

# The Dr. Gene Scott Bible Collection

## STATION 26: Rare & Unusual Bibles



*The "Wicked Bible" is at  
bottom center.*

**Some of the Bibles shown at this Station include:**

- **Matthew's Bible - THE "WIFEBEATER'S BIBLE"**

*"The Byble, that is to  
say all the holy  
Scripture: In which are  
con-tayned the Olde and  
New Testamente, truly &  
purely translated into  
English, & now lately  
with greate industry &  
diligence recognized."*

**1549** - Printed in London by John Daye & William Seres. "Black Letter" type with woodcut initials and some illustrations. This edition was edited by Edmund Becke. This Bible contains the famous note at the end of I Peter iii, *"And yf she be not obedient and healpfull unto hym endeavoureth the feare of God into her heade she maye be compelled to learne her duitie and do it."*

*to beate  
, that thereby*

Thus, it is popularly known as the **"Wifebeater's Bible."** (Herbert #74). The title page has a quotation: *"Hearken to ye heavens, and thou earthe geve eare: For the Lorde speaketh."*

- **Geneva Bible - Small Folio Edition 1612** - (NT title dated 1611) - Printed by Robert Barker, London, in roman type. Owner's inscription dated 1613. Includes "Metrical Psalms" at the back. This is the version with Junius' annotation on the Revelations. (Herbert #312)
- **King James Version - 1623 Deluxe Illustrated Edition** - Quarto by Norton and Bill, London. Ruled throughout with red lines. Numerous (over 200) contemporary engravings, each with notation of the sponsorship (e.g. *"John Smith of the Tower of London, Gentleman, for ye Advancement of this Worke, Contributed this Plate."*), plus maps. A masterpiece of 17th Century book printing, and unusual for a quarto edition. (Herbert #388)
- **King James Version - The "WICKED" Bible - 1631** - An octavo edition published by Barker and the Assigns of Bill (the first of seven octavos that year), it gets its name from the error at Exodus 20:14

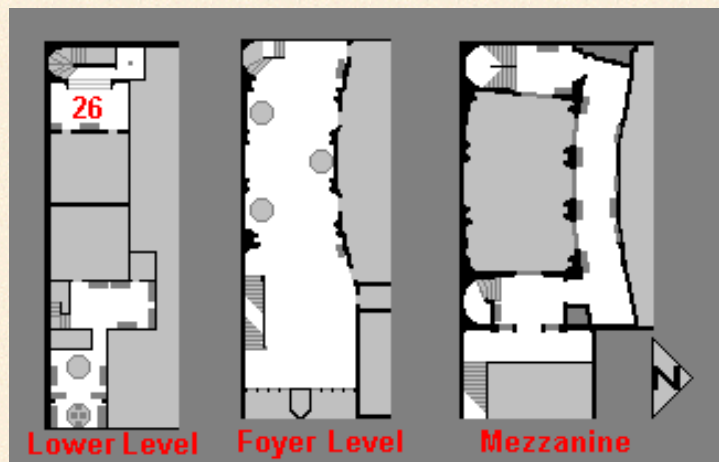
*"Thou shalt commit adultery."*

The printers were fined 300 Pounds for the offense; some think the error was introduced by Barker's rival Norton in a plot to discredit the Barker firm. In any event, part of the fine was spent to produce a Greek type font to be used in the production of scholarly works. Only 1000 "Wicked" Bibles were printed; as the edition was immediately suppressed, very few (perhaps as many as 10) have survived, and this is thought to be one of only two in private hands. Herbert calls it "very rare;" the only other examples recorded in the United States are at the Huntington Library and at the New York Public Library. (Herbert #444)

## 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 on the

Lower Level, in the Ladies' Lounge, at the red #26.



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