



Explore the Story of the First English Bibles on Location in England

The deadline of March 1 is fast approaching to sign up for the Early English Bible History tour June 29-July 7. This is a very special trip with many private tours of great libraries and with several leading scholars bringing a rich background to the inspiring history of the Bible in English.



Title page of Tyndale's 1536 New Testament, from Dunham Bible Museum's collection

At Oxford, Rev. David Ireson will lead tours of Merton and Hertford, the Colleges of John Wycliffe and William Tyndale. Dr. Ralph Werrel, who has written extensively on the theology of William Tyndale, will lead the tour through the beautiful Gloucestershire Cotswolds and Berkley Castle. (By the way, the English word "beautiful" was first used in Tyndale's New Testament!) HBU's own Dr. David Davis will lead the group on an exploration of some of the treasures of Oxford's Bodleian Library. In Cambridge, the tour includes a meeting with Dr. Peter Williams, warden of Tyndale House, and the renowned scholar Dr. Christopher de Hamel, who will give a special tour of the Parker Library at Corpus Christi College. Back in London, Brian Buxton, a Tyndale specialist, will share special insight about St. Paul's Cathedral and the Cathedral's library, which includes one of the two complete copies of Tyndale's first

New Testament, printed in 1526. A day exploring the British Museum will be followed by a boat cruise on the Thames. Dr. David Davis, director of the Master of Liberal Arts and assistant professor in history at HBU, and Dr. John Hellstern, whose Bible collection is now part of the Dunham Bible Museum, have put together a unique opportunity to explore the rich heritage of our English Bible. More information and registration can be found at pilgrimtours.com/groups/englishbiblehistory.htm.

Top Archaeological Find in New Exhibit

Everyone loves a good mystery, and the Dunham Bible Museum's new archaeological exhibit, *Khirbet el-Maqatir: History of a Biblical Site*, explores a biblical mystery. Throughout 2014, the Museum will be hosting an exhibit of over 40 objects from excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir which have been brought from Israel to HBU especially for this exhibit. The mystery being investigated is, "Where was the city of Ai, which Joshua and the Israelites conquered in Joshua 7-8?" Archaeologists who excavated a site first thought to be Ai determined there was not even a city at that place at the time of Joshua. This led many scholars to question the historicity of the biblical account of Israel's conquest of the land after the Exodus and wilderness wanderings. The location and dating of Ai thus has become part of the larger debate behind the historicity and dating of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

However, excavations from the site of Khirbet el-Maqatir do seem to provide evidence of Joshua's conquest. Dr. Bryant Wood, director of research with the Associates for Biblical Research and an expert in dating Bronze Age pottery, has led the excavations at the site. The geography of the site fits the biblical description of Ai, and excavations have uncovered



Dr. Bryant Wood with late Bronze Age juglet found at Khirbet el-Maqatir.

(Below) Egyptian scarab dates to the time of Egyptian Pharaoh Thutmose III.



significant remains from the late Bronze Age, as well as evidence of the destruction of the site by fire as described in the book of Joshua. Last summer, excavators uncovered a small Egyptian amulet which even more decisively dates the site to 1550-1450 B.C. *Christianity Today* listed the scarab as the most significant biblical archaeological find of 2013, since it strongly dates the site to the time of Joshua.

In addition to the scarab, other significant finds from the Bronze Age are displayed in the Dunham Bible Museum's exhibit, including a jar in which a newborn infant was buried. Objects from the Early Roman period include numerous coins, many of which were issued by rulers mentioned in the Bible. Artifacts from the Byzantine monastery and church are also on display. The exhibit thus includes artifacts spanning two millennia.



Dr. Stripling and Corinthian column from Khirbet el-Maqatir's Byzantine monastery

Dr. Scott Stripling, chair of humanities and foreign languages at Wharton County Junior College and director of the Khirbet el-Maqatir excavations, was responsible for obtaining the items on loan to HBU and transported them from Israel to the Museum. Stripling has supervised excavations at Tall el-Hamman in Jordan and the Temple Mount Salvage Operation in

Jerusalem as well as his work at Khirbet el-Maqatir, where he has especially focused on the Byzantine monastery.

On February 8, the Dunham Bible Museum hosted a conference featuring archaeologists from the excavations. Their lectures are available on the Dunham Bible Museum's website hbu.edu/biblemuseum.

Wharton County Junior College contributed funds for the exhibit, which will remain at the Museum through December. Both the exhibit and conference were made possible by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Merrymount Bibles Beckon Visitors



The vestibule of the Dunham Bible Museum contains a special display of exquisitely printed and bound Bibles from the early 20th century. While the industrialization of the 19th century led to a tremendous increase in the printing and production of Bibles, the mass produced Bibles lacked the beauty of the earlier printings and manuscripts. At the turn of the 20th century, the Arts and Crafts movement, led by William Morris in England, encouraged a return to traditional craftsmanship. The Merrymount Press in Boston, founded by Daniel

Updike, was a leader of the Arts and Crafts movement in the American printing field. Updike purchased the Caslon face type and was the first American firm to use the Times New Roman font (which the computer seems to have now made ubiquitous).

In 1904, Merrymount Press printed limited edition sets of Bibles, 14 volumes in each set, with beautiful craftsmanship. All are printed on handmade paper. The Bible was printed as a piece of literature, in paragraph form unbroken by chapters and verses. The sets had between 56 and 104 plates and included photogravures of paintings by various artists. Ralph Hull donated three of the Merrymount sets to the Dunham Bible Museum, each with a different binding and different illustrations, but all with great attention to detailed craftsmanship. Visitors can now view these exquisite volumes in the entrance to the Dunham Bible Museum.

Arabic Bible Added to the Collection

The Dunham Bible Museum recently purchased an Arabic New Testament, the fourth edition of the First Font Arabic Reference New Testament, printed in Beirut in 1912. Edited by Franklin E. Hoskins, this reference Bible is a revision of the one originally prepared by Eli Smith and Cornelius Van Dyck, along with native scholars Sheik Nasif el Yazigy and Boutros al Bustani. Eli Smith, a graduate of Yale and an early missionary with the A.B.C.F.M., began the project of translating the entire Bible into Arabic from the original Greek and Hebrew in 1848. Believing that the Bible needed to be produced with the highest quality to attract the Arabic readers, Smith took special care to create an Arabic type that would be a most clear and beautiful font. While the font of English has less than 100 separate types, the font of Arabic with vowel points has about 1800 separate types! Each letter has three forms (depending on if it's at the beginning, middle, or end of a word), and each letter has several different vowel points possible above or below it. The type letters had to be carefully grooved on each side to

allow the vowel insertions. When Eli Smith died in 1857 with the translation unfinished, Cornelius Van Dyke completed the work, and 1000 copies were printed in 1865. This Arabic Bible was the first mass-produced volume in Arabic. A second edition of 3000 was printed in 1885. When a third edition was needed, Franklin Hoskins was called in as editor. He urged that stereotype plates be made of the Bible, since the typesetting and proofreading were extremely difficult, but funds were insufficient. The third edition of 6000 complete Bibles and 1000 New Testaments, issued in 1906, was exhausted in five years. This fourth edition is a thorough revision of the translation and printing. The Dunham Bible Museum's copy includes notes on its history provided by Franklin Hoskins. The copy is signed by Hoskins, to "my friend W. Stanley Hollis." Hollis was U.S. Consul in Beirut from 1911-1917. This Arabic Bible was printed in a crucial time, when the entire Middle East was being reshaped by the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

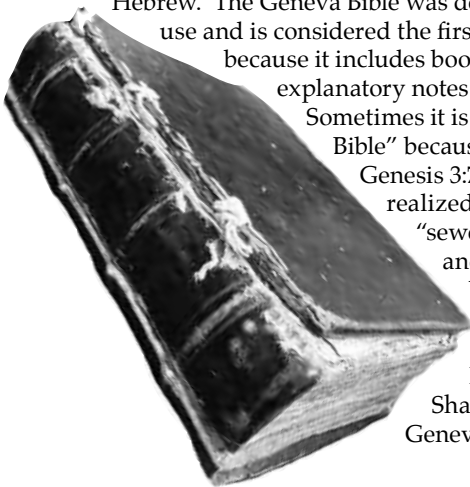
Historic Geneva Bible Presented to Dunham Bible Museum

The descendants of a noted American colonist recently presented their 16th century family Bible to the Dunham Bible Museum. Puritan Christopher Avery brought the Bible from England when he immigrated to America with his 10-year old son James. As an adult, James went on to found Groton, Connecticut and served as a military commander and a legislator.

The father and son sailed to the New World in 1630-31. Family tradition says they were on board the *Arbella*, the flagship of the Great Migration to Massachusetts organized by John Winthrop. They would then have been on board when Winthrop delivered his famous sermon "The Model of Christian Charity," which includes the lines, "We must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us," drawn from Matthew 5. Those words have been interpreted by many, including Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, as a description of the beacon light to the world that America has been and ought to be.

The 1581 Avery family Bible is a Geneva translation, the first English Bible translated directly from the Greek and Hebrew. The Geneva Bible was designed for individual use and is considered the first English study Bible because it includes book introductions and explanatory notes and references.

Sometimes it is called the "Breeches Bible" because of its translation of Genesis 3:7; when Adam and Eve realized they were naked and "sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves breeches." The early Jamestown settlers, the pilgrims, the Puritans, and William Shakespeare all used the Geneva translation.



JOHN WINTHROP

Winthrop, quoting Matthew 5:14-16, challenged Puritans coming to America in 1630 to shine as Christians in their new land.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden ... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

The Dunham Bible Museum's "Bible in America" mural includes John Winthrop and the Scripture he quoted during his sermon coming to America aboard the *Arbella*.



Nancy Pressler presents Avery Family Bible to Dr. Robert Sloan, as husband Judge Paul Pressler, daughter Anne Csorba, and son Paul Pressler IV look on.

Nancy Avery Pressler, Cameron Avery, and Richard Avery inherited the cherished heirloom from their mother, Mrs. William H. Avery (Jean Petrequin Avery), and have given it as a permanent loan to the Dunham Bible Museum for the public's enjoyment. "We chose to give the Bible to the museum at Houston Baptist University because of its commitment to the authority of the Bible, to Christ, and to the Christian faith which matches the faith of the Averys who brought the Bible to America," said Nancy Avery Pressler.

The Avery Bible has been well used over the centuries, and the Presslers donated funds for its restoration. Book restorer Francisco Rodriguez is bringing new life into the treasured volume.



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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

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pilgrimtours.com/groups/englishbiblehistory.htm



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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**

