum's creative displays in the Morris Cultural Arts Center. Visitors entering the Museum first find themselves standing on the moon, viewing the distant earth while hearing the Bible's first words, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Walking through the Museum is a journey through time as the eras of Moses, Torah scrolls, and manuscripts produced by medieval monks give way to the printing shop of Johann Gutenberg. Gutenberg's invention made the Bible available as never before, spurring on the Renaissance and Reformation. The development of the English Bible during this period culminates in the exhibit of a 1611 King James Bible, one of about 200 remaining original editions.

The Severance Lyceum in the center of the Museum, named in honor of Gordon and Diana Severance who helped design the Museum, provides the setting for lectures and videos. The American section of the Bible Museum displays American Bibles against a backdrop of "The Bible throughout American History" mural, which shows scenes from Columbus through 9-11 with specific Scriptures related to each. Further exhibits are devoted to the "Bible and Literature" and translations of the Bible from around the globe. A special video exhibit of astronauts and the Bible on the moon complements the "Out of this World" exhibit, which includes a microfilm copy of the entire Bible that went to the moon and back with Apollo XIV.

In 2015, the Dunham Bible Museum acquired a fourth collection, when Bill Chamberlain donated his major collection of English Bible translations. Through the donation of several individuals, the Museum was able to purchase the Heritage Edition of The St. John's Bible. This seven volume work is a limited edition facsimile of the beautifully illuminated and hand calligraphied manuscript commissioned by St. John's Abbey at the turn of the new millennium.

With the move into the Morris Cultural Arts Center, the Dunham Bible Museum also began the Dunham Bible Museum Lecture series. The first lecture was given by Dr. Charles Ryrie, a Bible collector himself, as well as a theologian and author of numerous books, including the *Ryrie Study Bible*. Since that first lecture in September 2008, over thirty-five distinguished scholars have come to speak on every area of the Bible's history, influence, and impact. Conferences have also been held around the themes of Biblical archaeology, the 500th anniversary of Erasmus' Greek text, and the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Videos of most of these lectures are available online at the Dunham Bible Museum's website, readily accessible to students and scholars alike.



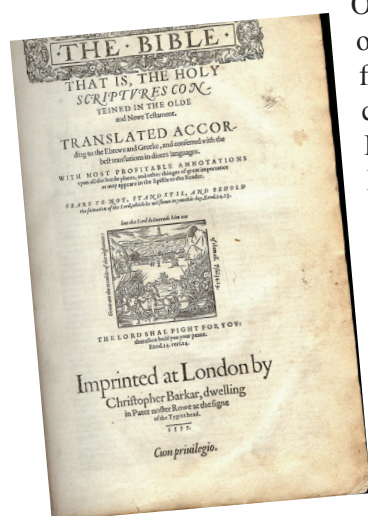
Abraham Lincoln as seen on "The Bible throughout American History" mural. The Scripture quoted underneath Lincoln is Mark 3:25, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Many people discover the Dunham Bible Museum through its extensive website <hbu.edu/biblemuseum>. Virtual tours of the various exhibits, a catalogue of the collections, and reprints of many of the study materials in the Bibles are all available online. In all its exhibits and programs, the goal of the Dunham Bible Museum is to bring visitors to the light of Scripture and to draw people to God's Word, which He has magnified above His Name (Psalm 138:2). Visitors, who come from all over the country and the world, leave with a renewed appreciation for the preservation of the Bible and for the sacrifices many have made for us to so easily read the Bibles we have today.

Bibles with Family Records

In 2011, a wonderful team from the Houston Genealogical Forum reviewed all of the Bibles in the Dunham Bible Museum collection for the family records recorded in them. After photographing, transcribing, and digitizing the family records in over 100 Bibles, they created a searchable database and placed it on the Houston Genealogical Forum website. However, a few years ago, when the HGF changed its website server, the search engine for the database no longer worked! HGF gave the Bible Museum the photos and transcribed records to rebuild a new searchable database. Emma Perry, then a senior at HBU, began organizing the genealogical material and, with the help of Chris Lampson, the University's web developer, constructed a new searchable database with both photos and transcriptions of the family pages. Many Bibles added to the collection since 2011 also had family records. Photos and transcriptions of these were made, bringing the total to over 160. Miss Perry, now a classics instructor at Covenant Academy, spent the summer working on completing the database, which will soon be available on the Museum's website.

The Amazing History of the Seymour-Knightley Bible



One of the most interesting of the Bibles containing family records, part of the collection from Donald Brake, is a 1577 Geneva Bible whose original owners were Sir Richard Knightley (1532-1615) and Elizabeth Seymour Knightley (1550-1602), important figures in the court of Tudor England. Elizabeth was the niece of Jane Seymour, the third wife of King Henry VIII and the mother of King Edward VI. Elizabeth thus was a cousin of King

Edward. Elizabeth's father, Edward, 1st Duke of Somerset, was Lord Protector of Edward for several years.

The Knightleys were a leading family in Northamptonshire. During his terms in Parliament, Sir Richard was among the Puritans seeking further reforms in the Church of England. Elizabeth and Richard had seven sons and two daughters. In the 1577 Bible, Elizabeth lists her children and their births, as well as witnesses to their births.



The gilt medallion on the cover is flanked by the initials S K, for Seymour Knightley, the earliest owners of the 1577 Bible.

Most interesting is the entry for Robert: "My sonne Robert was borne of Norton the xv of September, being Saturday, betweene of xi and one of the cloke of nyght, 1588. Her Majesty, my lord Treasurer, and the erle of Demond." Robert was born shortly after the defeat of the Spanish Armada, with Queen Elizabeth being one of the witnesses!

The Knightleys' oldest son, Seymour (1580-1640), inherited the 1577 Bible. Seymour matriculated at Oxford and later was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. He had 10 children, and his fourth son Robert (1609-1654) inherited the Bible. The births, marriages, and deaths of the family continue to be recorded, usually with 10-12 children in a family. Robert's great, great, granddaughter, Martha Manaton (1747-1813) married Cornthweaite Ommanny (1736-1801), who was a naval officer. For several years he had commands in Newfoundland. In 1776, he commanded the *Tartar* and participated in the campaign to capture New York. The Ommannys had six sons and a daughter. The sons were leading military officers and in Parliament. Daughter Ann Ommanny (b. 1793) inherited the 1577 Bible. Her son, Thomas Ommanny Pipon (1815-1890), was the last known owner of the Bible.

In addition to the family records, the Bible includes devotional material copied into the Bible by Sir Richard and his wife Elizabeth. How fascinating to know of 9 generations who treasured this copy of God's Word!



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

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
PERMIT #1

281-649-3287
DSeverance@HBU.edu

Visit our website at
HBU.edu/BibleMuseum

Visit our website at www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum
There you will find virtual tours of the Museum's exhibits, past and present, as well as videos of past lectures and much more.

"We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever."
Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

Upcoming Events

• **October 13-15, 2022** – International Society of Bible Collectors annual meeting will be this year at Houston Christian University and the Dunham Bible Museum.

<http://www.biblecollectors.org/isbc2022conventionflyer.htm>

• **November 2, 11am-1pm** – Dunham Bible Museum's 25th anniversary lecture and luncheon. <https://connect.hbu.edu/dbm25>

Current Special Exhibits

• **"Celebrating the Life of Jesus, the Christ: Three Centuries of Bible Art"** <http://www.biblecollectors.org/isbc2022conventionflyer.htm>

• **"The Treasured Word"**

The Dunham Bible Museum's regular exhibits include:

- Bible manuscripts
- Early printed Bibles
- English bibles
- American Bibles
- The St. John's Bible
- Foreign Bible translations

...all designed to show the Bible's history, influence, and impact.



Refo500

CONNECTING YOU,
THEN AND NOW

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!