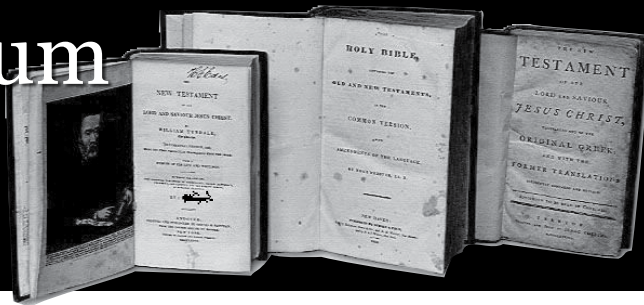


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

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Burmese Bible Project

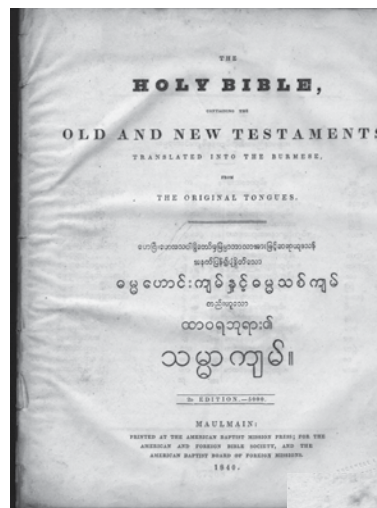
In April the Dunham Bible Museum received an e-mail from Tom Gaudet, a missionary in Thailand, asking about the Museum's Burmese Bible, published by Adoniram Judson in 1840. Gaudet, who with his wife Karin has been a missionary for 30 years, had been searching for a copy of Adoniram Judson's Burmese translation of the Old Testament, and the Dunham Bible Museum's copy was the only one he could locate.

Tom and Karin Gaudet moved to Thailand in 2004 to establish a regional literature distribution center, with a special interest in neighboring countries which are "closed" to missionary and evangelistic work. Literature for the Burmese people soon came to be the focus of their work. Burma (Myanmar), a largely Buddhist country, has not only suffered under a repressive military junta, but the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Cyclone Nargis brought added disaster to the country. Nine refugee camps along the Thai/Burmese border have housed at least 160,000 refugees from Burma since 1984.

Christianity was brought to the Burmese people by Adoniram and Ann Judson, who in 1812 became the first missionaries sent from the United States to a foreign land. Judson suffered great hardship during his 38 years in Burma, including the death of three successive wives, imprisonment, and threatened execution. Yet, Judson persisted in his efforts to bring the Gospel to the Burmese people and spent 24 years in translating the Bible into Burmese. He printed the New Testament in 1837, and two editions of the complete Bible in 1840. The Dunham Bible Museum's edition is the second printing of the complete Burmese Bible, which includes the third edition of the New Testament.

Though a "Judson version" of the Burmese Bible had been printed in recent years, native Burmese have noticed numerous errors and changes in this version from earlier printings of Judson's translation. Because of Burma's climate, as well as political and religious oppression, none of Adoniram Judson's works could be found in Burma itself. From overseas sources, the Gaudets are finding tracts and other works written by Judson over a century and a half ago. They are discovering that Judson's works show great wisdom in reaching out to the Buddhist people, and today's Burmese pastors are fascinated by seeing copies of these original texts so important to their Christian heritage.

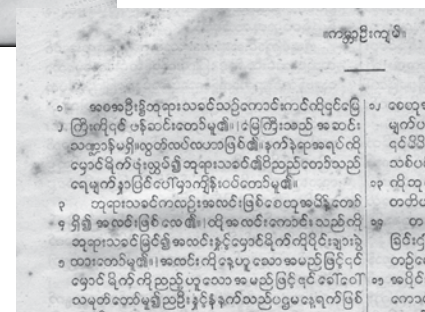
The Gaudets want to make the Judson translation, (and other early Burmese Christian literature), available to Burmese pastors and people. In nearby Thailand, teams of workers are typesetting and printing Burmese Christian literature, while teams in the United



Title page of 1840 Burmese Bible translated by Adoniram Judson



Adoniram Judson



Opening verses of Genesis in Adoniram Judson's Burmese Bible, 1840

Judson persisted in his efforts to bring the Gospel to the Burmese people and spent 24 years in translating the Bible into Burmese.

States are scanning material to produce a digital research archive for the Burmese pastors and people. To assist this effort, the Dunham Bible Museum was successful in arranging for Robert Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, to digitize the 1200 pages of the Dunham Bible Museum's 1840 Adoniram Judson Burmese Bible translation. Phillips has been digitizing material for Logos Bible Software and has the superb equipment and expertise for the project. As a result of this cooperative effort, the Dunham Bible Museum's 1840 edition of Adoniram Judson's Burmese Bible translation will become part of a digital archive of Burmese Christian literature. Pastors and Burmese Christians will be using it for many years to come.

John Calvin at 500



July 10 marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin, who was born in Noyon, Picardie in France in 1509. The reformation Calvin directed in Geneva had a world-wide impact, with Calvin's ideas spreading in Europe, crossing the channel to England, and finding a firm footing in America. Historians have seen Calvin's influence in the development of capitalism, representative democracy, and individual liberty. Nineteenth century

historians Leopold von Ranke and George Bancroft, among others, considered Calvin and his ideas indispensable to the establishment of the United States.

The foundation of Calvin's ideas, theology, and writings was the Bible. Like Martin Luther and the other Reformers, Calvin held that the Scripture was the Christian's authority for truth. Calvin's theology is thoroughly biblical, unlike the scholastic theology of his day or the thinking of rationalistic philosophers.

As a young man, Calvin had the best of education in France, training first for the priesthood and then for a career in law. Calvin became one of many in France who were moved by the teachings of the Reformation, with its emphasis on the Bible as the source of truth and ultimate guide for the Christian life. Calvin later wrote that "God by a sudden conversion subdued and brought my mind to a teachable frame." Historians date Calvin's conversion to around 1534. With his "sudden conversion," Calvin "received some taste and knowledge of true godliness" and studied the Bible more assiduously than he had ever studied other subjects.

Calvin's cousin, Pierre Robert Olivetan, had been chosen by the Waldensians to translate the Bible into French from the original Greek and Hebrew (an earlier French translation had been from the Latin Vulgate). When Olivetan's Bible was published in 1535, the newly converted John Calvin wrote a Latin preface to the New Testament. Beginning with Creation, Calvin traced the working of God in history through the redemption brought by Jesus Christ. The point of the entire Scripture was "truly to know Jesus Christ, and the infinite riches that are comprised in him and are offered to us by him from God the Father. If one were to sift thoroughly the Law and the Prophets, he would not find a single word which would not draw and bring us to him." In the Scripture "is enclosed all the wisdom which men can understand, and ought to learn in this life which no angel, or man, dead or living, may add to or take away from." Calvin concluded his preface by praising the Bible in the vernacular language and exhorting the rulers and bishops who tried to keep the Scriptures from the people.

Four years later, in 1539, Calvin published the first edition of what became his most influential work – *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Though Calvin revised and greatly expanded the Institutes in the next 20 years, his emphasis throughout on the Bible's authority remained constant. Calvin stated, "My object in this work is to prepare and train students of sacred theology for the



The Geneva Bible, the Bible of Shakespeare and many early settlers in America, bears Calvin's stamp and imprint.

On his deathbed, Calvin told the Geneva council he had taught the Word of God purely and sincerely. — Courtesy of Library of Congress

study of the Word of God that they might have an easy access into it and be able to proceed in it without hindrance."

After his move to Geneva, Calvin was actively involved in revisions to Olivetan's French Bible translation. The English exiles who worked on the English Geneva Bible in many ways followed this French Bible. Calvin's New Testament preface to the French Bible, "Christ is the End of the Law," was translated into English and placed as the preface to the Geneva New Testament published in 1557. Other features of the user-friendly French Geneva Bible found in the 1560 English Geneva Bible included introductions to each book, chapter summaries, and theological and textual notes in the margin. The Geneva Bible even borrowed illustrations and diagrams from the French Bible. Many of the notes were taken from Calvin's commentaries. The Geneva Bible of Shakespeare, Bunyan, the pilgrims, puritans, and early colonists in America clearly bore the stamp and influence of John Calvin.

The Dunham Bible Museum's exhibits contain several works either by Calvin or reflecting his influence. During the 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth, visit the museum to learn more about the Word of God Calvin taught "purely and sincerely."

Calvin and the Psalms

Calvin called the Bible's psalms, "An Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul," recognizing that the book reflected every human emotion. In the psalms he believed the Holy Spirit had "drawn to the life all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which the minds of men are wont to be agitated." In other parts of the Bible, God spoke to men, but in the psalms the prophets spoke to God, and drew later readers to examine their own souls.

Calvin encouraged the Christian singing of the psalms, and as early as 1539, had a psalter published in Strassbourg. He tried his hand at poetic paraphrases of the psalms, but also incorporated the French psalm translations of Clement Marot into the Geneva Psalters. The singing of psalms has characterized the reformed churches under Calvin's influence, including those in America. Influenced by Calvin's emphasis on the singing of psalms, puritan ministers in Massachusetts made a versification of the psalms in English in 1640. This *Bay Psalm Book* was the first English book printed in America.

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Bible Rescued from the Bombings

John and Karen Rudinger recently presented to the Dunham Bible Museum a rare Dutch States General Bible from 1682. The Dutch Parliament authorized and gave its name to this translation, which first appeared in 1637 and was revised in 1657. This translation became the standard Bible of the Dutch Reformed Church. The Bible given by the Rudingers is an exquisite Bible published by Hendrick and Jacob Keur, brothers who became known for the accuracy of their text and their fine printing.



Frontispiece for the 1682 Dutch Bible shows Adam and Eve after the Fall on the left, on the right are Moses with the Law and the Prophets, above all is Jesus Christ, the One of Whom all Scriptures speak.

The 1682 Keurs Bible includes six maps drawn by Bastiaan Stoopendaal: the world, the Near East, the journey of Israelites from Egypt, a plan of Jerusalem, land of Israel at time of Jesus, and the journeys of Paul. The world map shows that the shape of western North America was still unknown in the 1680's; California is shown as an island. The map of the Near East includes the supposed location of paradise. Elaborate illustrations border each of the maps. The Bible also includes 217 full page illustrations of Biblical events.



The story of how the Bible came into the Rudingers' possession is fascinating. John's Dutch maternal grandfather, Jan Willem Knechtmans, lived in Amsterdam. During World War II, Amsterdam was being heavily bombed, and a pastor gave his church's Bible to Knechtmans for safekeeping, since the church was heavily bombed and Knechtmans lived in an area yet untouched by the bombing. The Knechtmans' dwelling was later bombed as well, however, and the family moved to Rotterdam, taking the Bible with them. The Amsterdam church was never rebuilt, and Knechtmans was never able to find the pastor to return the Bible. When Knechtmans' daughter Gertrude later married Ernest Rudinger of Vienna, the couple immigrated to the United States, taking the old Dutch Bible with them. Though the years have passed, the

Bible still has about it the faint aroma of smoke from the bombing of Amsterdam.



The Dutch Bible has been a cherished possession of the Rudinger family, but the family always felt the Bible should be placed in a Museum or archive. John and Karen were

delighted to learn of HBU's Dunham Bible Museum and recognized this was the perfect home for this historic Bible. The Museum is grateful for their generosity in making this perfect gift to inspire visitors for generations to come.

Dunham Bible Museum Lectures now available online

The inaugural year for the Dunham Bible Museum Lecture Series featured lectures by noted scholars on the history of the English Bible, the Bible and Shakespeare, the Greek text behind the English translations, and the Bible and Abraham Lincoln. If you missed any of the lectures, or would like to hear them again, they are available at the Dunham Bible Museum website (www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum), under "Events."

2009-2010 Dunham Bible Museum Lecture Series

Save the Dates

The Dunham Bible Museum has an impressive group of scholars scheduled for the second year of its Lecture Series. On **Constitution Day, Sept. 17, Dr. Daniel Dreisbach** will speak on "How the English Bible Shaped American Culture." Dr. Dreisbach, Professor of Justice, Law, and Society in the School of Public Affairs at American University, has authored or edited seven books, and is currently writing a book on the Bible and American culture.

In conjunction with the dedication of HBU's new pipe organ, **Dr. Thomas Rossin will speak on "Bach's Bible" Sept. 27.** Dr. Rossin is a composer, church musician, and founder and director of the choral group Exultate. He wrote his dissertation on Bach's Bible. On **Oct. 1, Dr. Leland Ryken**, professor of English at Wheaton College and the author of numerous books on the Bible as Literature and literature from a Christian perspective will be speaking on "The Bible as a Literary Classic." **Jan. 28, 2010, Dr. David L. Jeffrey**, author of twelve books and Distinguished Professor of Literature and Humanities at Baylor University, will lecture on the Bible and culture.

Save the dates for these four distinguished lectures, and broaden your appreciation for the Bible's impact on our culture and world.



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www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum

“All the distinctive features and superiority of our republican institutions are derived from the teachings of Scripture”

— Edward Everett

Dunham Bible Museum Friends

The **Dunham Bible Museum Friends** supports the programs and collections of the 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. Visit the Dunham Bible Museum website (www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum) for more information and a membership form, or contact Dr. Diana Severance at dseverance@hbu.edu, 281-320-0487.

Briefly Note ...

- With Houston Baptist University's change from a quarterly to a semester calendar, The *Dunham Bible Museum News* will move from a quarterly publication to being published three times a year. We welcome hearing from our readers and Museum visitors.
- Please do notify us of any changes or corrections in your address.
- If you would like to receive the *Dunham Bible Museum News* by e-mail (saving the University printing and postage costs), please send your e-mail address to dseverance@hbu.edu.

Visiting the Museum

The **Dunham Bible Museum** is open 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 Monday through Saturday. To make an appointment at other times, for group tours or for further information, contact **Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or dseverance@hbu.edu**.

COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for coming lectures and exhibits (the Bible Museum will be open before and after all lectures).

- **August 31 - September 29 "Bach's Bible"**
Special exhibit of J.S. Bach's personal Bible and how the Bible influenced his music.
- **September 17 Dunham Bible Museum Lecture by Daniel Dreisbach**
"How the English Bible Shaped American Culture." 7:00 p.m., Belin Chapel, Morris Cultural Arts Center.
- **September 27 - Dunham Bible Museum Lecture by Dr. Thomas D. Rossin**
"Bach's Bible," 3:00 p.m., Dunham Theater, Morris Cultural Arts Center (this will be followed by a concert at 5:00 p.m. in Belin Chapel, featuring HBU's new pipe organ.)
- **October 1 - Dunham Bible Museum Lecture by Dr. Leland Ryken**
"The Bible as a Literary Classic," 7:00 p.m., Belin Chapel, Morris Cultural Arts Center.
- **January 28, 1010 - The Bible and Culture Dr. David L. Jeffrey**
7:00 p.m., Dillon II, Hinton Center.