



Unique Chinese Bibles donated to Dunham Bible Museum



Diane Williams (l) and D. Robert Sloan (r) look on as Pastor Greg Dowey presents the Chinese commemorative Bible to Stanley Williams

Diane and Stanley Williams, longtime friends and supporters of HBU, donated two unique Bibles to the Dunham Bible Museum on Dec. 14, 2011 - the 80 millionth Bible printed by Amity Press in Nanjing, China and a special edition of the four Gospels printed to commemorate the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The Bibles were a gift to Stanley on his 75th birthday from Greg Dowey, founding and senior pastor of the Friend Church in Columbia, S.C. and an east coast representative of *Word 4 Asia*, which distributes free Bibles to the poor in rural China.

"As Jesus told his disciples in John 15:15 that they were no longer just servants but friends, Stanley and Diane Williams have been great servants and true friends since they took me in and 'adopted' me as a son while I attended HBU for one year in the early 1980s," Dowey said. "It was a pleasure to honor a strong Christian example like Stanley with a gift of the Word of God, and I am happy knowing that these special Bibles will be joining the collection of HBU's Dunham Bible Museum." During his presentation, Dowey said that he wouldn't be the man, husband, father, or pastor he is today without Stanley's influence on him as a young man.

Dowey travels to China several times a year distributing Bibles in the rural areas of China. He presented Dr. Sloan with a Chinese Bible typical of those distributed by *Word 4 Asia*. The Chinese Bibles are now on display in the Dunham Bible Museum, along with some photos of Chinese Christians reading the precious Word.

Picturing the Word

by Dr. John Hellstern

Facsimiles of two fifteenth century *Biblia Pauperum* block books lead off the new exhibit "Picturing the Word: 15th and 16th century Bible Illustrations" in the special exhibit area of the Dunham Bible Museum. These are copies of originals in the Esztergom Cathedral Library and the British Library.

Biblia Pauperum, or "Poor Man's Bible" was a unique kind of Bible. In a book of 40 pages, the redemptive life of Christ was visualized and interpreted in pictures and texts. A key event in the life of Jesus was the central image on each page. Bordering to the right and the left were two Old Testament episodes which prefigured that event in Jesus' life. Above this were images of two Old Testament prophets, with Scripture quotes coming out of their mouths, not unlike comic books. Below the central picture were two more Old Testament prophets and their reinforcing interpretative quotes. These picture studies were patterned after manuscript versions of typology studies that date back as early as the twelfth century.



Detail of the Annunciation from *Biblia Pauperum* in the British Library

Jesus initiated this kind of typological interpretation of Scripture. On numerous occasions, for example, Jesus likened himself to Moses: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." (John 3:14-15) Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. His Transfiguration (Matthew 17) highlighted this fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, as Moses and Elijah appeared with Him, then Jesus overshadowed them by His glory.

Imagine the difficulty of producing the early printed *Biblia Pauperum*! A hand-carved page containing 10 or more images of persons, plus up to a 150 words of Latin or German was cut into a hard block of wood. Paper was then laid on the inked block and rubbed to produce the images and text. First produced in the Netherlands where this craft of woodworking flourished,

these *block books* presented a serious theological study which both visualized and interpreted the deep spiritual meaning of Jesus' life. Careful research of Scripture was inherent in every page. For example, *The Annunciation* shows the central image of Gabriel announcing Jesus' virgin birth to Mary (Case 1 of the exhibit). Eve and the serpent are pictured to the left with the promise from Genesis that Satan would be destroyed through her lineage. To the right Gideon asks for a miraculous sign of victory. Thus, every page to the final one, "The Reward of the Sanctified," pictures and interprets Jesus' redemptive ministry.

Who was the audience for these *Biblia Pauperum*? Perhaps friars and clergy used them to educate illiterate people on the unity of Scripture. Perhaps for the clergy they were visual aids to enhance their teaching and preaching. Perhaps it was a teaching resource in schools to combat heresy in the Middle Ages, affirming doctrinal orthodoxy of the Trinity, Jesus' virgin birth, his resurrection, Second Coming and final judgment, the damnation of the wicked, the salvation of the sanctified and the final union of believers with God in heaven. Certainly all this theological meaning is included in each *Biblia Pauperum*. One scholar suggested these books, which include 40 pages, were used by anyone who could afford them for serious meditative reflection during the 40 days leading up to Easter.

Today these block books are very rare, very expensive, but very interesting studies. The exact number of known copies in major world libraries as well as private hands may be less than 50. A *Biblia Pauperum* changed owners through Christie's in 2002 for \$446,000! Make plans to treat yourself to the rich images of the *Biblia Pauperum*, as well as the other Bible illustrations from the 15th and 16th centuries in the current exhibit, "Picturing the Word," at the Dunham Bible Museum. The exhibit will run through September 1.

Dr. John Hellstern is co-founder of The Living Word National Bible Museum and a retired Air Force Chaplain. His collection of rare Bibles is now part of the Dunham Bible Museum's collections.

MANIFOLD GREATNESS:

The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible

For the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas collaborated with the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Bodleian Library at University of Oxford to produce the special exhibit *Manifold Greatness*. The exhibit, retitled *The King James Bible: Its History and Influence*, will be at the Ransom Center in Austin February 28 - July 29, 2012. The exhibit is described as the most extensive display of Bibles in the Ransom Center's history. The University of Texas' Gutenberg Bible is also on permanent display at the Ransom Center.

For more information, visit
www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/upcoming/

The weekend of the KJV@400 Conference, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, was one of my greatest in all of my years at HBU! There were ten speakers: Dr. Leland Ryken and Dr. Timothy Larsen from Wheaton, Dr. Liana Lupas from the American Bible Society, Dr. Gerald Bray from Beeson Divinity School, Dr. Leonard Greenspoon from Creighton University, Dr. Donald Brake from Multnomah Seminary, Dr. John Hellstern. Dr. David Jeffrey from Baylor, Rev. Lonie Eatherton, and Dr. Sloan, our president here at Houston Baptist University. I can honestly say that I was riveted by each lecture. I felt like I was having an intellectual explosion! Each speaker was so knowledgeable, so easy to follow, and so personally inspiring.

The conference centered on the King James Bible while exploring the different facets of its importance: history, literature, music, theology, linguistics, along with many other topics. Dr. Jeffrey spoke on the importance of the King James as a common text and explicated what our current society is missing because of our lack of a common text. It was one of the most interesting lectures I have ever attended. I was thrilled to buy his *People of the Book* and have him autograph it.



Drs. Liana Lupas, David Jeffrey and Robert Sloan during a panel discussion at the KJV@400 Conference.

One of the most personally inspiring people that I have ever met was Dr. Liana Lupas. Dr. Lupas was born in Romania and earned her doctorate there in the classics, then came to the United States and got a degree in library science. She then began to work as a cataloguer at the American Bible Society, and became the society's curator. Dr. Lupas walked around the American half of the Dunham Bible Museum with me and taught me more about the books on display than I had ever heard. Not only did she impart a large amount of knowledge, but she was also very friendly and hilariously quick-witted. I am determined to visit her in New York and see the American Bible Society collection – over 4,600 different Bibles in over 2,500 languages – the largest collection of printed Bibles in America.

Not only was the KJV@400 Conference intellectually stimulating, but it was spiritually edifying. I learned so much about the King James Bible. I had such a wonderful weekend listening to, learning from, and talking with some of the leaders in theology, Biblical linguistics, Christian history and Christian literature. I feel like one blessed girl. The Dunham Bible Museum has been one of the most enlightening features of my time at HBU. The collection is unbelievable, and the people involved in the museum have taught me so much. I am thankful God gave me this amazing learning opportunity. I know that I would not have an experience like this at any other university.

Sally Grimes, a graduating senior in HBU's Honors College, has been a student assistant at the Dunham Bible Museum since the spring of her freshman year.

Thank you, Sally!



"Monk Brendan" and Sally Grimes

The spring of her freshman year, Sally Grimes e-mailed Dr. Diana Severance, Director of the Dunham Bible Museum, asking if she could use any student volunteers. She replied that she certainly could and offered Sally a job. As a member of HBU's first Honors College class and an English and Biblical Languages major, Sally was exactly the kind of student worker the museum needed.

Sally began working at the time HBU acquired two of the finest Bible collections in the United States – those of Dr. John Hellstern and Dr. Donald Brake. These two men had been collecting rare Bibles together with the dream of someday opening a Living Word National Bible Museum. After visiting HBU and learning about the vision of a Christian university that Dr. Sloan brought to HBU, they realized the Dunham Bible Museum was an excellent location for their collections. Dr. Hellstern brought his truck full of rare books to the Dunham Bible Museum in June 2009, and Dr. Brake brought his truck full of rare books in October. Sally worked diligently to accession the volumes into the Dunham Bible Museum's collection. In the process, she was exposed to precious Christian treasures – a first edition, 1611 King James Bible, medieval manuscripts, Torah scrolls, the earliest English Bibles, pottery from the time of Abraham and countless other irreplaceable artifacts. Sally's meticulous work in accessioning these treasures took a year and was always done with careful accuracy. Her delight in learning and in the Scriptures, as well as her cheerful disposition, has made it a real pleasure to have her at the Museum. After accessioning was complete, Sally helped give tours at the Museum as well as research and further annotate the histories of many of the rare volumes in the collection. Future patrons of the Museum and its research library will benefit from Sally's diligence for decades to come.

First among Sally's plans after her spring graduation is her wedding to fellow – HBU Honors College senior Andrew Johnson on June 9, 2012. Andrew is a Christianity and philosophy major and has felt a vocational call to Christian ministry. Our best wishes and prayers are with Sally and Andrew as they begin a life of Christian service together.

Special Lecture on the Resurrection of Jesus

The Dunham Bible Museum is very pleased to host Dr. Peter Williams, warden of Tyndale House, Cambridge, for a special lecture on "Things Which Ought to Be Better Known about the Resurrection of Jesus." Dr. Williams is chair of the International Greek New Testament Project and a member of the Translation Committee of the *English Standard Version* of the Bible. As a specialist in Biblical languages and textual criticism, and with a rich knowledge of the first century background of the New Testament, Williams is an excellent apologist for the Christian faith against attacks on the trustworthiness of the Scriptures. This special Dunham Bible Museum lecture on the Resurrection of Jesus is perfectly timed for the beginning of Passion Week: Monday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in Belin Chapel. Registration for the lecture is available at the Museum's website: www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum.



BRIEFLY NOTED

- On December 25, 2011, the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation aired a one hour documentary, *A 400 year old best seller: The story of the King James Bible*. Portions of the documentary were filmed at the Dunham Bible Museum and included an interview with the Museum's Director, Dr. Diana Severance.
- Videos of the Dunham Bible Museum's *KJV@400* conference will be available on the Museum's website: www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum - click "Events" and "Videos of Previous Lectures."
- The Dunham Bible Museum Gift Shop carries several new items created especially for the Dunham Bible Museum, including T-shirts with the Museum's logo and the picture of the Lincoln Memorial and Lincoln's quote about the Bible, featured on the Museum's American mural. Other specialty items include bookmarks, unique luggage tags and a journal with photos of rare Bibles in the Museum's collection.





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www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum

“Unless God’s word illumine
the way, the whole life of men is
wrapped in darkness and mist,
so that they cannot but miserably
stray.”
”

~ John Calvin



Picture of Noah's ark from the 1535 Coverdale Bible

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Picturing the Word: Bible Illustrations from the 15th-16th Century

a special exhibit from the Dunham Bible
Museum collections,
through September 1, 2012



“Things Which Ought to Be Better Known about the Resurrection of Jesus”

a Dunham Bible Museum lecture by
DR. PETER WILLIAMS
warden of Tyndale House, Cambridge.

Monday, April 2, 2012
7 p.m., Belin Chapel

Register online at
www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum

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
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