

# The Dr. Gene Scott Bible Collection

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## Station 1: GUTENBERG BIBLE

### *Leaf on vellum*



***Click on the  
image above to  
see an enlarged  
view !***

**The Gutenberg Bible** - The first substantial book ever printed from moveable type - is considered by many to be the most influential and perhaps the greatest of all printed books. Johannes Gutenberg (born Ganzfleisch or "Gooseflesh"), of Mainz, Germany, printed this famous Bible from 1450-1456. He completed some 150 copies on paper and only about 35 on the more costly vellum (a sheepskin parchment), in the manner of the traditional monastic hand-lettered Bibles.

Only 12 vellum Bibles are recorded today in various states of preservation; one in France, 5 in Germany, 2 in England, 1 in Italy (Vatican Library), and 3 in the United States. Only 4 of these are complete. Single Gutenberg leaves on paper are sometimes available for collectors, as two imperfect Bibles were broken up, in 1921 and 1953; such a leaf is shown at Station 2. Vellum leaves, however, are

another story. A total of just 82 1/2 vellum leaves, often fragmentary, or in poor condition, are known. Most were recovered from the bindings of other books, such as the 54 vellum leaves in Swedish institutions recovered from the bindings of account books at a Swedish monastery. Nearly all of the other vellum leaves are now the property of museums or other institutions; only three, including this one, are or have been available for collectors.

Only one other vellum leaf has appeared on the open market in the last 50 years! The leaf presents the greater part of chapter 38 and all of chapter 39 of Ecclesiasticus. It, too, owes its survival to having been used as a binding, of a work by the German professor of law Jacobus Thomasius (1622-1684) - and illustrates the contempt in which the Latin Vulgate was held in Germany by the middle of the 17th century!

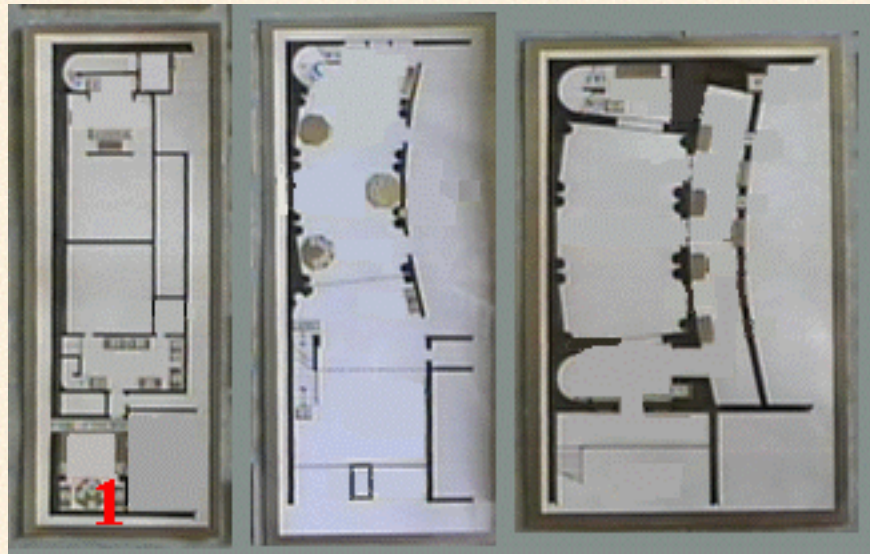


[Additional Comments  
from Dr. Scott](#)

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## STATION LOCATION MAP

Below is a floor plan map of the Cathedral in three sections, one for each level. The first section is the Lower Level, the second is the Foyer Level, and the third is the Mezzanine Level. This station is located in the "Room of the Book" on the Lower Level at the red #1.



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