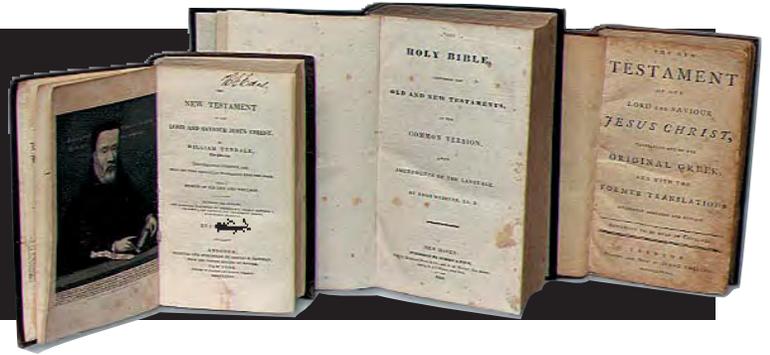


# Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

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## Astronaut Williams' experiences "out of this world"



Jeff Williams

Astronaut Jeff Williams shared his truly out of this world experiences and reflections when he presented the last of the season's Dunham Bible Museum lectures April 14. Williams showed photos of earth he had taken during his space shuttle flights, giving a unique perspective of our planet. Since humans are created in the image of God, Williams noted that we can appreciate the beauty and harmony of the various earth formations as seen from space. Viewing the earth from space, the mathematical symmetry of features such as sand dunes were indeed beautiful. The patterns seen on earth from space testified to God as Creator. Williams also noted that though the views of the earth from space were witnesses to God as Creator, it was only in the Bible that we could find God's complete revelation of Himself. Williams explained that his experiences in space confirmed his Christian convictions,

but they were not the basis for his faith. He said the strength and foundation of his faith comes from God's Word, the Bible, not from his experiences in space, spectacular as those were.

After the lecture, Williams autographed copies of his book, *The Work of His Hands*, which includes both Williams' photos from the space shuttle as well as his Christian reflections. A few autographed copies of *The Work of His Hands* are available in the Dunham Bible Museum's gift shop.



Nick Bruno (HBU 2011 graduate) spoke with Astronaut Williams as he autographed *The Work of His Hands*. Bruno won a first place in the "A Piece of the Past" essay contest. (See story pg. 2)

## Check out HGF's Bible records transcriptions

The Houston Genealogical Forum (HGF), under the direction of Project Manager Gloria LaVonne Wright Russell, has completed its project of creating a database for the Family Records in the Dunham Bible Museum's American Bible Collection. HGF volunteers photographed family records in over 100 Bibles, transcribed these, noted any special inscriptions in the Bibles, and placed all into excel spreadsheet format. After untold hours of tedious and careful work by the volunteers, and Gloria's unflagging perseverance, the photographs and transcriptions are now available online at the HGF website, [www.hgftx.org](http://www.hgftx.org). Instructions are also given for searching the data base. A link to HGF's Bible Museum database can also be found on the Dunham Bible Museum's website. We deeply appreciate the labors of Houston Genealogical Forum members who brought this project

to completion. HGF is making plans to add Family Records from the Dunham Bible Museum's Brake and Hellstern collections to the database. We are eager to hear from those who find their families among the HGF's Bible records transcriptions.



Project Director Gloria Russell (right) looks on as Loretta Thompson photographs Family Records pages from American Bibles for HGF database.



See inside for details of the upcoming special conference  
KJV @ 400:

*A Story of Biblical Proportions*  
October 28-29, 2011

# Codex Sinaiticus facsimile added to Museum's collection

The newest addition to the Dunham Bible Museum's collection is the photographic facsimile of the *Codex Sinaiticus* recently published by the Codex Sinaiticus Project. *Codex Sinaiticus* is the oldest surviving Greek New Testament and one of two oldest manuscripts of the entire Bible, making it one of the most important ancient manuscripts of the Bible. Dating from the mid-4th century, the book is important not only for the study of Biblical manuscripts but also for the history of book-making and bookbinding. With over 730 leaves in the original book, the work would have required at least 365 large animal skins to produce the necessary parchment.



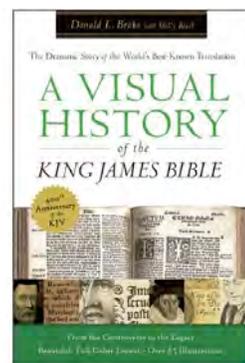
Tischendorf managed (the details of how are debated) to have St. Catherine's Monastery give the manuscript to Tsar Alexander II of Russia, who had financed Tischendorf's travels and was patron of the Orthodox Church. In return, the Tsar gave St. Catherine's 7,000 gold rubles. In 1933, when Russia was under the Communists and in great need of cash, Russia sold most of its portion of the manuscript to England for £100,00, funds raised under the leadership of England's Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury (five leaves did remain in Russia). The volume is in the British Library. In 1975, 12 more leaves and 24 fragments of the manuscript were found during a restoration project at St. Catherine's. Recently a fragment was also found in the binding of another book at the monastery.

The story behind the manuscript is filled with intrigue and open questions. In 1844, German biblical scholar Constantine Tischendorf visited St. Catherine's Monastery near Mt. Sinai, a rich repository of biblical manuscripts. In a basket he found 129 parchment sheets of a 4th century manuscript of the Greek translation of the Old Testament. Tischendorf took 43 folio leaves back to Germany and gave them to the Saxon government for the library at Leipzig University, where they remain to this day (there's some debate about whether or not Tischendorf had permission to take the manuscripts). A lithographic reproduction of the leaves was published in 1846. When Tischendorf returned to the monastery in 1853, no one knew anything about the remaining leaves of the manuscript. In 1859, however, Tischendorf discovered the much larger manuscript, including 86 Old Testament leaves, the entire New Testament, and two writings from the early church.

In 2005, the holders of the various portions of the manuscript, which included the British Library, the National Library of Russia, Leipzig University Library, and St. Catherine's Monastery, agreed to participate in the Codex Sinaiticus Project. The Project's goals included research on the manuscript's history (possibly solving some of the disputes about Tischendorf's actions in removing the manuscript from the monastery), as well as conservation, digitization, electronic transcription and dissemination of information about the manuscript. The photographic facsimile now in the Dunham Bible Museum and the Project's website, [www.codexsinaiticus.com](http://www.codexsinaiticus.com), reflect the use of the most cutting edge technology to research and study this most important book from the ancient world.

## Visual history of the KJB features books in Museum's collection

Dr. Donald Brake's *A Visual History of the King James Bible*, was published by Baker Books just in time for the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. The photos in this beautifully illustrated book are taken from Brake's personal collection, which now is in the Dunham Bible Museum. Brake has written an engaging account of the history of the King James Bible on this important anniversary year. Dunham Bible Museum Friends at the Geneva level and above receive a copy of the book. The book is also available for purchase in the Museum's gift shop.



## Winners of "A Piece of the Past"

This school year saw the inauguration of an essay contest for students to celebrate and promote HBU's three University museums – the Dunham Bible Museum, the Museum of Architecture and Decorative Arts, and the Museum of Southern History. The contest was sponsored by Joella and Stewart Morris. Stewart Morris is one of the founders and a major patron of Houston Baptist University. Joella is founder and benefactress of the Museum of Southern History. Students were encouraged to write essays on one of the artifacts in the three museums. First and second place awards were given for the best essays in each museum.

Winners in the Dunham Bible Museum category were senior Nicholas Bruno and freshman Andrew Adler. Bruno received the first place award of \$500 for his essay on Matthew Carey's first American printing of the Roman Catholic Douay/Rheims translation of the Bible. For his second place essay on Adoniram Judson's Burmese translation, Adler received \$250.



Andrew Adler

The awards were presented at a special dinner and ceremony at the River Oaks Country Club, hosted by the Morrisses and Lisa (Morris) and Jerry Simon. Both winning essays will be posted on the Dunham Bible Museum's website, [www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum).

"The Lord does not shine upon us unless we see by his Word as our light"

— John Calvin

# A “Story of Biblical Proportions”

Registration is now open for the Dunham Bible Museum’s **KJV@400: A Story of Biblical Proportions** conference, a forum October 28-29, for 21st century scholars to commemorate and reflect on this significant Bible translation made 400 years ago. The *KJV@400 Conference* will consider the historic background of the King James Bible and its cultural influence on England, America, and around the globe. A stellar collection of scholars and topics are scheduled:



- **Donald Brake** (Dean emeritus of Multnomah Seminary) – first printing of the King James Bible and its 2011 census;
- **Gerald Bray** (Beeson Divinity School) – historical context and background of the King James Bible;
- **Leonard Greenspoon** (Creighton University) – Hebrew influence on the English of the King James translation;
- **David Jeffrey** (Baylor University) – advantages of a common book;
- **Timothy Larsen** – Bible and 19th century Victorian and British culture;
- **Liana Lupas** (American Bible Society) – Bible in America

- **Leland Ryken** (Wheaton) – Legacy of the KJV;
- **Robert Sloan** (Houston Baptist University) – KJV and Handel’s Messiah.

The Dunham Bible Museum, with 150 rare Bibles on display and its special exhibit *KJV@400: From Hampton Court, around the Globe, and to the Moon*, will be open throughout the conference. Lunch and dinner during the conference will be served in McNair Hall of the Morris Cultural Arts Center, allowing attendees to visit freely with scholars and others at the conference, as well have easy access to the Bible Museum, which will be open throughout the conference.

Cost for the conference is \$110, which includes lunch and dinner Friday and Saturday. A special rate of \$85 has been provided for students and pastors. There is no registration fee for Dunham Bible Museum Friends or for Houston Baptist University faculty, staff, and students, but they should register for the conference and purchase meal tickets if eating at the conference. Registration is available online at [www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum) or by mail to Dunham Bible Museum, Houston Baptist University, 7502 Fondren Rd., Houston, TX 77074. For more information contact Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or [dseverance@hbu.edu](mailto:dseverance@hbu.edu).

## The Benefits of *Friends*

One benefit of being a member of the Dunham Bible Museum Friends is attending the *KJV@400 Conference* without having to pay the registration fee! The Dunham Bible Museum Friends is an important group of supporters of the Dunham Bible Museum’s programs and collections. Friends enjoy discounts at the Museum’s gift shop and special opportunities to tour inside the Museum. This year, Friends have the privilege of attending the *KJV@400 Conference* without paying a registration fee. 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.

There are several levels of membership, ranging from the King James Level for \$50, through the Geneva Level (\$75), Coverdale (\$250), Wycliffe (\$500), Tyndale (\$1000), Gutenberg Corporate Level (\$2000 or more), and St. Jerome Life-time Membership (\$10,000). Different benefits accompany each level of membership. You may join the **Friends** through the Dunham Bible Museum website, [www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum), or mail in your membership to: Dunham Bible Museum, Houston Baptist University, 7502 Fondren Rd., Houston, TX 77074. For more information contact Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or [dseverance@hbu.edu](mailto:dseverance@hbu.edu).

## KJV wins at WorldFest Houston

*KJV: The Making of the King James Bible*, a documentary film produced by the Christian History Institute in cooperation with the Dunham Bible Museum, received a Special Jury Award in the Film and Video Productions category at the 44th WorldFest International Independent Film Festival held April 8-17 in Houston.



Director Jerry Griffith receiving award for *KJV: Making of the King James Bible* at WorldFest Houston.

The documentary, portions of which were filmed at the Dunham Museum in April 2010, was among approximately 15 percent of the more than 4,400 festival entries to receive an award. KJV director Jerry Griffith said, “I was thrilled to see that a secular festival can appreciate the relevance of a film on Christian history. I don’t think this kind of award would have been possible without access to the wonderful collection at the Dunham Bible Museum. The King James Bible was the result of a group of Christians putting aside their petty differences and working together to create a version of the bible that would speak to the mind, the soul and the heart. We set out to tell that story, and I continue to be inspired by it.”

DVDs of *KJV: The Making of the King James Bible* are available in the Dunham Bible Museum’s gift shop.



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"The English Bible is the first of national treasures,  
and in its spiritual significance the most valuable  
thing that this world affords."

~ King George V, 1911



**OCTOBER 28-29, 2011**  
**Commemorate the 400th Anniversary of The KJV with**  
***KJV@400: A Story of Biblical Proportions.***

*See inside for details.*

**BIBLE LEAVES FOR SALE**

The Dunham Bible Museum does have a small number of early English Bible leaves for sale. These are from portions of Bibles which had fallen into pieces and disrepair, but individual leaves remain in good condition. A limited number of leaves are available from:

- 1611 King James Bible (\$225 framed; \$190 unframed)
- Pre-1650 King James Bible (\$100 unframed)
- 17th century Geneva Bible (\$25 unframed)

Understandably, all Scripture passages are not available. These would make excellent gifts, especially in this 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

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