

The Dr. Gene Scott Bible Collection

STATION 4: First Complete Bible Printed in Greek



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

1518 Aldine Edition

Erasmus, the Dutch scholar, was the first to publish the New Testament in Greek, in 1516; this complete Bible was published in February 1518 at Venice, Italy by Aldo Manuzio and Andrea d'Asola. To their minor revision of Erasmus' New Testament was added the well-established Greek Septuagint text of the Old Testament. Aldo Manuzio, the printer of this and other "Classics" in their original languages, created the famous "Aldine" typefaces. His enterprise was active in securing manuscripts of ancient works in Greek reaching Europe after the fall of Byzantium. He also published the works of Aristotle (1495-1498), Virgil (1501), Homer (1504) and Plato (1513) in their original Greek. Andrea d'Asola, Aldo Manuzio's brother-in-law, was the editor of the Greek text, though he drew from Erasmus' first edition (wherein Erasmus had filled missing passages in his source texts by translating into Greek from the Latin Vulgate), and only four other manuscripts.

The Aldine Greek Bible was rushed to completion before the publication of the Complutensian Polyglot (prepared under the direction of Cardinal Ximenes of Alcala, Spain), completed in 1516 but not printed until 1522. Thus, Aldo Manuzio gets the credit for publishing the first complete text of the Bible in Greek.

Its publication marked a clear break with the Latin text of the "Vulgate" version and a return to the original language of New Testament scripture and the Old Testament Septuagint (the version quoted throughout the New Testament). The ability to have access to these purer versions allowed Luther (in German) and Tyndale (in English) to perform their landmark translations, free from many accretions and corruptions which the Medieval church had perpetrated to justify its traditions.

Don't miss

Station 49

which features

rare and early

Polyglot Bibles.

Erasmus' 1522

diglot Greek-

Latin New

Testament, the

very edition

used by Tyndale,

can be seen at

Station 12

STATION LOCATION MAP

Below is a floor plan map of the Cathedral in 3 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 #4.



Dr. Gene Scott® is a registered trademark name.
Copyright © 2005, w. euGene Scott, Ph.D. - All rights reserved.