

# The Dr. Gene Scott Bible Collection

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## Station 2: GUTENBERG BIBLE

### *Leaf on paper*



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

Of approximately 150 examples of the Gutenberg Bible printed on paper in 1451-1456, only 35 have survived largely intact; in addition, leaves and fragments of this book are scattered throughout the world, mostly in institutional collections and libraries.

In 1911, the New York book dealer Gabriel Wells acquired a paper Gutenberg Bible which lacked nearly 50 leaves and in addition had the illuminated initials from a number of leaves cut out. Wells divided the partial book into coherent books of the Bible and into single leaves. These were sold in 1921, with an essay by A. Edward Newton under the title "A Noble Fragment".

The 1961 Norman book on the Gutenberg Bible records just 29 individual leaves

in private hands. Our research indicates that the total number of single leaves available to collectors cannot exceed 50. This leaf represents the fourth leaf of the Acts of the Apostles, with the last part of the fifth chapter, all of the sixth, and chapter seven through verse 34, ending in the middle of the verse. In the original binding prepared by Wells in 1921, Newton's essay includes a quotation by Henry Stevens of Vermont who had acted for an American collector in the purchase of the second Gutenberg Bible to come to the United States in 1872. Writing to the new owner:

"Pray sir, ponder for a moment and appreciate the rarity and importance of this precious consignment from the Old World to the New. Not only is it the first Bible, but it is the first book ever printed. It was read in Europe half a century before America was discovered. Please suggest to your deputy that he uncover his head while in the presence of this great book. Let no custom house official or other man, in or out of authority, see it without first reverently raising his hat. It is not possible for many men ever to touch or even look upon a page of a Gutenberg Bible..."

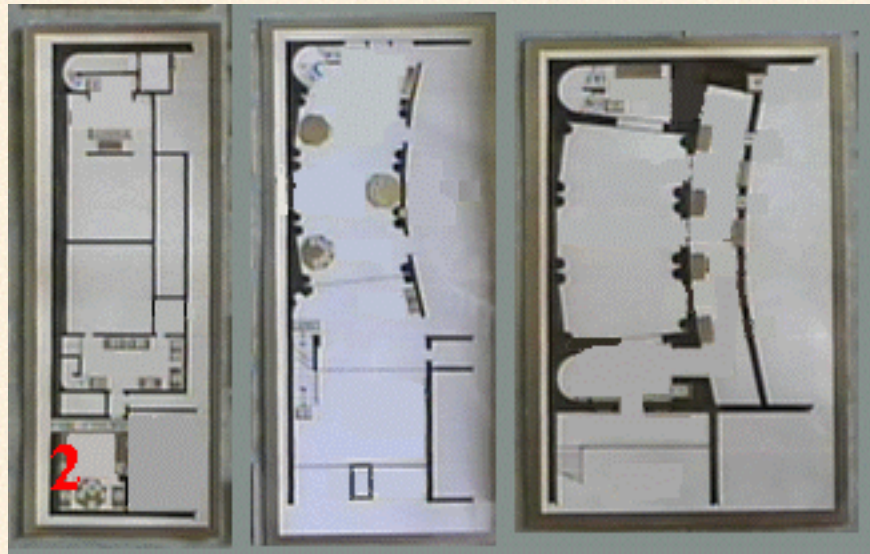
The very first pages Gutenberg printed had only 40 lines per column. Later in the course of printing, Gutenberg realized the paper could accommodate 42 lines. So the pages were reset and printed again in the new format. The original pages of 40 lines were included in the very first issue of the Gutenberg Bible of which the incomplete Wells Bible was an example. Thus this leaf is from one of the first few Gutenberg Bibles ever completed, the first issue.



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## 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 #2.



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