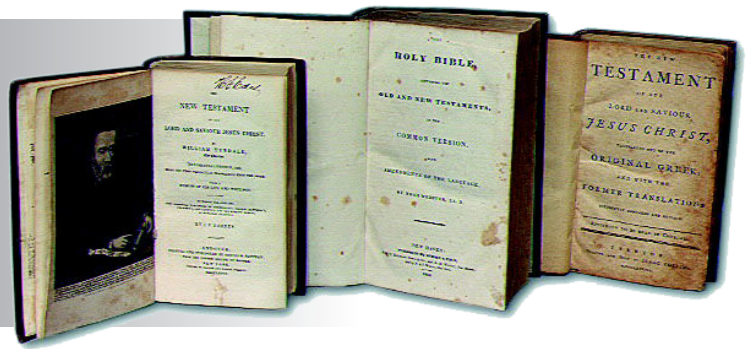


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Summer 2017

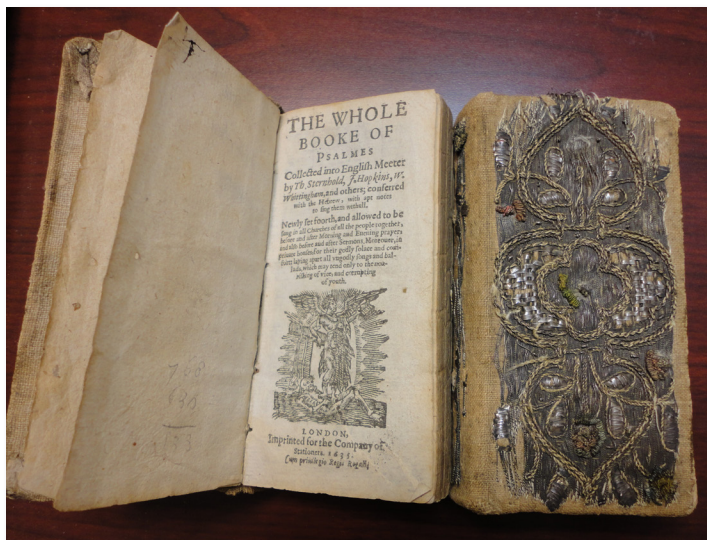
Volume 14, Issue 3

Dos-a-Dos added to the Collection

The Dunham Bible Museum has acquired a charming book with a dos-a-dos binding, from the French meaning “back-to-back.” With a dos-a-dos binding, the fore edge of one book is adjacent to the spine of the other, and both books share a back cover.

all ungodly songs and ballads, which may tend only to the nourishing of vice and corrupting of youth.

Imagine if young people today grew up singing psalms at home instead of “ungodly songs and ballads”!



1st edition 1539 Taverner's now in the Dunham Bible Museum

Dr. Donald Brake brought the Dunham Bible Museum a wonderful volume which helps us tell the story of the early English Bibles – a 1539, first edition of Richard Taverner's *The Most Sacred Bible, Whiche is the holy scripture, conteyning the old and new testament, translated into English*.

Richard Taverner (c. 1505-1575) was the eldest son of composer and musician John Taverner. He began his university days at Cambridge, then in 1527 was among 17 drafted to be the first class of Cardinal Wolsey's Cardinal's College, Oxford (now Christ Church). At Oxford he got into trouble for reading Tyndale's New Testament; at that time the Scriptures in English were forbidden. For this offense Taverner and several others had to make a public act of repentance.

Taverner went back to Cambridge for his M.A., where he also taught Greek, then on to London where he studied law at the Inns of Court. There he often took his notes in Greek! In 1534 he came under the patronage of Lord Cromwell and became clerk of the signet under Henry VIII.

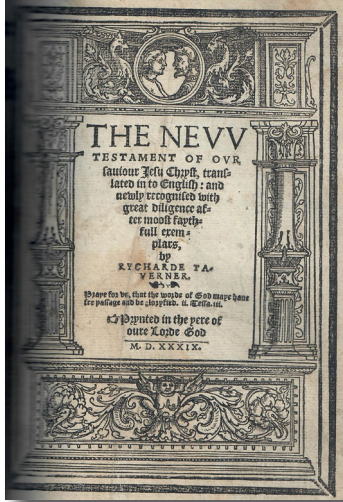
With Cromwell's support and encouragement, Taverner translated a number of works to promote the Reformation in England, including the Lutheran *Augsburg Confession*, an *Epitome of Psalmes* by Strassbourg pastor Wolfgang Capito, and several works of Erasmus. Taverner's commentaries on the Epistles and Gospels were later printed in Elizabethan homily books.

Taverner's 1539 Bible was a revision of Matthew's Bible, attempting to make the meaning clearer to the common people by replacing obscure, Latinate words with Saxon words. Since he did not know Hebrew, Taverner worked

Dos-a-dos bindings were popular in England in the 17th century and were especially used to bind a New Testament and Psalter together. Ours is a 1633 New Testament bound with a Metrical Psalms printed in 1635. The covers are a background of white silk embroidered with silver threads and colored silk threads, representing carnations and pansies. Long titles being all the style of the time, the following is the complete title of the psalter:

Whole Booke of Psalmes Collected into English Meeter by T. Sternhold, J Hopkins, W. Whittingham, and others conferred with the Hebrew, with apt notes to sing them withall. Newly set foorth, and allowed to be sung in all Churches of all the people together, before and after Morning and Evening prayers, and also before and after Sermons. Moreover, in private houses, for their godly solace and comfort laying apart

from the Latin Vulgate in revising the Old Testament, bringing an energy to the historical narratives. He put his Greek skills to work in the New Testament. Taverner replaced Tyndale's "similitude" with the word "parable." He also coined new words such as "spokesman" for "advocate" and "mercystocke" for "propitiation in I John 2:1-2. Later versions used his "express image" in Hebrews 1:3. In Matthew 19:9, he replaced "breaketh wedlock" with "commiteth adultery."



Additional matter in the Bible included:

- An effusive dedication to Henry VIII
- An exhortation to the study of the holy scripture, gathered out of the Bible (see below)
- The contents of all the holy Scriptures, both the old and new testament
- Names of the books of the Bible with the content of the chapters
- A brief rehearsal of the years past since the creation of Adam to the present year of our Lord 1549
- A table to find many of the chief and principal matters contained in the Bible (a kind of Bible dictionary).

Our copy has several markings and notes in them, most in an illegible hand. One note in 1775 is by Elizabeth Whitfield, born in 1729 and wife of John Whitfield.

Taverner's Bible was published the same year as the

Great Bible authorized by Henry VIII and so was greatly overshadowed by it. Today a copy of Taverner's is very rare. The one in Charles Ryrie's collection, which was auctioned last December, sold for \$20,000.

AN EXHORTACION TO THE DILIGENT STUDYE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE GATHERED OUT OF THE BIBLE

These Scriptures were placed at the beginning of Taverner's Bible as an encouragement to the study of the Scriptures (we've kept the 1539 spelling to reflect the times):

• *Christ unto the people. John v*

Search the scriptures: for they are they that testify of me.

• *Paul to Timothy: ii Tim. iii*

Al scripture gyven by inspiracion of God is profitable to teache, to improve, to amend, and to instruct in ryghtousnesse, that the man of God may be perfecte and prepared to al good works.

• *Salomon Prog,iii.*

All the worde of God, is pure and cleane it is a shyld unto them that put their trust in it. Put nothings unto his words, lest he reprove the, and thou be found a liar.

• *Moses to the people. Deut iii*

Ye shall not doo everye man what semeth hym good in hius owne eyes: But what soever I commande you, that take hede ye doo, and put ought thereunto, neither take aught therefrom.

• *The Lord unto Josua. Jos. I*

Let not the boke of this lawe departe oute of thy mouth: But recorde therein daye and nyghte, that thou maste be circumspecte to doo accordynge to all that is written therein. For then shalte thou make thy way prosperous, and then shalte thou have understandynge. Turne therefrom neuther to the ryght hande, ne to the left: that thou mayst have understandynge in all that thou takest in hande.

"The neglect of Scripture, even by spiritual leaders, is one of the greatest evils in the world. Everything else, arts or literature, is pursued and practiced day and night, and there is no end of labor and effort; but Holy Scripture is neglected as though there were no need of it. ... But its words are not, as some think, mere literature; they are words of life, intended not for speculation and fancy but for life and action. ... May Christ our Lord help us by His Spirit to love and honor His holy Word with all our hearts. Amen."

— Martin Luther, Preface to Commentary on Psalm 119

Update on The St. John's Bible

Through the generous donations of numerous individuals, the Dunham Bible Museum has acquired three of the seven volumes of *The St. John's Bible*, Heritage Edition. *The St. John's Bible* is a hand calligraphied and beautifully illuminated copy of the Scriptures commissioned by the Benedictine monastery of St. John's Abbey in Minnesota. We have some visitors who come back to the Bible Museum just to see *The St. John's Bible* – waiting for us to turn the pages so they can see more of these beautiful volumes.

299 limited Heritage Edition copies of this Bible for the new millennium have been produced. The Dunham Bible

Museum is one of only three institutions in Texas acquiring the Heritage Edition of *The St. John's Bible*, and we still need funds to purchase the remaining four volumes: the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books, The Psalms, and the Prophets. Tax-deductible donations can be made online (www.hbu.edu/giving/) or by mail, either by check or credit card. Specify your gift is for *The St. John's Bible* and the Dunham Bible Museum.

For further information contact Dr. Diana Severance, 281-0649-3287/dseverance@hbu.edu.



"For I know that my Redeemer lives," Diane von Arx, copyright 2006, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minn. USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Share the Word!!

The Dunham Bible Museum is looking for a few individuals to help provide tours of the Bible Museum for our visitors.

Training sessions and materials will be provided. You may give tours once a week or once a month, as your schedule permits. If you would like to be a volunteer docent at the

Dunham Bible Museum please contact:

Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or dseverance@hbu.edu



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 exhibit and lectures on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, 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 or contact

Dr. Diana Severance: dseverance@hbu.edu, 281-649-3287.

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



HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
7402 Fondren Road
Houston, TX 7074-3298

Visits our website at
hbu.edu/biblemuseum

“A simple layman armed with
Scripture is to be believed above
a pope or cardinal without it.”

— *Martin Luther, 1519*



Upcoming Events

500th Anniversary of the Reformation
SPECIAL EXHIBIT

God's Word Endures Forever: Martin Luther & the
500th Anniversary of the Reformation, through
December 16, 2017

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.

The Bible, Luther, and the Reformation, a two-part
lecture by Dr. Paul Maier, professor emeritus of Western
Michigan University and a leading Lutheran scholar.

The Dunham Bible Museum is
OPEN

10-4 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



Refo500

CONNECTING YOU,
THEN AND NOW

