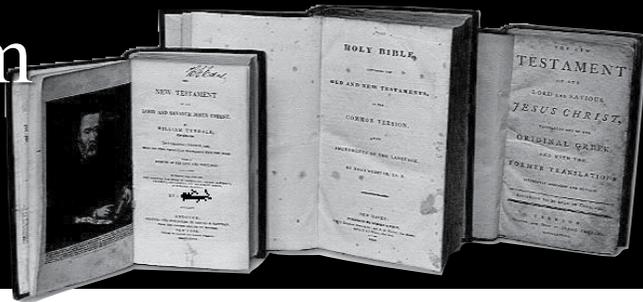


# Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

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## J.S. Bach's Bible on Exhibit

The Dunham Bible Museum will host *Soli Deo Gloria*, a rare exhibit of Johann S. Bach's personal Bible, Aug. 27 - Oct. 1. Bach's personal notes and underlinings in his Bible bear witness to the composer's Christian faith, and the Bible itself has a fascinating history.

Though a catalog of Bach's estate listed a library of some 80 theological works, at the beginning of the twentieth century German Bach scholar Hans Preuss wondered "where is the Bible, without which we cannot imagine Bach at all?"

The whereabouts of none of the books from Bach's library were known.

In 1933, Pastor C.G. Riedel attended the District Conference of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in Frankenmuth, Michigan. During the conference he stayed at the farm home of Leonard Reichle, his cousin. When Reichle showed Pastor Riedel a Bible his father had bought in Philadelphia in 1847, Pastor Riedel saw something the Reichle family had never noticed – the signature "J.S. Bach, 1733" in the corner of the page. Reichle brought down the two companion volumes of this same Bible. Each had the same signature and date. Could this truly have been signed by J.S. Bach 200 years previously? Tracings of the signature were made and sent to Hans Preuss in Germany, who verified the signature's authenticity.

In the nineteenth century, Philadelphia was one of the largest centers of the second-hand book trade in the United States. Dealers often persuaded needy immigrants to sell their books at very low prices. Efforts to trace the book-sellers of Bach's Bible and to discover if other books from Bach's library made it to America have so far been unsuccessful.

In 1938, Leonard Reichle presented the three-volume Bach Bible to the library of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. The library has graciously loaned the Bible to the Dunham Bible Museum for this special exhibit.

The Bible Bach owned, originally published in three volumes in 1681-1682, consists of Martin Luther's German Bible translation and a commentary on the Bible written by Abraham Calov (1612-1686). Calov was a staunch defender of Lutheran orthodoxy in the seventeenth century, and much of his commentary is actually taken from Martin Luther's own works. In the Bible, each verse of Scripture is written in large bold type, followed by Calov's commentary in smaller font.



*Volumes 2 and 3 of Bach's Bible will be on display at the Dunham Bible Museum Aug. 27 - Oct. 1.*

Since Bach purchased the Bible in 1773, it obviously had been owned by others previously. Scientific analysis of the ink and handwriting, however, have identified 348 markings, underlinings and marginal notes by Bach's own hand. These were all made for Bach's private use, without thought that anyone else would be reading them, and they offer a glimpse into Bach's soul and spiritual life. Several of the notes are grammatical corrections in the text or additions where verses were missing from Calov's text – showing Bach's knowledge and close attention to the Scriptures. Beside I Chronicles 25 Bach wrote "This chapter is the true foundation of all God-pleasing church music."

It is well known that Bach wrote "SDG," for "Soli Deo Gloria" – "only to the glory of God" – on many of his musical manuscripts. With that same spirit, Bach wrote in his Bible at II Chronicles 5:12-13, "In devotional music, God is always present with His Grace."

Bach's Bible will be accompanied by museum graphics on Bach, his music, and his Bible, all created by Dr. Thomas Rossin, whose lecture on Bach's Bible will be on Sept. 27, at 3 p.m. in the Dunham Theater. His lecture will be followed by a reception and an organ concert at 5 p.m. in the Belin Chapel, as part of the dedication of HBU's new pipe organ.

The exhibition *Soli Deo Gloria* is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

# Fall Events at the Dunham Bible Museum

*Soli Deo Gloria*, an exhibit featuring the personal, hand-annotated Bible of Johann Sebastian Bach, opens the fall schedule of events at the Dunham Bible Museum.

Concordia Seminary in St. Louis is loaning Bach's Bible for this special exhibit, which will be from Aug. 27 through Oct. 1.



Dreisbach

The first lecture in the Dunham Bible Museum's 2009-2010 lecture series is scheduled for Constitution Day, Sept. 17. The Constitution Convention in Philadelphia signed the completed Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787, and sent it to the states for ratification. **Dr. Daniel Dreisbach** will be speaking on the 222nd anniversary of this event. Dr. Dreisbach is professor of justice, law and society for the School of Public Affairs at American

University and author or editor of seven books, including *Thomas Jefferson and the Wall of Separation between Church and State*. He was scheduled to speak at HBU last year, but Hurricane Ike re-arranged that schedule (and many others in Houston). Recently, Dreisbach was one of six reviewers for the Texas' State Board of Education on the revision of Texas' social studies curriculum. Dreisbach will speak at 7 p.m. in the Belin Chapel on "How the English Bible Shaped American Culture."



Rossin

Sunday, Sept. 27 at 3 p.m., **Dr. Thomas Rossin**, composer, church musician, and founder and conductor of *Exultate*, will deliver a lecture titled "Johann Sebastian Bach: his Bible and his Music," analyzing the marginal notations in the Bach's Bible. Designed to complement the *Soli Deo Gloria* exhibit, the lecture is also timed to coincide with a 5 p.m. dedication concert for HBU's new Smith Organ in the Belin

Chapel. Dr. Rossin's lecture will be in the Dunham Theater in the Morris Cultural Arts Center.



Ryken

**Dr. Leland Ryken** will present a lecture, "The Bible as a Literary Classic," on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Belin Chapel. Dr. Ryken is professor of English at Wheaton College and the author of numerous books on the Christian perspectives on literature, including *Milton and Scriptural Tradition* and *The Apocalyptic Vision in Paradise Lost*. Dr. Ryken also produced the *ESV Literary Study Bible* with his son, Dr. Philip Ryken.



Williams

The final lecture for the fall, "Moral Objections to the Old Testament," will be by **Dr. Peter Williams**, Warden of Tyndale House in Cambridge, England. Educated at Cambridge University, where he received his PhD in the study of ancient languages related to the Bible, Dr. Williams was on the faculty of Cambridge University and the University of Aberdeen. He has written numerous articles and monographs on the Biblical texts and was co-editor of *The New Testament in its First Century Setting*. Williams is an extremely knowledgeable apologist for the Christian faith who has capably debated leading skeptics. Dr. Williams' lecture will be Monday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in Dillon II, in the Hinton Building.

*The Dunham Bible Museum Lecture series was established to bring to HBU and the Houston community nationally and internationally recognized scholars to elucidate the Bible's influence and importance in history, government, education, literature, law and culture. The Bible Museum will be open for visitors before and after each of the lectures. The 2009-2010 Dunham Bible Museum Lectures are sponsored in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

## Visiting the Museum & Upcoming Events

The **Dunham Bible Museum** is open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To make an appointment at other times, for group tours or for further information, contact **Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or [dseverance@hbu.edu](mailto:dseverance@hbu.edu)**.

### COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for upcoming lectures and exhibits (the Bible Museum will be open before and after all lectures).

- **Soli Deo Gloria** - a special exhibit featuring the personal, hand-annotated Bible of Johann Sebastian Bach, Aug. 27 - Oct. 1.
- "**How the English Bible Shaped American Culture**" by **Dr. Daniel L. Dreisbach**, Thursday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. in the Belin Chapel in the Morris Cultural Arts Center.
- "**Johann Sebastian Bach: his Bible and his Music,**" by **Dr. Thomas D. Rossin**, Sunday, Sept. 27, 3 p.m., Dunham Theater in the Morris Cultural Arts Center.
- "**The Bible as a Literary Classic,**" by **Dr. Leland Ryken**, Thursday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m. in the Belin Chapel in the Morris Cultural Arts Center.
- "**Moral Objections to the Old Testament,**" by **Dr. Peter J. Williams**, Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. in Dillon II of the Hinton Building.
- "**The Bible and Higher Education,**" by **Dr. David Lyle Jeffrey**, Thursday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. in Dillon II of the Hinton Building.

## PRIVATE RECEPTIONS PLANNED FOR DUNHAM BIBLE MUSEUM FRIENDS

Invitations have been mailed to Dunham Bible Museum Friends for a private reception with Dr. Daniel Dreisbach after his September 17th lecture and with Dr. Leland Ryken after his October 1st lecture. The receptions will be held in the Dunham Bible Museum Theater. Friends will have the opportunity to meet and converse in more depth with these distinguished scholars, as well as to meet other supporters of the Museum. If you are interested in attending the reception, there is still time to join the Dunham Bible Museum Friends.

The Dunham Bible Museum Friends was founded in 2008 to support the programs and collections of the Museum through annual contributions and participation in Museum events. Dunham Bible Museum Friends help spread the word about the exhibits and activities of the Dunham Bible Museum. Friends also 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. Levels of membership include

- King James Level (\$50; \$30 for students)
- Geneva Level (\$75)
- Coverdale Level (\$250)
- Wycliffe Level (\$500)
- Tyndale Level (\$1000)
- Gutenberg Level (Corporate Benefactor, \$200 or more))
- St. Jerome Level (Life-time Membership - \$10,000)

All Friends receive year-long benefits of a printed subscription to the *Dunham Bible Museum News*, invitations to exhibit openings, and a discount on Museum store purchases. Additional benefits are available for those contributing at the Geneva Level or above. Membership applications are available online under "Friends of the Dunham Bible Museum" at the museum's website [www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum).

## THREE GRANTS RECEIVED

This summer the Dunham Bible Museum was the grateful recipient of three grants. *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books and on-line resources, was donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The collection of books specifically was designed to help small museums in collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and specific conservation issues. Distribution of the *Bookshelf* is a crucial component of a nation-wide conservation initiative launched by IMLS in 2006 to further in the preservation of the many collections throughout the country that reflect America's heritage.

Two other grants were awarded by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. A \$1000 grant was received to help bring the Bach Bible exhibit to HBU. A separate \$1000 grant was given in support of the Dunham Bible Museum Lecture Series.



## DONATIONS EXPAND FOREIGN BIBLE COLLECTION

The Dunham Bible Museum has received several donations of Bibles in foreign languages. Mary Walker, daughter of missionary Charles Culpepper (1895-1986), donated two Chinese Bibles. One is in the Chinese of the main land, the other is in the Chinese of Hong Kong and Taiwan. Mrs. Walker was a missionary to Japan; for 42 years her father was a missionary to China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong under the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A Bible in the Thai language was donated by Rev. Philip Pope, who was on the translation team for this Bible translation.

Phyllis and Vic Prange donated a Bible, hymnal and devotional book in Czech. These belonged to Marie Larva, a 19th century immigrant to the United States from Lanzhot, Czechoslovakia.

Other donations have added to the Museum's American collection. Sybil Burnham Wolff donated the 19th century *Sunday School Teacher's Edition Bible* used by New England Methodist pastor George Emory Burnham. Evelyn Myatt donated an 1885 *Pictorial Family Bible*.

## "QUIRT EVANS'" BIBLE

"Quirt Evans'" Bible is now part of the Dunham Bible Museum collection. Quirt Evans was the character played by John Wayne in the 1947 film *The Angel and the Badman*, the first movie in which Wayne was both actor and producer. In the film, Quirt Evans is a gunman who is persuaded to turn from violence by a Quaker lady, whom he eventually marries. The Bible has an important part in the development of the movie's story and in leading gunman (John Wayne) into a more peaceful and productive life.

John Sexton donated the Bible to the Museum. Both Sexton's grandfather and father, and now his brother, were prop men in Hollywood. When Sexton's father purchased a prop box from a man who had worked on several of John Wayne's movies, the Bible engraved with "Quirt Evans'" name was in the box.



"From no source has the author drawn more copiously than from the Sacred Scriptures. For this I certainly apprehend no censure. In a Christian country, that man is to be pitied, who at this day, can honestly object to imbuing the minds of youth with the language and spirit of the Word of God."

William Holmes McGuffey in his preface to his  
1837 *Eclectic Third Reader*



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

“Holy Scripture is a stream of running water, where alike the elephant may swim, and the lamb walk without losing its feet.”

— Pope Gregory the Great (540-604)

Please notify us of any changes or corrections in your address. We also welcome hearing from our readers and Museum visitors. If you would like to receive the Dunham Bible Museum News by e-mail and save the University postage, send your e-mail address to [dseverance@hbu.edu](mailto:dseverance@hbu.edu).



A poster-size version of the “Bible Throughout American History” mural in the Dunham Bible Museum is now available at the Museum’s gift counter for \$10. The attractive poster features people and events important in American history, from Christopher Columbus to 9-11, with specific Bible verses which were influential to them.

## Become a Volunteer *the pay is out of this world!*

During its first year in its new location with expanded exhibits, the number of visitors to the Dunham Bible Museum has increased dramatically. This increase promises to continue as more and more people learn of this treasure in Houston.

It would have been impossible to provide tours for the growing number of people without a small group of faithful volunteers. Volunteers serve as tour guides and/or help with clerical duties, such as accessioning and cataloging donations and acquisitions.



If you would like to become a part of the Dunham Bible Museum volunteer team, please contact Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or [dseverance@hbu.edu](mailto:dseverance@hbu.edu).