

The Dr. Gene Scott Bible Collection

STATION 11: MARTIN LUTHER'S WORKS & the First Edition of the First Spanish Bible



Overview of Station 11

See also the spectacular 1523 Luther Pentateuch (first edition) and gorgeous 1577 Luther Bible shown in the "Room of the Book" at [Station 5](#), and the display of Luther Bibles through three centuries at [Station 36](#). Besides the items annotated below, this Station also shows several books about

[Station](#)

Luther from Dr. Scott's library.



A few of Luther's works in English including his "Table Talks;"

***Click on the picture
above for a closer view.***

Martin Luther's "Table Talks" - First English Edition

Martin Luther's famous theological discussions with his German contemporaries were a crucible in which Luther polished and perfected his "radical" ideas, of a return to Paul's message of faith and grace and peace. They took place, literally, around Luther's table, where his family and friends gathered nearly every night, and the best of Martin Luther's ideas poured forth spontaneously around the meal and the beer. Most prominent among Luther's companions was Philip Melancthon; others are listed among the "divers Learned Men" on the title page. Many of these discussions were written down by Luther's contemporary, Dr. Anthony Lauterbach, or were added by Johann Aurifaber, who spent much time with Luther in the final years of Luther's life.

The German edition of 1569 was fiercely opposed by adherents of the established church; thousands of copies, in several Continental languages, were seized and burned by the Jesuits. During the long struggle between the Church of Rome and the Reformers, Luther's ideas were seen by his opponents as incendiary, from the notion that the people should have the Bible in their own language to his views on such practices as the selling of indulgences. The suppression of the book was almost entirely successful. The translator, Captain Henry Bell, mentions in his preface that the original German edition had been suppressed under an edict

of the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolph the Second to the extent that some 80,000 copies were burned, and that by the first quarter of the 17th century, when Bell was stationed in Germany on King James' and King Charles' business (as he puts it), not a copy could be found.

In 1626, Bell was sent a copy that had been buried in an associate's yard, along with a letter urging him to translate it. That task was postponed until Captain Bell was imprisoned for a period of ten years, allegedly for too-persistent demands for his back pay; the job of translation took five of those years. When the Archbishop of Canterbury heard of Bell's project, he sent for both the original and the translation. In February 1646, a committee of the House of Commons passed the book as fit for publication and the House "ordered and ordained" its publication, with Bell retaining a copyright for fourteen years. This book was printed in London in 1652, by which time Luther's legacy as the man who broke the hold of the Catholic Church on doctrine and practices of Christianity had borne fruit throughout Europe.

Consider that only a little more than a century before, Luther's followers in England were described as a "pestilent sect" and such pioneers of the English Bible as Tyndale were considered little more than the disciples of a renegade. How much had changed in the meantime!

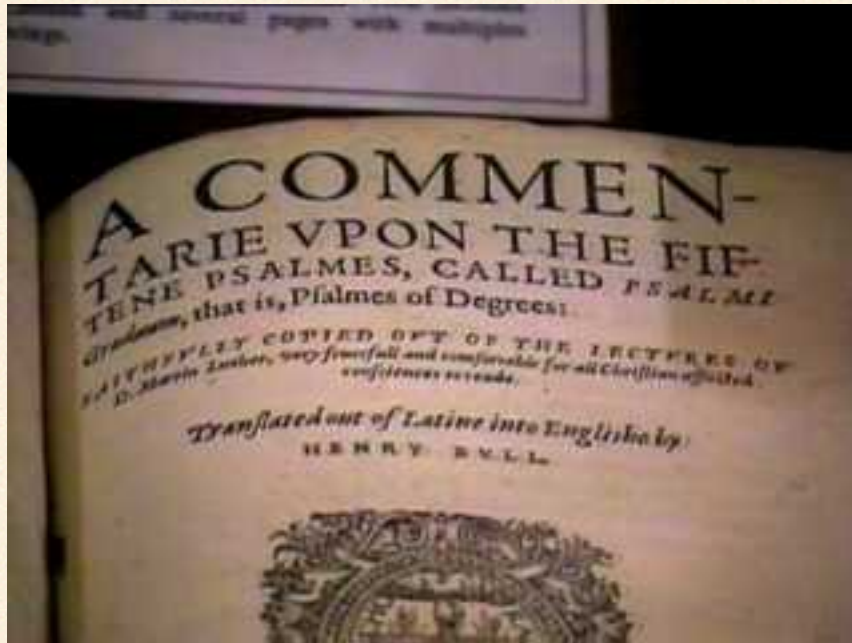
Luther's "Divine Discourses" (to give the book its formal title) are organized into 80 chapters, from God's Word and Creation to Drunkenness and Court Life. Lawyers, Turks, Astronomy and Astrology, various theological and political matters – in short, the entire spectrum of Luther's wide-ranging activities and intellectual pursuits are covered. Chapter 23 is headlined "Of the Antichrist, or Pope" - small wonder the established church opposed the book's publication.



Rare 1521 German edition of Luther on Psalm 67

Luther on Psalm 67

1521 - Original German publication, wherein each verse is accompanied by one or more paragraphs of commentary. The title page has a lovely woodcut, probably by Cranach, of the Lord appearing to the Psalmist, who is kneeling and playing a harp. Elegant German "gothic" type throughout. A rare treasure.

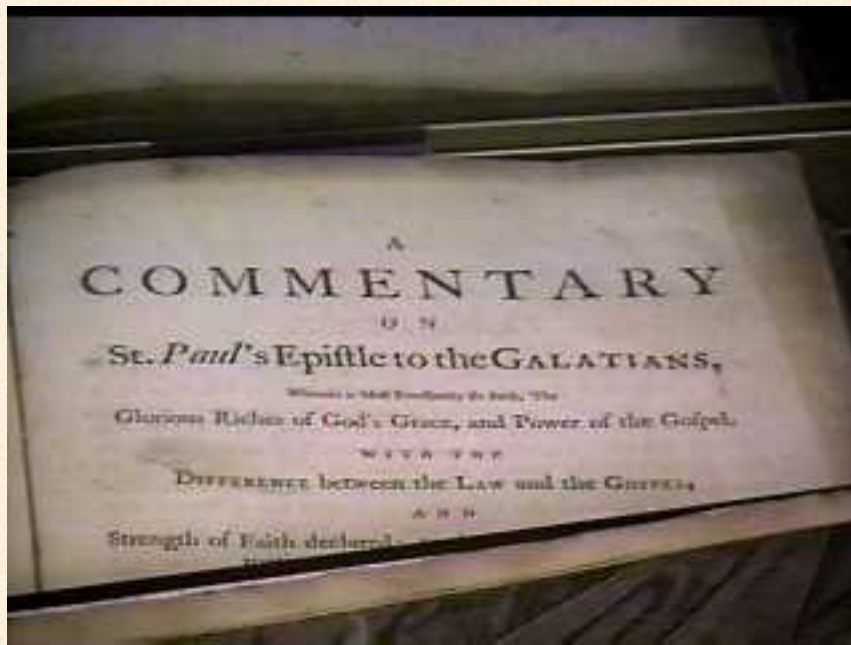


Luther's 1577 "On Galatians" and "On the Psalms..."

"On Galatians" & "On the Psalms..."

1577 - Bound together in one volume; printed in "Black Letter" type by Thomas Vautroullier of London. The first work is the second edition in English, and was published under the approbation of Edwin, Bishop of London. The second work, on the 15 psalms called the "Psalms of Degrees," is the first English edition. Both were translated out of the Latin version of Luther's teachings as published in Germany.

Luther on "Galatians"



Luther's Commentary on "Galatians"

1588 - First published in 1575, this edition by Thomas Vautroullier of London shows an elegant "Black Letter" typeface. Though Luther's influence on Tyndale and other translators was considerable, this book marked the first accessible edition of Luther's most important work in English. (STC #16969)

German/Hebrew/Greek Concordance

1718 - Published by M. Christian Reinech of Leipzig & Frankfurt. Luther's German text is compared with the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament.

"De Gantsche H. Schrifture" (Holy Bible in Dutch)

1738 - Printed by Jacob & Hendrik Keur, at Dordrecht (Holland). Ascribes "Hebrews" specifically to Paul. The Apocrypha (16 different books) is bound in at the back. Includes large map of Canaan and several pages with multiple copperplate engravings.

Annotated Psalter

1755 - Published at Leipzig by Bernhard Christoph Breitkopf. The annotation, by Johann

Augustin Dietelmair, incorporates Greek and Hebrew and was intended to rival similar English and Dutch annotated Bibles. Forewords by the annotator, by Johann van den Honert and by Simon Patrick. The notes often overwhelm the lines of text.

Luther on "Galatians"

1760 - Printed by M. Lewis of London. Intended as the "companion" for a new edition of Foxe's "Martyrs" of the same year. Includes the original 1575 permission to publish from Edwin, Bishop of London.

Luther on "Galatians"

1791 - Some measure of the continuing popularity of the "pure Luther" commentaries on Paul may be gained when one recognizes that this edition came out well over two hundred years after the original English translation from the Latin was published, in 1575. Published in the small town of Wigan, halfway between Manchester and Liverpool (England), it is a scarce example of regional English printing.

Illustrated "Life of Luther"

1857 - Published by Charles Scribner of New York. Contains 48 "Historical Engravings" by Gustav Koenig, and text by Archdeacon Hare.

First Edition of the First SPANISH Bible

1569 - Translated by C. de Reina. Published at Basel, Switzerland by Thomas Guarinus, this Bible was a mile-stone marking the inroads of the struggle to make available vernacular Bibles. For the first time, one of the bastions of the established Church, Spain, could be penetrated by Bibles in the people's own tongue. Only 2,600 examples were produced, nearly all of which are now lost to the ravages of time and suppression.

The translator, Cassiodoro de Reina (c. 1520-1594) was one of the Spanish Reformers; he fled Spain in 1557, settling in England under Queen Elizabeth. In 1563, false accusations of heresy and crime (which he later cleared) forced him to flee once again, at first to Antwerp, later to his "true home" of Frankfurt-am-Main, where he died. In his "Exhortation" (Preface), de Reina states that he is a "true Catholic" and the order of the books is that of the Latin Vulgate. It includes the Apocrypha. The reverse of the title page cites part of the decrees of the Council of Trent, permitting vernacular Bibles, and annotations thereto. However, his work had more form than content in common with the Vulgate.

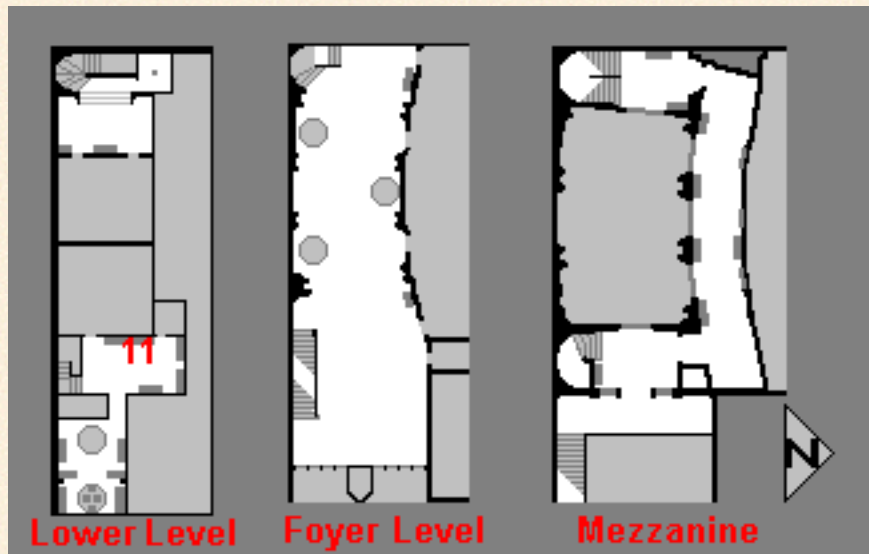
De Reina began his translation soon after leaving Spain. For the Old Testament, he followed the Latin translation from the Hebrew by Pagninus (the Ferrara version), in conjunction with other translations and commentaries. Thus, his Old Testament was clearly Hebrew-based rather than being based primarily on the Septuagint (as was the first Greek Bible) or a straight translation of the Vulgate. The English Bibles, in contrast, placed more emphasis on the Septuagint, which was the version in use at the time of Christ. For the New Testament, he began with a Spanish version beginning to appear in Paris, which was quickly suppressed, and soon found himself translating directly from the Greek (though referring to other versions as well, notably the Syriac).

The printing of this Bible began in late 1568, and was completed in September 1569. Though Guarinus was recorded as the publisher, the actual printer may have been Samuel Apiarius (Biener), judging by the bear-and-bees woodcut on the title page ("beekeeper," in Latin or German, was the root of his last name). One copy of this edition was presented to Queen Elizabeth, with a note from a friend of de Reina regretting that the book could not have been published under her auspices; another went to Edmund Grindal, the Bishop of London, who had saved de Reina's manuscript when he fled England.

This translation of the Bible opened up direct access to all of God's Word to Spanish-speaking Christians, both in exile and in Spain. It stands as a monument to the efforts of one man who gave his all in the service of God's eternal truth. His work forms the basis of the bilingual English-Spanish Bible used by Dr. Scott, and is available from our Bookstore (a reproduction of the title page is shown nearby, crediting de Reina's version as its basis).

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 "Smoking Room" on the Lower Level at the red #11.



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