

## Hellstern/Brake Collection

Dr. John Hellstern, retired Air Force Chaplain and Disciples of Christ Minister, and Dr. Donald Brake, former Dean and Vice-President of Multnomah Seminary, had the vision together to establish a national Museum of the Bible. As they have collected over the decades, they have worked together to not duplicate their collections, but complement each others' works so as to make their collections more comprehensive.

As the Living Word National Bible Museum they have had extensive exhibits in Dallas, Tulsa, and Branson. In 2008, Drs. Brake and Hellstern loaned the Dunham Bible Museum several key items to open exhibits in its new home in the Morris Cultural Arts Center. In 2009, the University was able to purchase the Brake /Hellstern collections and add them to the Jonathan Byrd collection purchased in 1998. They recognize that locating the collections and Museum at a University would be the best means of having the Bible Museum become a tool for demonstrating the Bible's influence in all areas of learning.

Their combined collection of upwards of 5000 pieces (1/2 of which are Bibles and the other 1/2 are support materials) includes, but is not limited to the following:

- All of the early English Bibles are included, from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century through the first editions of the KJV. In many cases, second and subsequent significant editions are also in the collection. (e.g. have 5 of 7 of folios of the Great Bible)
  - 1536 Tyndale New Testament. One of 7 known copies. Many beautiful woodcuts, 21 from Revelation)
  - 1537 Coverdale Bible – first Bible licensed by King Henry VIII. No complete volumes known, with 5 even extant.
  - 1537 Matthews Bible (ed. owned by William Whipple, a signer of the Declaration of Independence)
  - 1538 Coverdale Diaglot Bible, less than 10 known copies
  - 1540 Great Bible – perfect copy; one of 2 known
  - 1631 “Wicked Bible”. One of 11 recorded copies in existence.
  - 1662 Cambridge Concordance, one of 6 known copies
- Greek texts that were used to translate the first English versions (Including the first three of Erasmus' Greek New Testament)
- Bibles containing textual changes from 1611 KJV to Revised Version of 1881, along with Greek texts underlying these changes.
- Approximately 20 papyrus pieces, although few have been identified as yet.
- Several examples of medieval manuscripts, including
  - Latin manuscript Bible of 12<sup>th</sup> century (before chapters)
  - 13<sup>th</sup> century Torah
  - 17<sup>th</sup> century beautifully illuminated scroll of Esther
  - 1460 *Book of Hours*, illuminated, from Duke of Berry's Library
  - Gutenberg leaf and working replica of Gutenberg press
  - Koberger De Lyra's commentary
- Illustrated Bibles spanning the art of many centuries, from hand-drawn to wood-block prints, to copper engravings, to steel-engraved art of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Bible illustrated by Thomas Nast
  - Bible illustrated by western artists Thomas Moran

- Beautiful example of bookbinders' art
  - Work by famous binders, including Reviere and Jane Aitken
  - Fore-edge painted Bibles
  - Bibles with beautiful gauffered edges
- Bibles owned by famous people
  - King James I's Latin Vulgate Bible
  - William Whipple (Declaration of Independence signer)
  - Francis Fry
  - Robert Barker, printer of KJV
  - First edition of Isaac Watts' *Psalms* signed by Watts
  - Folio Bible owned by Katherine the Great of Russia
  - Folio Bible owned by Alexander I of Russia (this and above bound in silver with hand-painted enamels)
- Additional material related to Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Watts, etc
  - 1521 edition of the Golden Legend, containing whole sections of the Law and Gospels in English, before permitted in England. One of 10 known copies.

The working Gutenberg Press made for the Living Word Bible Museum exhibits is also now part of the Dunham Bible Museum collection.