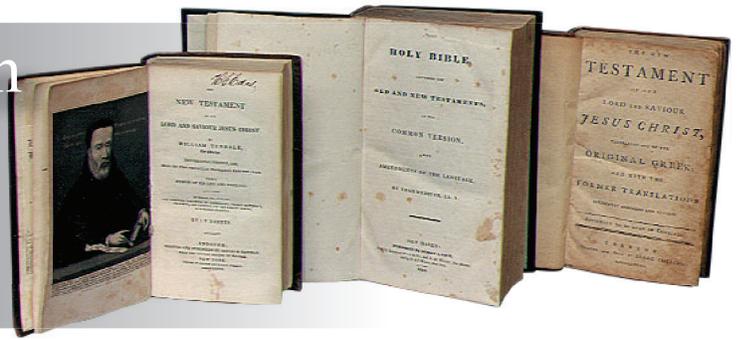


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Summer 2021

Volume 18, Issue 3

We're Open!!!

After months of lockdowns and COVID restrictions, the Dunham Bible Museum is fully open for visitors and tours. The exhibits from our unique collection will encourage you as you explore the Bible's history, influence and impact across the centuries. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Tanakh Exhibit

Through October the Dunham Bible Museum is pleased to have a special exhibit of Tanakh scrolls. *Tanakh* is an acronym for the Hebrew Scriptures, made from the first Hebrew letter of the three traditional divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures – Torah (instruction or law), Nevi'im (prophets), and Ketovim (writings). The entire Tanakh consists of sixteen scrolls, and nine are on display in the Tanakh exhibit.



Gary and Artis Zimmerman's exhibit on the Tanakh will be at the Dunham Bible Museum through October.

This special exhibit is courtesy of Gary and Artis Zimmerman, missionaries to the Jewish people. The Zimmermans have been collecting scrolls since 1999 and have had exhibits in museums, Christian seminaries, and churches around the world. The scrolls displayed at the Dunham include six scrolls of the prophets from Lithuania dating from the late 1800s to early 1900s. Written on two layers of sheepskin with a quill and iron gall ink, the scrolls survived the holocaust and the Communist occupation which followed. The scroll of Isaiah is from the early 1800s and was scribed in the former Soviet Union, probably Ukraine. The scroll of the twelve prophets is from the Baltic region and dates from the early 1900s. The Torah is the oldest

scroll in the exhibit. Dating from the early 1700s, it has been well used and shows signs of repair.

All the scrolls were written on sheep skin with iron gall ink. Iron gall ink has been used since ancient times and is made from gall nuts, gum Arabic, logwood, and iron sulfate. Though originally the ink is purple-black in color, over time the ink changes to brown, due to action of the iron sulfate in the ink (the reason many old documents appear to be written with brown ink!).

The Hebrew Scriptures have been faithfully preserved by the Jewish people. For example, the 304,805 letters in the Torah have been copied in Jewish communities for 3500 years. Examining Torahs made thousands of miles as well as centuries apart, they are letter for letter in agreement, with only .0004% discrepancies.

Further information on the scrolls can be found at the Zimmermans' website "Grace Transcending the Torah" - www.gracetranscendingthetorah.com.



Torah Scroll from the early 1700s

PIECE OF THE PAST, 2021



Emma Perry, 1st place winner in the “Piece of the Past” Dunham Bible Museum category.



15th Century Book of Hours showing King David at prayer

The eleventh annual “A Piece of the Past” Museum Essay Contest winners were announced at a special awards dinner on April 28. The contest, sponsored by the Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation, awards cash prizes to winners who write about artifacts in one of the three University Museums or the Art Museums. 37 essays were submitted in the Dunham Bible Museum category this year.

Emma Perry a senior in the Honors College, won first place (\$500) for her essay “Medieval Prayer: Studying a French Book of Hours.” In her essay, Miss Perry carefully examined the manuscript of a devotional book from fifteenth century France, describing its artistic elements as well as its organization of prayers and Scripture. She concluded that “at a time when printed books did not exist and complete copies of Scripture were difficult to acquire, the book of hours provided people access



Eric Keller, 2nd place winner in the “Piece of the Past” Dunham Bible Museum category.

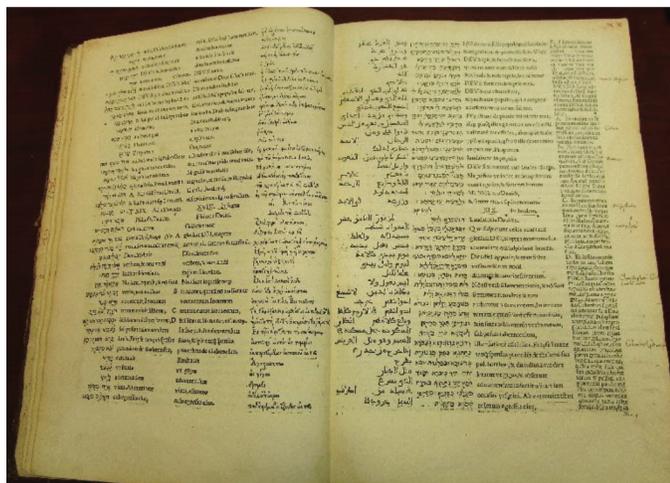
The 1516 Polyglot Genoan Psalter has seven columns of parallel text in different translations, in addition to a column of commentary.

to Scripture outside what they heard on Sundays. Yet even today, books of hours should be cherished because they show devotion to God through image and text. Such manuscripts enriched the prayer lives of the medieval laity, and they can show us how to use God’s word to learn how to pray.”

Second place (\$250) in the Dunham Bible Museum category went to Eric Keller for his essay “The 1516 Genoa Psalter.” Mr. Keller has a medical retirement from the U.S. Army, where he learned Arabic through training as a US Army linguist at the Defense Language Institute. He completed his Masters in History this Spring. His knowledge of Arabic made him especially capable in analyzing the Genoan Psalter.

The psalter, printed in Genoa in 1516, is a polyglot with eight parallel columns – the psalms are given in Hebrew, a Latin paraphrase, the Latin Vulgate, the Greek Septuagint, Arabic, Aramaic, a Latin translation of the Aramaic, and scholarly notes in Latin! It’s quite a printing feat to accomplish when one considers that in 1516, each letter, with all the different fonts, had to be typeset by hand. Mr. Keller was able to examine the Psalter carefully and noticed the typesetters, apparently not knowing Arabic, confused some of the Arabic letters and had several misprints throughout the Arabic portion of the psalter.

This year a special topic category was a theme category on “Perseverance in Times of Great Trial.” First place winner (\$500) in that category went to Rebecca Rizzotti for her essay “The Eyes of the Blind Shall See: The Braille Bible.” In considering the Braille Bible, Miss Rizotti especially looked at Louis Braille’s perseverance in developing an alphabet for the blind and blind Helen Keller’s perseverance in living a



life dedicated to God in spite of her handicap. Miss Rizzotti concluded, “The Braille Bible, which Louis made possible and Helen found comfort in, gives new meaning to the verse, “For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished” (Matthew 5:18). This verse, which attests to the trustworthiness of Scripture, can also remind us of the power of God’s Word to sustain us through the unpredictable challenges of life” The stories of Braille and Keller “are an encouragement to not give up, to trust God for our strength, and to allow Him to build character in us and have ‘the eyes of our hearts enlightened.’” (Ephesians 1:18)

Khan Nguyen won first place (\$500) in the Freshman/HBU Academy category for his essay “The Significance of Cromwell’s Soldiers Pocket Bible.” Oliver Cromwell issued “The Soldier’s Pocket Bible” to his troops in 1634. The Bible was a collection of Scriptures to comfort, strengthen and inspire the soldiers as they went into battle. During the American Civil War, the American Tract Society reprinted the “The Soldier’s Pocket Bible.” The Dunham’s copy dates from 1861.

We congratulate all these winners of the Piece of the Past contest, in addition to the numerous honorable mention winners.

In sponsoring the Piece of the Past Essay Contest, the Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation have encouraged many students to delve into the wonderful artifacts in the Museums’ collections and explore the rich history they contain. Winning Piece of the Past essays can be read online at <https://hbu.edu/museums/a-piece-of-the-past-contest/>

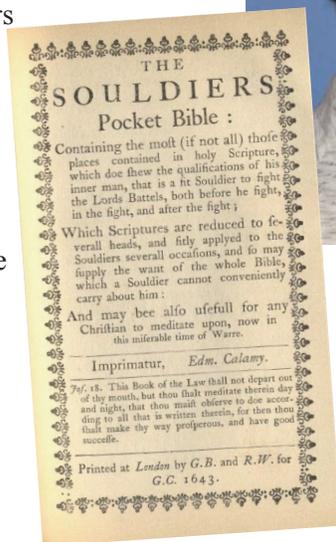
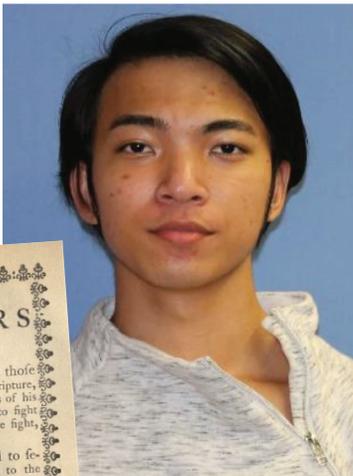


Rebecca Rizzotti, 1st place winner in “Piece of the Past” theme category of “Perseverance in Times of Great Trial”



Helen Keller reading a Braille Bible

Khan Nguyen won first place in the “Piece of the Past” Freshman/HBU Academy category



Title page of 1643 “The Soldier’s Pocket Bible” as reprinted in 1861 during the American Civil War

An Honor Graduate



Over the years the Dunham Bible Museum has been blessed with student assistants who have worked diligently keeping the records of the Museum’s collection and guiding people through the Bible Museum. For the last three and a half years, Emma Perry has been an important part of the Bible Museum’s team. Emma graduated this spring *summa cum laude* with a major in history and a classical languages minor and received the Honors College Outstanding History Major award. Emma was especially helpful in providing captions for the St. John’s Bible displays, and visitors always enjoyed her tours. Visitors appreciated her depth of knowledge as well as her passion for the truth of the Scriptures. We are thankful for Emma’s time with the Dunham Bible Museum and wish her a fruitful ministry as she begins teaching in a classical Christian school this fall.



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Visit our website at
HBU.edu/BibleMuseum

*"I never knew happiness until I found
Christ as a savior. Read the Bible.
Through all my perplexities and distresses
I never read any other book, I never knew
the want of any other."
~ William Wilberforce (1759-1833)*

Visit our website at www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum. There you will find virtual tours of the Museum's exhibits, past and present, as well as videos of past lectures and much more.

Current Special Exhibit

- "Tanakh" is a special exhibit on the Hebrew Scriptures, featuring 9 Hebrew scrolls.
- "One Small Candle" is a special exhibit on the pilgrims in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's landing in America in 1620 and the Thanksgiving they celebrated in 1621.

The Dunham Bible Museum's regular exhibits include:

- Bible Manuscripts
- Early printed Bibles
- English bibles
- American Bibles
- *The St. John's Bible*
- Foreign Bible translations

...all designed to show the Bible's history, influence and impact.



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CONNECTING YOU,
THEN AND NOW



The Dunham Bible Museum is OPEN
10 a.m.-4 p.m. 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

On your next Dunham Bible Museum visit, try out our new audio tour using your cell phone!