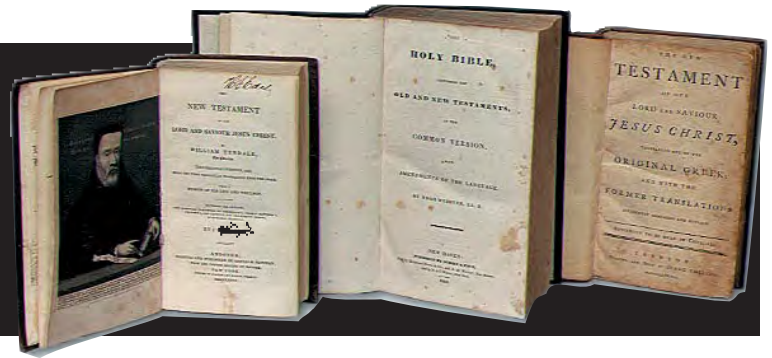


# Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Winter-Spring 2015

Vol. 12, Issue 2

## Heaven in a Nightclub

An entertaining and enlightening evening is in store on February 26, when Dr. William Edgar presents "Heaven in a Nightclub" at 7 pm in Belin Chapel.

Dr. Edgar has presented this performance several times in the United States, and led a special Jazz Tour throughout England and Eastern Europe in the spring of 2012. Professor of apologetics at Westminster Seminary as well as an accomplished jazz pianist, Edgar's philosophy is that "jazz ought to entertain, but that



Dr. Bill Edgar

its background is in the spiritual experience of African-American people, reared in slavery and nurtured in the Gospel message." Edgar will be taking the audience through some of the history of African-American music, mixing the narrative with the music itself. He will explore the Negro Spiritual's Gospel connections.

Chuck Colson called Bill Edgar "one of evangelicalism's most valued scholars and apologists." He has degrees from Harvard University (Honors B.A. in Music), Westminster Seminary, and the University of Geneva. The author of numerous books, his very first was one published by the SPCK in Britain, *Taking Note of Music*. More recently, Crossway published his *Christian Apologetics Past and Present: A Primary Source Reader*, in two volumes.

Come and join us for this entertaining evening exploring the Bible, the Negro Spiritual, and Gospel Music.

## 2015 – Year of The Saint John's Bible



In 1998, St. John's Abbey and University commissioned renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson to create a Bible using the ancient techniques of calligraphy and illumination. The exquisite illuminations were to glorify God's Word and to ignite the spiritual imagination. Work on the seven volume *Saint John's Bible* was completed in 2011. Written on 1150 pages of vellum, the work includes 160 illuminations. The illuminations reflect the 21st century – strands of DNA are woven into the Genealogy of Christ, the Twin Towers of New York are in Luke's parables, and satellite photos depict creation.

The Dunham Bible Museum will have two volumes of the Heritage Edition of the *St. John's Bible* on display throughout 2015, and will host a number of special lectures and events in connection with *The Saint John's Bible*. Our goal is to purchase one of the Heritage Editions for the Museum's collection.

The Heritage Edition is a fine art reproduction of the original manuscript. Only 299 Heritage Editions have been printed, and each of the seven volumes is authenticated by Donald Jackson. The paper is archival quality, hand-made of 100% cotton. The inks are fade resistant. Gold and silver foil were applied to the illuminations. The cover is hand-crafted leather with a silver clasp.

Cost for the seven volumes is \$150,000, or \$22,000 per volume. A donation has already been made for the purchase of *The Gospel and Acts* volume. Tax-deductible donations may be made to Houston Baptist University for the acquisition of this exquisite Bible and work of art.



*"When we placed [the Heritage Edition] side-by-side on a table in Cambridge with the great Bible of Bury St. Edmunds Abbey (c. 1135) and the even vaster Bible of Dover Priory (c. 1160), it hardly seemed to be a facsimile at all but a living manuscript, as heavy and as lovely to touch and feel as its medieval ancestors."*

~ Dr. Christopher De Hamel,  
Fellow Librarian at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge



## BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS:

# WHERE IS THE ORIGINAL BIBLE?

*This small fragment of the psalms in Sahidic Coptic is from Egypt and dates from the 4th – 6th centuries. It is the oldest biblical manuscript in the Museum's collection.*

### *Biblical Manuscripts:*

*Where is the Original Bible?*

is the newest exhibit at the Dunham Bible Museum.

Autographs, manuscripts of the bible written by the author's own hand, are no longer available. However, there are over 20,000 manuscript copies of the New Testament available for research today. The Dunham's exhibit includes the museum's facsimiles of some of the most significant biblical manuscripts as well as the museum's own manuscript collection.

The exhibit's Old Testament manuscripts include a full Exodus scroll from the Cairo Genizah, where 300,000 manuscript fragments were found (A genizah is a storage place for Jewish sacred writings which are worn out, before they can be properly buried). This scroll was likely used for Jewish liturgical purposes in the middle of the 14th century until it was stored in the genizah.

Several facsimiles of important biblical manuscripts are in the exhibit, such as the facsimile copy of the Great Isaiah Scroll inside of a replica Dead Sea Scroll jar. There is also a facsimile of Codex Vaticanus, one of the most important Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. This copy is so well done that where there are stains and tears at in the original, they are there in the facsimile.

One of the Greek manuscripts on display is a leaf of the Gospel of Luke from miniscule 28. The majority of the pages of miniscule 28 are at the Bibliotheque Nationale France. The manuscript is used in many printed Greek New Testaments' text critical decisions. Manuscripts of early translations include a 4th to 6th century Coptic Psalm fragment and a Ge'ez manuscript Gospel of Matthew.

The exhibit provides a practical introduction to the field of textual criticism (determining what reading of the bible is original through studying manuscripts). Guests may search the manuscripts themselves and reason about scribal tendencies to determine the original reading of particular passages. The Dunham Bible Museum has an excellent collection of printed Greek New Testaments assembled by Dr. Donald Brake, and a few will be on display to complement the manuscripts. Among them is the first Greek New Testament with a textual apparatus. This bible was published by Robertus Stephanus in 1550, who in the following year invented the verse numbering system which is still used in our bibles. After learning about the manuscript history of the bible, one will certainly conclude:

*"The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8 (ESV).*

*The foregoing article was written by Andrew Adler, a 2013 graduate of HBU and currently a graduate student at HBU in Biblical languages. Adler is also the curator of this special exhibit.*

---

## PRAYER BEFORE READING THE SCRIPTURES

In 1770, the father of James Madison (fourth President of the United States) ordered William Burkitt's Expository Notes on the Bible, for the family's library. James Madison's notes from this commentary remain among his papers. The following is Burkitt's prayer before reading the Scriptures:

*ALMIGHTY God and merciful Father, who hast appointed thy word to be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our paths, and caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning; grant us the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that we may in such ways read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*And seeing of thy tender love to mankind, thou hast given thy dear and only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of Godly life, give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive this his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.*

# Friends

The Dunham Bible Museum Friends support the programs and collections of the Dunham Bible Museum through annual contributions and participation in Museum events. Dunham Bible Museum Friends help spread the word about the exhibits and activities of the Dunham Bible Museum. 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. All Friends receive year-long benefits of a printed subscription to the Dunham Bible Museum News, invitations to exhibit openings, and a discount on Museum store purchases. Additional benefits are available for those contributing at a higher level. Won't you consider becoming a member of the Dunham Bible Museum Friends?

## Annual Membership Levels and Benefits

- King James Level - \$50 (Student \$30)**
  - Membership card/ certificate
  - Invitations to exhibit openings and announcements of public programs
  - Printed copy of *Dunham Bible Museum News*
  - 10% discount on Museum store purchases
- Geneva Level - \$75**
  - King James Level benefits
  - Donald Brake's *A Visual History of the English Bible*
- Coverdale Level - \$250**
  - Geneva Level benefits
  - 20% discount on Museum store purchases
- Wycliffe Level - \$500**
  - Coverdale Level benefits
  - Facsimile reprint of Wycliffe's New Testament from The Bodeleian Library
  - Private reception with Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sloan
- Tyndale Level - \$1,000**
  - Wycliffe Level benefits
  - An original 1611 King James Bible leaf, folio size
  - Private tour with director for 30 persons or less from donor's friends, business, church, club, or other organization.
- Gutenberg Level (Corporate Benefactor)- \$2,000+**
  - Tyndale Level benefits
  - Recognition notice in each quarterly Dunham Bible Museum News
- St. Jerome Level (Life-time Individual Membership) - \$10,000**
  - Tyndale Level benefits
  - Framed original 1611 King James Bible leaf

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Gift membership from \_\_\_\_\_

- I authorize the publication of my name on the Dunham Bible Museum Friends list.
- Please do not publish my name on the Dunham Bible Museum Friends list.
- I am interested in volunteer opportunities at the Dunham Bible Museum Friends.

*Please check your chosen membership level above, and make checks payable to Dunham Bible Museum - HBU or pay by credit card below:*

Visa  Mastercard  American Express  Discover Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name as shown on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with payment to:

**Dunham Bible Museum • Houston Baptist University**  
**7502 Fondren Road • Houston, TX 77074-3298**

**Questions or comments? Please contact Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 (dseverance@hbu.edu)**

***Houston Baptist University and the Dunham Bible Museum is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization; your membership is tax deductible.***



HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
7502 Fondren Road  
Houston, TX 77074-3298

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HOUSTON TX  
PERMIT #8634

281-649-3287

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

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

*"If a man is not familiar with the Bible, he has suffered a loss he had better make all possible haste to correct."* ~Teddy Roosevelt

### SPECIAL EXHIBITS

JANUARY 5 – DECEMBER 11, 2015

- *Biblical Manuscripts: Where is the Original Bible?* – an exhibit on early biblical manuscripts
- *The Saint John's Bible* – exhibit from the Heritage Edition of the manuscript Bible commissioned by the Benedictine St. John's Abbey

COMING IN 2016

- *Renaissance of the Bible: Erasmus' Greek Text and the Explosion of Bible Translations*, 2016

### UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

- *February 26, 2015, "Heaven in a Nightclub"* – lecture and performance by Dr. William Edgar, professor of apologetics at Westminster Theological Seminary, on the Bible and Jazz. Belin Chapel, 7 pm.
- *September 24, 2015, "Science and Faith"* – lecture by Dr. Anton Koekemoer
- *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



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