

Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

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Piece of the Past 2014 Winners Announced

Winners of the fourth annual Piece of the Past essay contest were announced at a special dinner at the River Oaks Country Club, hosted by Dr. Stewart Morris, on March 27. This year's contest included essays on artifacts in the Fine Arts/Contemporary Art Museums, as well as the Museums of Southern History and Decorative Arts, and the Dunham Bible Museum. First place winners in each museum category received \$500; second place winners received \$250. The contest was funded by the Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation and Mr. Isaac Heimbinder.



Nicholas VanCleve

For the third year in a row, 1st place winner in the Dunham Bible Museum category was Nicholas Van Cleve. A junior in the Honors College, Van Cleve is double-majoring in biblical languages and philosophy. He is also involved in HBU Students for Life, a pro-life club on campus, enjoys giving tours to prospective students as a Husky Ambassador, and serves as Chaplain for the Student Government Association. His essay, "Scroll of Esther: Catharsis on Vellum – A Triumph Celebrated," focused on the beautifully illuminated 17th century scroll of the book of Esther. Reflecting on his study of the Esther scroll, Van Cleve commented: "I was intrigued by the high regard the Jewish people maintain for the book of Esther, the only book in the Bible not to explicitly use the name of God. As is indicated in the copy which the Dunham Bible Museum displays, demand was high in Italy for scrolls of Esther that included not only text but colorful illustrations! I was fascinated by quotes from scribes who labored long hours while concentrating on their work even in the cold, and I realized that their personalities were far more varied than their ascetic lifestyles might indicate. I'm glad they so accurately preserved texts like the Esther scroll for us to continue enjoying today, and I'm glad the Dunham Bible Museum offers so much to those who visit."



First section of 17th century Italian scroll of Esther

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Hayley DeBolt placed second for her essay "The Making of the King James Bible." DeBolt is a Senior at HBU and will be graduating in December. She is Treasurer of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, and is a tutor at the Academic Success Center. She found most interesting that the King James Bible was not actually a new translation, but rather a revised edition of earlier English translations made by consulting the original Greek and Hebrew texts. DeBolt said, "My research on the King James Bible also opened my eyes to how much people in our age, myself included, take for granted when it comes to owning a Bible. We have so many different translations and such ease of access to the Bible that the awe has worn off in some ways. I can't imagine what it must have been like to be alive when the King James Bible was published; to hold a Bible for the first time must have been incredible!"



Hayley DeBolt



The Dunham Bible Museum's 1611 King James Bible is one of about 200 of the first edition remaining today.

Both of the winning essays can be read online at the Bible Museum's website: www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum. Select "Tour of the Museum" and scroll through "From Manuscript to Printed Word" for the essay on the Esther scroll; scroll through "English Bible" for the essay on the King James Bible.

Cuneiform Scholar Visits Museum

Dr. Arturo Chavez, President of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio, and Father Jesús García from



Aleje, Leon Spain visited the Bible Museum in search for cuneiform manuscripts. Fr. Jesús Director of the Instituto Bíblico y Oriental in Spain (<http://biblicoyoriental.es/museo.php>), is a specialist in biblical languages, as well as Coptic and cuneiform. Cuneiform, one of

the earliest known systems of writing, consists of wedge-shaped marks pressed into clay.

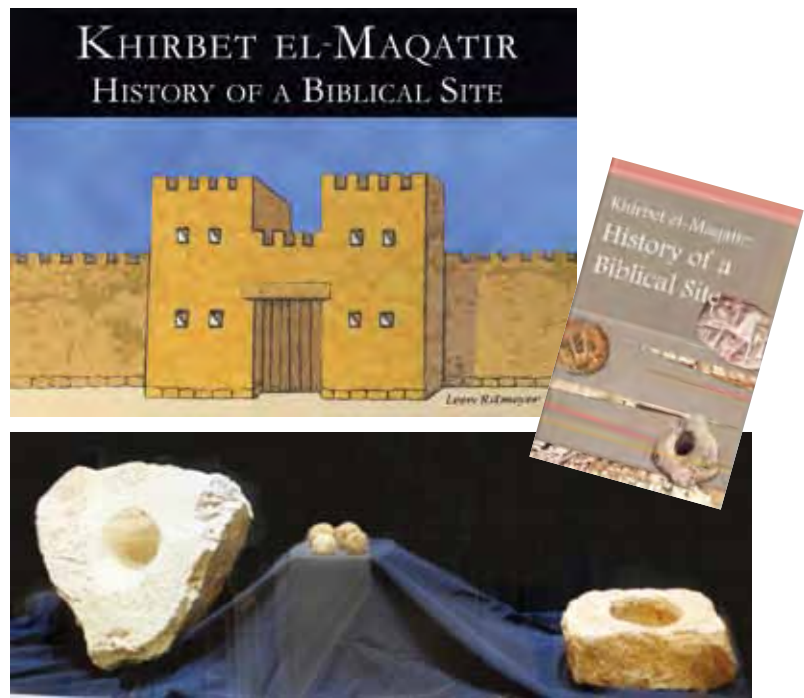
Cuneiform manuscript in the Dunham Bible Museum's collection, donated by Gerald and Nancy Bodey. This is a promissory note for barley and dates from the reign of Artaxerxes I, the Persian king who sent Ezra and Nehemiah to aid in the resettlement of Jerusalem.

Socket Stones are Here!

Two of the socket stones for the gate of the Bronze Age city at Khirbet el-Maqatir, thought to be the site of biblical Ai, arrived at the Dunham Bible Museum on April 22. The position of the gate of Maqatir on the north side and the evidence of burning around the gate are two of the many archaeological and geographical features which indicate Maqatir is indeed the site of Ai, the city Joshua conquered after Jericho (Joshua 7-8). The exhibit *Khirbet el-Maqatir: History of a Biblical Site*, featuring artifacts on loan from Israel from the excavations, will be at the Dunham Bible Museum through December 19, 2014.

A beautifully illustrated pamphlet of the exhibit, including a history of the excavations by Dr. Bryant Wood, is now available for \$4. If ordering by mail, please add \$1 for mailing costs.

In February, the Dunham Bible Museum hosted a conference featuring archaeologists involved with the el-Maqatir excavations. The lectures from the conference are now available online through the Dunham Bible Museum's website www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum.



Jane Grey's Letter in Her Greek Testament

The Tudor period and the beginning of the Reformation in England is a period filled with political and religious drama lived out by seemingly larger than life personalities. Young King Edward VI, knowing he was dying, tried to keep the crown in Protestant hands by naming his cousin Jane Grey his successor. Jane was an extremely well-educated young lady with strong Protestant convictions. She knew Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and corresponded with leading Reformers on the continent. The people, however, did not accept Jane as queen and saw Henry VIII's daughter Mary, and sister of Edward, as the rightful successor. After nine days, Jane stepped down as queen. When Jane's father was involved in a rebellion, Queen Mary decided Jane must be executed; Mary sent her chaplain to Jane to try and convert her to Catholicism, but Jane was firm in her beliefs, answering the chaplain with Scriptures.

The day before her execution, Jane gave her Greek New Testament to her sister Katherine. At the back of the Testament, she wrote a letter in which she expressed her Christian convictions and hope:

I have sent you, my dear sister Katherine, a book, which although it be not outwardly trimmed with gold, or the curious embroidery of the artfulest needles, yet inwardly it is more worth than all the precious mines which the vast world can boast of: it is the book, my only best, and best loved sister, of the law of the Lord: it is the Testament and last will, which he bequeathed unto us wretches and wretched sinners, which shall lead you to the path of eternal joy: and if you with a good mind read it, and with an earnest desire follow it, no doubt it shall bring you to an immortal and everlasting life: it will teach you to live, and learn you to die: it shall win you more, and endow you with greater felicity, than you should have gained possession of our woeful father's lands: for as if God had prospered him, you should have inherited his honours and manors, so if you

apply diligently this book, seeking to direct your life according to the rule of the same, you shall be an inheritor of such riches, as neither the covetous shall withdraw from you, neither the thief shall steal, neither yet the moths corrupt: desire with David, my best sister, to understand the law of the Lord your God, live still to die, that you by death may purchase eternal life, and

trust not that the tenderness of your age shall lengthen your life: for unto God, when he calleth, all hours, times and seasons are alike, and blessed are they whose lamps are furnished when he cometh, for as soon will the Lord be glorified in the young as in the old.

My good sister, once more again let me entreat thee to learn to die; deny the world, defy the devil, and despise the flesh, and delight yourself only in the Lord: be penitent for your sins, and yet despair not; and desire with St. Paul to be dissolved and to be with Christ, with whom, even in death there is life.

Be like the good servant, and even at midnight be waking, lest when death cometh and stealeth upon you, like a thief in the night, you be with the servants of darkness found sleeping; and lest for lack of oil you be found like the five foolish virgins, or like him that he had not on the wedding garment, and then you be cast into darkness, or banished from the marriage: rejoice in Christ, as I trust you do, and seeing you



cont. on p. 3

have the name of a Christian, as near as you can follow the steps, and be a true imitator of your master Christ Jesus, and take up your cross, lay your sins on his back, and always embrace him.

Now as touching my death, rejoice as I do, my dearest sister, that I shall be delivered of this corruption, and put on incorruption: for I am assured that I shall, for losing of a mortal life, win one that is immortal, joyful, and everlasting: the which I pray God grant you in his most blessed hour, and send you his all-saving grace to love in his fear, and to die in the true Christian faith: from which in God's name I exhort you that you never swerve, neither through hope of life, not

fear of death: for if you will deny his truth, to give length to a weary and corrupt breath, God himself will deny you, and by vengeance make short what you by your soul's loss would prolong: but if you will cleave to him, he will stretch forth your days to an uncircumscribed comfort, and to his own glory: to the which glory, God bring me now, and you hereafter, when it shall please him to call you. Farewell once again, my beloved sister, and put your only trust in God, who only must help you. Amen.

Your loving Sister.

Dr. Hellstern donates books to Dunham Bible Museum

It was a pleasure having Dr. John Hellstern at the Dunham Bible Museum May 2. Dr. Hellstern, his wife Jean, and daughter Joyce, had come from Fort Worth to be at HBU's "Faith in the Public Square" event with Dr. Robert Sloan, Senator Ted Cruz, and Dr. Marvin Olasky. HBU was able to buy Dr. Hellstern's marvelous Bible collection five years ago, and Dr. Hellstern continues to support, advise, and pray for the Dunham Bible Museum and its vital Christian witness.

On this trip he brought more Bibles and books from his library and donated them to the Museum. Among these were: two 19th century beautifully leather-bound volumes of Richard Trench's *Notes on the Miracles of Our Lord* and *Studies in the Gospels*; *The Bible and Its Story Taught in One Thousand Picture Lessons*, a 10-volume work from 1909 which includes prints of biblical artwork; two Bibles in the Tajik language of Tajikistan, including an illustrated Bible for children; *The Psalms of David* with illuminations; and a three volume illustrated story Bible for children in Hebrew. We are thankful for these gifts, but even more thankful for Dr. Hellstern's passion for the Bible and its Author.



Dr. John Hellstern and Senator Ted Cruz, at HBU's "Faith in the Public Square" event May 2.

MUSEUM CATALOGUE NOW ONLINE

The Dunham Bible Museum's catalogue is now available online and accessible to people around the globe! Simply go to the Museum's website:

www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum
and click "Collection Catalog" on the menu.

The catalog includes four categories from the Dunham Bible Museum's holdings: *Library* includes books; *Photos* includes prints, paintings, and photos; *Objects* includes archaeological artifacts as well as furniture and other objects; *Archives* includes manuscripts. All categories can be searched at once. Images of many of the items are included in the catalog, as well as additional descriptive and historical notes about the artifacts.

We are deeply indebted to our student assistants who have done much of the tedious work and data entry on the catalog. Sally Grimes Johnson and Lesleigh Balkum Jones have now graduated, but did much foundational work on the catalog. Current assistants John Mack and Isaac Brocato have been a great help in bringing the online catalog to fruition.



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Visit our website at
www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum

“The Lord does not shine upon us
unless we see by his Word as our
Light.” – John Calvin



The Dunham Bible Museum is a Blue Star Museum and especially welcomes all active military and their families this summer.

OCTOBER 9, 2014, 7 P.M., BELIN CHAPEL

“Israel in Egypt” – a lecture on archaeological finds and inscriptions from Israel’s time in Egypt, by Douglas Petrovich, chief academic officer at The Shepherds Seminary.

FEBRUARY 26, 2015, BELIN CHAPEL

“Heaven in a Nightclub” – lecture and performance by Dr. William Edgar, professor of apologetics at Westminster Theological Seminary on the Bible and Jazz.



Honors College junior John Mack gives a printing demonstration to students of Covenant Academy.



Khirbet el-Maqatir: History of a Biblical Site will be at the Dunham Bible Museum through December 19, 2014.

Over 40 artifacts were brought from Israel to HBU for this exhibit.

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**



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