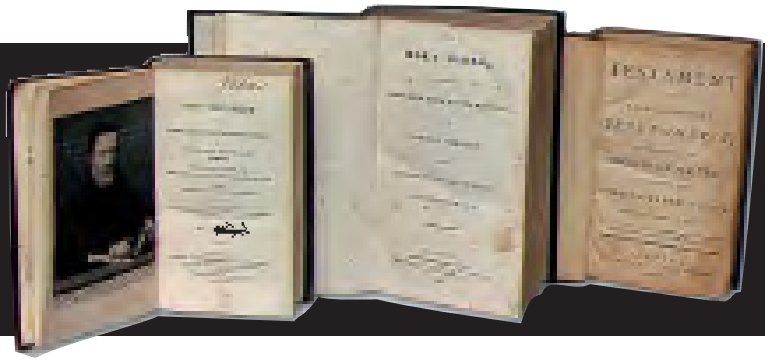


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

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Wenceslas IV Bible comes to HBU

Judge Paul and Nancy Pressler have given the Dunham Bible Museum a most beautiful gift with a fascinating history – a facsimile edition of the manuscript Wenceslas IV Bible from the 14th century. The original manuscript is in Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna, Austria.

Many have heard of “Good King Wenceslas” from the English Christmas carol. There really was a King Wenceslas, in fact, several of them. The first was a Duke in Bohemia in the 10th century, later canonized as a saint. This is the “Good King Wenceslas” of the carol. Later, beginning in the thirteenth century, there was a series of kings of Bohemia named Wenceslas. Wenceslas IV (1361-1419) became King of Bohemia by inheritance and the German King by election.

In Wenceslas IV’s time, there was the beginning of a reformation of the church and a renewed emphasis on the Scriptures. Preachers such as Konrad von Waldhausen, Milcz von Krensier and Matthias von Janow all preached against the corruptions of the medieval church and preached from the Bible in the vernacular language of the people. When Wenceslas’s sister, Anne of Bohemia, became the wife of King Richard II of England, she brought with her to England copies of the gospels in Bohemian, English, and Latin, which she read daily. John Wycliffe, who translated the Bible into English, praised Anne for her reading of the Scriptures, and when Wycliffe was taken before the authorities for his criticisms of the church, Anne defended and protected him. All of these events were precursors to the preaching of Jan Hus and the later Reformation under Martin Luther.

Wenceslas IV’s father, Charles IV, had prohibited any vernacular translations of the Scriptures. Yet, the Wenceslas



Nancy and Paul Pressler stand beside one of the beautifully illuminated volumes of the Wenceslas Bible, their gift to the Dunham Bible Museum.

Bible is one of the earliest translations of the Bible into German, directly against Wenceslas’ father’s orders. The Bible was not completed before Wenceslas’ death and only includes the Old Testament. There are magnificent illustrations for each chapter, through the book of Nehemiah. Though unfinished, the Bible is in eight folio volumes.

Even with such a beautiful Bible and an interesting history, why would the Presslers give the Dunham Bible Museum such a gift? One of Judge Pressler’s ancestors, Johann Breslau, was Wenceslas IV’s Secretary of State. This gift is in memory of Johann Breslau.

One of the Most Extraordinary Undertakings of Our Time



“One of the Most Extraordinary Undertakings of Our Time” was the *Smithsonian Magazine’s* description of *The St. John’s Bible*, now on exhibit at the Dunham Bible Museum in the Heritage Edition through December.

In April, the Dunham Bible Museum hosted two special guests speaking on *The St. John’s Bible*. Father Hollas, a Benedictine monk who initiated the idea of St. John’s Abbey commissioning a hand calligraphied and illuminated manuscript for the 21st century, shared with us some of the history of the project as well as some of the spiritual truths imbedded in the 165 artful illuminations. Tim Ternes, Director of *The St. John’s Bible*, showed us the details of the process of creating such a manuscript, from the quills and vellum to the composition of the inks used.

The *Saint John’s Bible* has been on exhibit at the Library of Congress and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Acquiring a Heritage Edition of *The Saint John’s Bible* would be an important addition to the Dunham Bible Museum’s collection, and fundraising has begun for the purchase. Only 290 of the beautifully illuminated and calligraphied Bibles are being produced from the original manuscript.

Col. Newton Cole, Chaplain, USAF, Ret., quickly calculated that if the seven volumes cost \$150,000, one volume would cost \$22,000. Moved by the beauty of *The St. John’s Bible*, he donated \$22,000 to purchase volume 6, *The Gospel and Acts*, in memory of his wife Linda Langham Cole. Contributions made towards the \$150,000 cost for the seven volumes currently totals \$28,950. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the Dunham Bible Museum for the acquisition of this exquisite Bible and work of art done for the glory of God.

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God



Dr. Anton Koekemoer, an astrophysicist with the Hubble Telescope, will bring the next Dunham Bible Museum Lecture on September 24, at 7 p.m. in the Dunham Theater. Dr. Koekemoer will speak on "Science and Faith: the Heavens Declare the Glory of God." The illuminators of the *St. John's Bible* used several Hubble photos in their artwork, which Dr. Koekemoer will illustrate in his presentation.

Dr. Koekemoer will highlight some of the exciting astronomical discoveries about our universe, including distant galaxies, black holes, giant clouds of star formation, and other discoveries revealed by the Hubble Space Telescope and other observatories. He also will share some personal reflections, from his own perspective as a Christian, on how our current scientific understanding of this wonderful universe can be reconciled in harmony with our Christian faith. Considering the wonders of the universe, we can appreciate how the Psalmist was inspired to write: "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies proclaim His handiwork" (Ps. 19:1).

"We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever."

~ Isaac Newton



Dunham Bible Museum Receives "Power of the Word" Award

April 18, 2015, at the River Oaks Country Club, The Bible in 90 Days presented its first "Power of the Word" Awards to Lee Strobel, author and Professor of Christian Thought at HBU, and the Dunham Bible Museum. Lee Strobel, a popular Christian apologist and author, gave the address at the luncheon. His account of his journey from atheism to faith in Christ was both entertaining and inspiring. Dr. Diana Severance, Director of the Dunham Bible Museum, received the award on behalf of the Museum.

The "Power of the Word" award was named after Ted Cooper, founder of The Bible in 90 Days, and "is given to an

individual and to an organization that exhibits boldness in their beliefs and has helped our ministry educate and realize the importance of reading the Bible." In presenting the award, Dr. William Campbell, President of Scripture Awakening, noted that "The Dunham Bible Museum has definitely helped ignite a spark in individuals to explore the bible's authenticity and history."

The Bible in 90 Days (B90), now part of Scripture Awakening, is a group-oriented Bible reading plan that engages people in a 90-day cover-to-cover reading of the Bible. Churches across denominations, prisons, rehab centers, corporate Bible studies, neighborhood small groups, and even small towns, have used B90 successfully. The Dunham Bible Museum is honored to be recognized by B90 as inspiring people to read and study the Scriptures.



Piece of the Past 2015

The 2015 "Piece of the Past" essay winners were announced at a special awards dinner March 23 hosted by sponsor and HBU founder Stewart Morris. First and second place awards were given for essays on objects in the three University Museums, the Art gallery, and a special freshman category. A Grand Prize was awarded to the best essay overall.

Jonathan Richie won the first place prize in the Dunham Bible Museum for his essay on "Faience Ushabti: The Purpose and Religion of the Egyptian Ushabti." Kyra Brown won the second place Dunham Bible Museum award for her essay, "The Julia Smith Bible: Changing Society's Rules-The First Woman to Translate the Bible."

Nicholas van Cleve won the Grand Prize for his essay "Into the Heavens: The Lunar Bible." In his previous three years at HBU, Nicholas won first place for his essays in the Bible Museum category. Van Cleve graduated this May with a *summa cum laude* degree in Biblical Languages and Philosophy. He noted that the Piece of the Past Essay Contest had greatly encouraged him as a writer.

Congratulations to these winners and all who participated in the 2015 contest. The winning essays are posted online at www.hbu.edu/museums



Stewart Morris, center; Grand Prize winner Nicholas Van Cleve, far left; First Place Dunham winner Jonathan Richie, far right; Second Place Dunham winner Kyra Brown, fourth from the left.

Best wishes to ...



John Mack, a student worker who has been with the museum for two years, is graduating and will be teaching in a charter school in San Antonio. We'll miss his printing skills as well as the wonderful tours he gives, but wish him God's grace in all his endeavors.



Andrew Adler, curator of the exhibit "Where is the Original Bible?" stands in front of his exhibit. Adler received his MA in Biblical Languages from HBU this May. He's been a student worker at the Bible Museum for four years, and we'll miss not having him at HBU. For several summers Adler has done mission work in India, and he feels God has called him to that part of the globe for evangelism and making disciples for Jesus.



Poems from an Old Bible

One of the Family Bibles in the Dunham Bible Museum's collection, dated 1822, has numerous poems and sayings about the Bible written inside the covers. Here are a few:

Thou truest friend man ever knew,
Thy constancy I've tried.
When all were false I've found thee true,
My counselor and guide.



This is a precious book indeed!
Happy the child that loves to read!
'Tis God's own word which he has given,
To show our souls the way to Heaven.

It bids us from sin to fly.
Because our souls can never die;
It points where angels dwell
And warns us to escape from Hell.

But what is more than all beside,
The Bible tells us Jesus died.
This is the best its chief intent
To lead poor sinners to repent.



The Bible – It is the light of my understanding, the joy of my hope, the fullness of my heart, the clarifier of my affections, the mirror of my thoughts, the consoler of my sorrows, the guide of my soul through this gloomy labyrinth of time, the telescope sent from heaven to reveal to the eye of man the amazing glories of the far distant world. Every promise invites me to heaven, every precept commands, every exhortation urges thither – every warning alarms against the danger of its eternal loss.



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Visit our website at
www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum

"Where can the purest principles
of morality be learned so clearly
or so perfectly as from the New
Testament?"

~ Justice Joseph Story
in U.S. Supreme Court, 1844,
Vidal v. Girard's Executors

UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

- *September 24, 2015, "Science and Faith in Harmony: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God"* – lecture by Dr. Anton Koekemoer astrophysicist with the Hubble Space Telescope — 7 p.m., Dunham Theater.
- *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

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

- *Biblical Manuscripts: Where is the Original Bible?* – an exhibit on early biblical manuscripts, through December 11, 2015
- *The Saint John's Bible* – exhibit from the Heritage Edition of the manuscript Bible commissioned by the Benedictine St. John's Abbey through December 18, 2015
- *Renaissance of the Bible: Erasmus' Greek Text and the Explosion of Bible Translations*, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the printing of Erasmus' Greek New Testament, January 4-December 16, 2016.



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CONNECTING YOU,
THEN AND NOW

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**