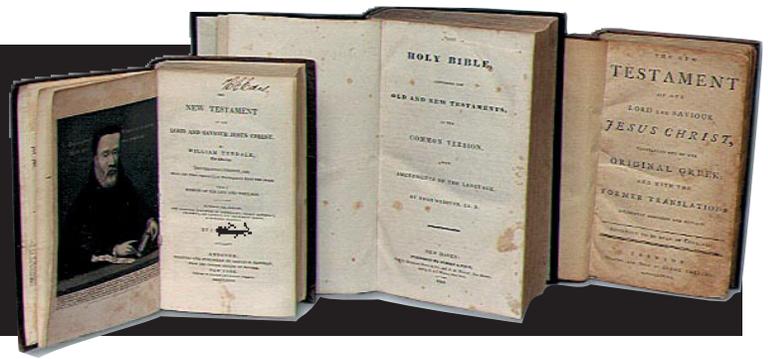


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Fall 2015

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Archie and Linda Dunham's Special Gift

Archie and Linda Dunham continue to provide generous support for many activities at Houston Baptist University. Their many gifts to the Bible Museum over the last decade provided for the moving of the Bible Museum to the Morris Cultural Arts Center and for the acquisition of the collections of Drs. Donald Brake and John Hellstern, featuring the fine collection of early English Bibles. Recently the Dunhams gave to HBU a gift of \$15 million for scholarships, the Dunham College of Business, and the Dunham Bible Museum. Funds allocated for the Bible Museum have been designated for new acquisitions, conservation and preservation of the collection, and additional space in the future.

In a recent article in *The Houston Chronicle* Archie Dunham said, "Linda and I believe the Bible is the inspired word of God. We try to set aside time each day for prayer and reading God's word to seek the wisdom of the day." We are grateful for the Dunhams' generosity, and we're honored to bear the name of this couple whose lives are marked by integrity and shine with the light of Christ and love for His Word.



Chamberlin Donates Bible Collection to Dunham Bible Museum

On June 25, a truckload of 108 boxes of approximately 3000 Bibles or related books were unloaded at the Morris Cultural Arts Center destined for the Dunham Bible Museum. The boxes contained William Chamberlin's Bible collection, which he has given to the Dunham Bible Museum.

Chamberlin is the author of *Catalogue of English Bible Translations: A Classified Bibliography of Versions and Editions*, a bibliographical resource found in major libraries throughout the world. He began Bible collecting over 40 years ago, in 1969, when he bought a volume of a Thomas Scott Bible, published in 1816, for \$3 in a used book store. Chamberlin was intrigued by the Sprague family records in the Bible. In searching for information about the family, Chamberlin discovered one of the sons had died at a battle near Washington, North Carolina during the Civil War. He made contact with some of the relatives and ended up with a family tree going back to 1340. This fascinating history led Chamberlin to look for old Bibles with family records in them. Chamberlin then began to focus on collecting English Bible translations. His collection includes volumes from the sixteenth century through the present.

Chamberlin has read many, though not all, of the various translations. He began keeping a list so he wouldn't duplicate,

and from 1969 to 2006, he read 13 complete Bibles, 27 New Testaments, seven Old Testaments, and parts from over 2000 translations of single books of the English Bible. He believes we need literal translations as well as paraphrases which capture the thought as the original readers might have understood, always relying on the Holy Spirit to guide us in the study of God's Word.

We've only just begun opening those 108 boxes to accession and catalog the collection, and it will take many months to bring the collection into the Museum's library. One of Chamberlin's goals in his Bible collecting was to make the volumes available to others for research and study. In donating his collection to the Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University, he knows the volumes will not only be displayed, but used and studied.

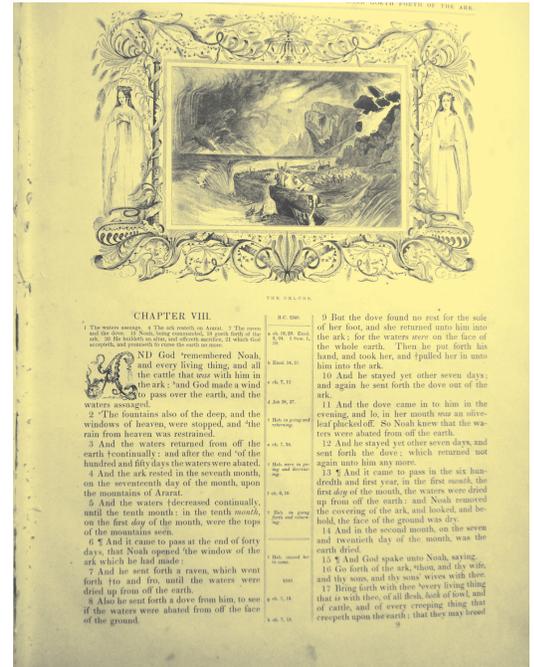


Harpers 1846 Illuminated Bible

Harper and Brothers' advertisement for its Illuminated Bible read, "the most splendidly elegant edition of the Sacred Record ever issued." The Bible, first announced in 1843, was described as a "New Pictorial Bible embellished with Sixteen Hundred Engravings." The pictures were based on historical fact, not simply artistic imagination. Earlier Bibles had no more than 100 pictures. Because of the new printing process of electrotyping, pictures and text were printed on the same page, rather than on separate sheets. Artists were engaged for more than six years in preparing the designs and engravings in the Bible, at a cost of \$20,000 (about \$2 million in today's dollars).

Because of the expense, the publisher sold the Bible in 54 parts to subscribers from 1843 to 1856, at 25 cents each. The Bible is almost like an encyclopedia and includes numerous supplemental materials – tables of weights, lists of names, a concordance, marginal notes, and an index. *Harper's Illuminated Bible* became the model of the large Family Bibles popular in the later nineteenth century. The 1846 Harper's Illuminated Bible can be seen among the Family Bibles at the Dunham Bible Museum.

Harpers 1846 Illuminated Bible - Genesis 8, picturing Noah's ark as the flood waters subside. The embellishments around the engraving as well as the decorative initial set a standard for all future illustrated Bibles.



ERASMUS' BIBLE – Special Exhibit and Conference

2016 marks the 500th anniversary of the publishing of Erasmus' Greek New Testament, an event foundationally important to the 16th century Protestant Reformation. To commemorate and reflect upon this event, The Dunham Bible Museum will create a special exhibit on Erasmus' Greek text. *Renaissance of the Bible: 500th Anniversary of Erasmus's Greek Text, the Foundation for Reformation* will be the featured exhibit of 2016.

In addition, the Museum will partner with the School of Christian Thought to host a conference on Erasmus's Bible and the impact of Scripture, February 25-27, 2016. Titled *Ad Fontes, Ad Futura* (meaning: to the sources, to the future), the conference will look at the history of the Bible Renaissance, as Erasmus led the way in returning to the sources of Scripture. There also will be consideration of the continuing importance of Scripture as the source of truth in the future. Registration for the conference is available online at www.hbu.edu/TheologyConference. The public is invited to the lectures in Belin Chapel by the plenary speakers, without charge:

- Thursday, April 16, 7:30 pm – Dr. Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School and leading scholar on the Reformation.
- Dr. Craig Evans, professor of Christian origins at HBU and a prominent New Testament scholar.
- Dr. Herman Selderhuis, professor of church history at the Theological University Apeldoorn and director of Refo500
- Daniel Wallace, professor of New Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, and executive director of the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts.

"We preserve the letters written by a dear friend, we kiss them fondly, carry them about, we read them again and again, yet there are many thousands of Christians who, although they are learned in other respects, never read, however, the evangelical and apostolic books in an entire lifetime...these writings bring you the living image of his [Christ's] holy mind and the speaking, healing, dying, rising Christ himself, and thus they render him so fully present that you would see less if you gazed upon him with your very eyes."

– Erasmus' preface to 1516 Greek / Latin New Testament



A Real Page Turner!



During the week of September 21, the week of Pope Francis's visit to the United States, the Dunham Bible Museum was part of a real page turning event.

Sponsored by *The St. John's Bible*, schools, churches, libraries, and hospitals across North America which had copies of *The St. John's Bible* all turned to the same page each day of the week and offered reflections on the Scriptures illuminated. The illuminated pages included the Creation (Genesis 1:2-4), Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 15:7; 17:1-22), 10 Commandments (Exodus 20), Peter's Confession (Matthew 16:13-23), Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes (Mark 6:33-44; 8:1-10), Two Cures (Mark 5:25-43), and Pentecost (Acts 1:6-11, 2:1-47). Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary wrote the daily reflections. It was an amazing week of special meditations on the Scriptures by people across the continent.

Pope Francis addressed Congress on September 24 and gave the Library of Congress a copy of *The St. John's Bible*. The same day, Dr. Anton Koekemoer, astrophysicist with the Hubble space telescope, gave an inspirational address on "Science and Faith" as part of the Dunham Bible Museum lectures. Dr. Koekemoer presented exciting recent astronomical discoveries and showed Hubble images used in *The St. John's Bible*. Koekemoer also shared from his own perspective as a Christian how our scientific understanding of the universe is in harmony with faith.

The Dunham Bible Museum's special exhibit on *The St. John's Bible* will continue through December. Donations towards the Museum's purchase of the Heritage Edition are tax deductible. Donations may be mailed to The Dunham Bible Museum, 7502 Fondren Road., Houston, TX 77074 or may be made online at www.hbu.edu.



We're thankful for this year's three student assistants, all members of the Honors College: Isaac and Brenda Brocato, brother and sister, at the printing press above, and Jonathan Richie, in the museum's library.





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Visit our website at
www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum

"The most exalted aim in the revival of philosophical studies will be to obtain a knowledge of the pure and simple Christianity of the Bible."

~ Erasmus

UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

- *Ad Fontes, Ad Futura: Erasmus' Bible and the Impact of Scripture*, conference on the 500th anniversary of Erasmus' Greek New Testament, February 25-27, 2016. Information and registration at ww.hbu.edu/TheologyConference. Lectures by Timothy George, Craig Evans, Herman Selderhuis, and Daniel Wallace are free and open to the public – check the website for details.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

- *Biblical Manuscripts: Where is the Original Bible?* – an exhibit on early biblical manuscripts, through December 11, 2015
- *The Saint John's Bible* – exhibit from the Heritage Edition of the manuscript Bible commissioned by the Benedictine St. John's Abbey through December 18, 2015
- *Renaissance of the Bible: 500th Anniversary of Erasmus' Greek text, the Foundation for Reformation* commemorating the 500th anniversary of the printing of Erasmus' Greek New Testament, throughout 2016.



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CONNECTING YOU,
THEN AND NOW

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**