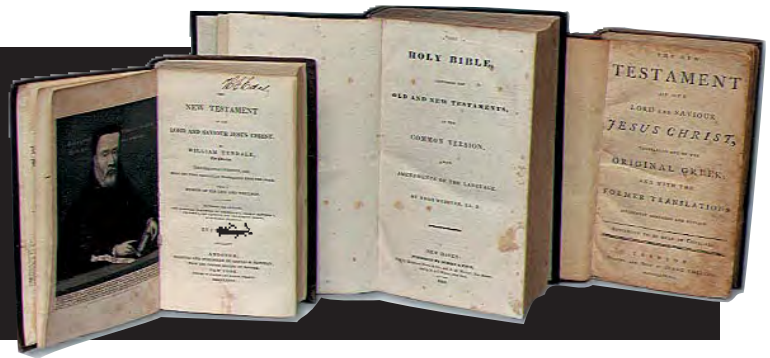


# Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

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## Thumb Bibles and Miniature Books

A new display of miniature books and “Thumb Bibles” is now in the vestibule of the Dunham Bible Museum. Miniature books have been printed since the earliest days of printing. Their small size made them convenient to carry in a pocket or handbag, and they were also perfect prizes and gifts for children. In the 19th century, miniature Bibles came to be called Thumb Bibles, after the famous midget Tom Thumb (not only because some of them are barely bigger than a person’s thumb!). Miniature books in the Dunham Bible Museum’s collection date from the 17th-20th centuries.

A miniature edition of Thomas á Kempis’ *Imitation of Christ* was printed in Venice in 1677. The *Imitation of Christ* was a favorite in miniature, with the earliest printed in Antwerp in 1550.

The Dunham’s collection includes one of the most famous Thumb Bibles, *The Bible in Miniature, or a concise history of the Old and New Testaments* printed by Elizabeth Newbury in 1780. Elizabeth was the niece of John Newbery, the first publisher in England to focus on the publication of children’s books and the one for whom the annual Newbery Medal in children’s literature is named. The preface to her 1780 miniature Bible notes how sad it is that in a country where the Bible is readily available, so many are ignorant of its first principles. In 256 miniature pages, the book summarizes the Old and New Testaments, hoping to give a taste of the wisdom of God and how all ages find their completion in Jesus Christ.

Other miniature books in the display include the smallest edition of the Greek New Testament ever printed, printed in 1828, and a miniature of *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians*, which was once in the miniature book collection of Stanley Marcus, of Neiman-Marcus. One Thumb Bible, first printed in 1614, contains a paraphrase in verse of both testaments by the English poet John Taylor (1578-1653). His stated purpose of the work:

*With care and pains out of the Sacred Book,  
This little Abstract for thee took:  
And with great reverence have I cull’d from them,  
All things that are of Greatest consequence.*

The Dunham’s edition of Taylor’s work dates from 1854.

Standing tall among the miniature book display is a miniature Bible chained to a miniature pulpit. When Henry VIII first allowed English Bibles in England and ordered a Bible available in every parish church, Bibles were chained to pulpits or reading stands to prevent theft and insure the Bible would be available for all to read. The miniature pulpit and chained Bible, a recent Museum acquisition, was made as a commemorative souvenir for the tercentenary of the King James Bible in 1911. The binding of the miniature Bible, printed by Oxford University Press, purportedly recreates the binding of William Shakespeare’s family Bible, and the pages between



*Miniature Pulpit with Chained Bible, 1911. The smallness of the Bible can be seen relative to the fingers holding the Bible.*



the Old and New Testaments include Shakespeare’s family records from the Holy Trinity Church. This was an interesting marketing approach, since it has been shown that Shakespeare mostly used the Geneva Bible translation, not the KJV being commemorated!

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## Early English Bible History Tour Planned for 2014

A fascinating tour of England, focusing on the early history of the English Bible, is planned for 2014. The early English Bible and William Tyndale, (who was the first to translate the New Testament into English from the Greek and who endured exile, great hardship, and ultimately martyrdom) will be the focus of the tour.

William Tyndale’s translation work not only changed Bible history but English history. We know some of the end results of Tyndale’s work, but when did such strong commitment begin? How did the idea of such a phenomenal challenge ever start? What are the theological underpinnings of Tyndale’s work, and what have been the lasting influences of his Bible translation and his writings?

The Early English Bible tour will explore these questions about William Tyndale and visit many places associated with Tyndale and the early English Bible. Highlights include:

- Oxford – including visits to Merton and Hertford Colleges, the colleges of John Wycliffe and William Tyndale, the Martyrs Memorial, the Bodleian Library, and HBU’s C.S. Lewis Centre.
- Gloucestershire and Bristol – visiting this area where Tyndale grew up will include excursions to Berkley Castle and Little Sodbury, where Tyndale was chaplain to the Walsh family and tutored their children.
- Cambridge – where Erasmus taught for a time and Tyndale continued his education. Our visit will include time at Tyndale House, an international study center on the Bible.
- London – take a boat ride down the Thames, and enjoy special tours of St. Paul’s Cathedral, the British Library, and a reception and tour of the Lambeth Palace Library, hosted by the Tyndale Society.



*Tyndale’s translation into English of the New Testament was printed abroad, smuggled into England - and then burned in front of St. Paul’s Cathedral, since the Bible in English was illegal at the time.*

The tour is being planned by Dr. David Davis, HBU Assistant Professor of History, and Dr. John Hellstern, whose Bible collection is a permanent part of the Dunham Bible Museum. Dr. Ralph Werrell, a leading Tyndale scholar, will accompany the tour at key junctures (His books, *The Theology of William Tyndale and The Roots of Tyndale’s Theology* provide excellent preparation for the tour!).



*Statue of William Tyndale in London*

promises to be both intellectually stimulating and spiritually invigorating. Will you join us?

## Archaeology Exhibit & Conference for 2014!



*Khirbet el-Maqatir excavations uncovered a first century house with numerous coins from the New Testament era, which will be on display at the special exhibit.*

Throughout 2014, the Dunham Bible Museum will host a special archaeological exhibit: *Khirbet el-Maqatir: History of a Biblical Site*. Khirbet el-Maqatir is possibly the site of ancient Ai, the city Joshua conquered after the fall of Jericho (Joshua 7-8). The Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria has approved the loan of 40 artifacts from the excavations for the exhibit at the Dunham Bible Museum January 20 – December 19, 2014.

The artifacts date from the Late Bronze Age, the Early Roman period, and the Byzantine era, spanning between 3500 and 1500 years ago.

There has been some debate about the exact location of Biblical Ai. Excavations at Et-Tell, which many had thought might be the site, failed to uncover evidence the site was even occupied at the time of Joshua. This led many to deny the historicity of the Joshua narrative. Dr. Bryant Wood, Director of Research for the Associates for Biblical Research, carefully examined the geographical features required of the Biblical Ai and thought Khirbet el-Maqatir would better fit the site of Ai. Wood has led the excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir since 1995, and his team has uncovered archaeological evidence suggesting this is indeed the site of Ai.

A special conference on Khirbet el-Maqatir and Biblical archaeology will be held February 7-8, 2014, in the Belin Chapel. Speakers include Dr. Wood along with three other excavators at Khirbet el-Maqatir. Dr. Eugene Merrill, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, will consider Ai in the light of Old Testament chronology. Dr. Scott Stripling, director of the Khirbet el-Maqatir excavations and Chair of Humanities and Foreign Languages at Wharton County Junior College, will speak on the history and archaeology of the Byzantine monastery at the site. Dr. Leen Ritmeyer, the archeological architect of the excavation who has also done a tremendous work on the archeology and buildings of ancient Jerusalem, particularly the Temple Mount area, will examine if the Byzantine church at Maqatir reflects the sacred architecture of the Temple in Jerusalem. Dr. Donald Brake, dean emeritus of Multnomah Seminary and former President of



*Infant Burial Jar from the Khirbet el-Maqatir excavations will be part of the upcoming exhibit.*

Jerusalem University College (and whose Bible collection is now at the Dunham Bible Museum) will consider archaeological contributions to our knowledge of Jesus in the Holy Land.

Registration and further information will be on the Dunham Bible Museum's website.

You are invited to become a

## *Dunham Bible Museum Friend*

Friends have the satisfaction that their tax deductible gift helps the Dunham Bible Museum continue to develop its special exhibits and programs, like the upcoming archaeology exhibit and conference, enabling the Museum to achieve its goal of being a premier museum dedicated to the Bible, its message, history and influence.

Memberships are available at several levels and benefits:

**King James (\$50), Geneva (\$75, Coverdale (\$250)**

**Wycliffe (\$500, Tyndale (\$1000)**

**Gutenberg (Corporate) & St. Jerome (Lifetime- \$10,000)**

For more information visit the Museum's website at

**[www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum)**

Memberships may be submitted online or by mailing to Dunham Bible Museum, HBU, 7502 Fondren Road, Houston, TX 77074.

## *In Memoriam*

### **GORDAN SEVERANCE**

April 11, 1921 – July 18, 2013

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR, DIANA SEVERANCE



July 18, 2013, Gordon Barker Severance, my husband, left this earthly life and went to Paradise. Gordon, emeritus professor from both Cal. State L.A. and University of Nevada, Reno, was an adjunct economics and business law professor at HBU from 1998-2006. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Dunham Bible Museum and worked with me as we created the design of the current museum. Funds were not sufficient to fully construct all the designs planned for the new museum

in 2008, so Gordon provided the resources to finish off the museum to include the audio entrance, the cave flooring, the word wheel, the Jesus the Light of the World and the Pilgrim pictures, and several of the hanging display cases. Gordon and I both were honored and humbled when HBU in 2012, named the Bible Museum's small theater the "Gordon and Diana Severance Lyceum." When guest speakers came for the Dunham Bible Museum lectures, Gordon joined me in hosting them. His engaging conversation was always enlightening, leading one distinguished guest to comment, "That Gordon is all gold." Gordon also diligently read any *Dunham Bible Museum News* before it went to press; his editing always made improvements and will be noticeably missed.

Gordon loved the Scriptures and studied them diligently. He taught a Sunday Bible study and Wednesday Bible study at Houston's Second Baptist for many years. Class members relished the depth and breadth of his lessons. When he was afflicted with ALS the last few years, he never complained, but remembered to "count it all joy when we fall into various trials knowing that the trying of your faith works patience" (James 1:3-4). As weakening muscles prevented him from swallowing, eating normally, or speaking clearly, Gordon recalled his many blessings, radiating a heart full of thankfulness to God in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18). As he lost his vibrant health and boundless energy, Gordon's thoughts turned increasingly to Heaven.



*Gordon with pastors in Vietnam in 1989, when Vets with a Mission brought 5000 Bibles into the country.*

He printed out II Corinthians 4:17-18 and placed the verse next to his computer, where he continued to work until the last few weeks of his life: "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Gordon and I met 23 years ago on a tour of the early church sponsored by Christian History Institute. Our first conversation was in Ephesus, and we became better acquainted in Philippi - where Gordon enthusiastically jumped into the stream where Paul had baptized Lydia centuries before (Acts 16)! When we became engaged, Gordon gave me a beautiful amethyst ring, the purple stone a reminder of Lydia, the dealer in purple in Philippi. Inscribed inside the ring was "I Corinthians 2:9". The verse says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." Today, face to face with the Lord, Gordon knows the meaning of that verse more fully than ever before.



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

“The whole hope of human progress is  
suspended on the ever growing influence of the  
Bible.”

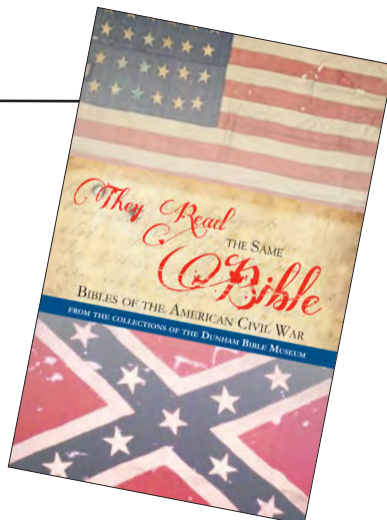
~ William Seward  
Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State

## ON THE CALENDAR

- *They Read the Same Bible* – Special exhibit on Civil War Bibles, through December 13, 2013
- *Khirbet el-Maqatir: History of a Biblical Site* – Special archaeological exhibit from an excavation of Khirbet el-Maqatir, a contender for the Biblical Ai. Artifacts are from the Late Bronze, Early Roman, and Byzantine eras, January 21 – December 19, 2014.
- *Symposium on Biblical Archaeology and Khirbet el-Maqatir* - February 7-8, 2014. Speakers include Drs. Bryant Wood, Eugene Merrill, Leen Ritmeyer, Donald Brake and Scott Stripling. See the Museum's website for registration information.

## They Read The Same Bible

A pamphlet featuring the Dunham Bible Museum's exhibit on Bibles from the American Civil War is now available for \$2.50



Bible Bowl students from St. Mark's Lutheran Church visited the Dunham Bible Museum in April. They found it an awesome way to end a year of learning the Bible. The Bible Bowl can be heard each Saturday morning at 9:30 am on 105.7 KHCB.

VISIT DUNHAM BIBLE MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK



## 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**