

# The Dr. Gene Scott Bible Collection

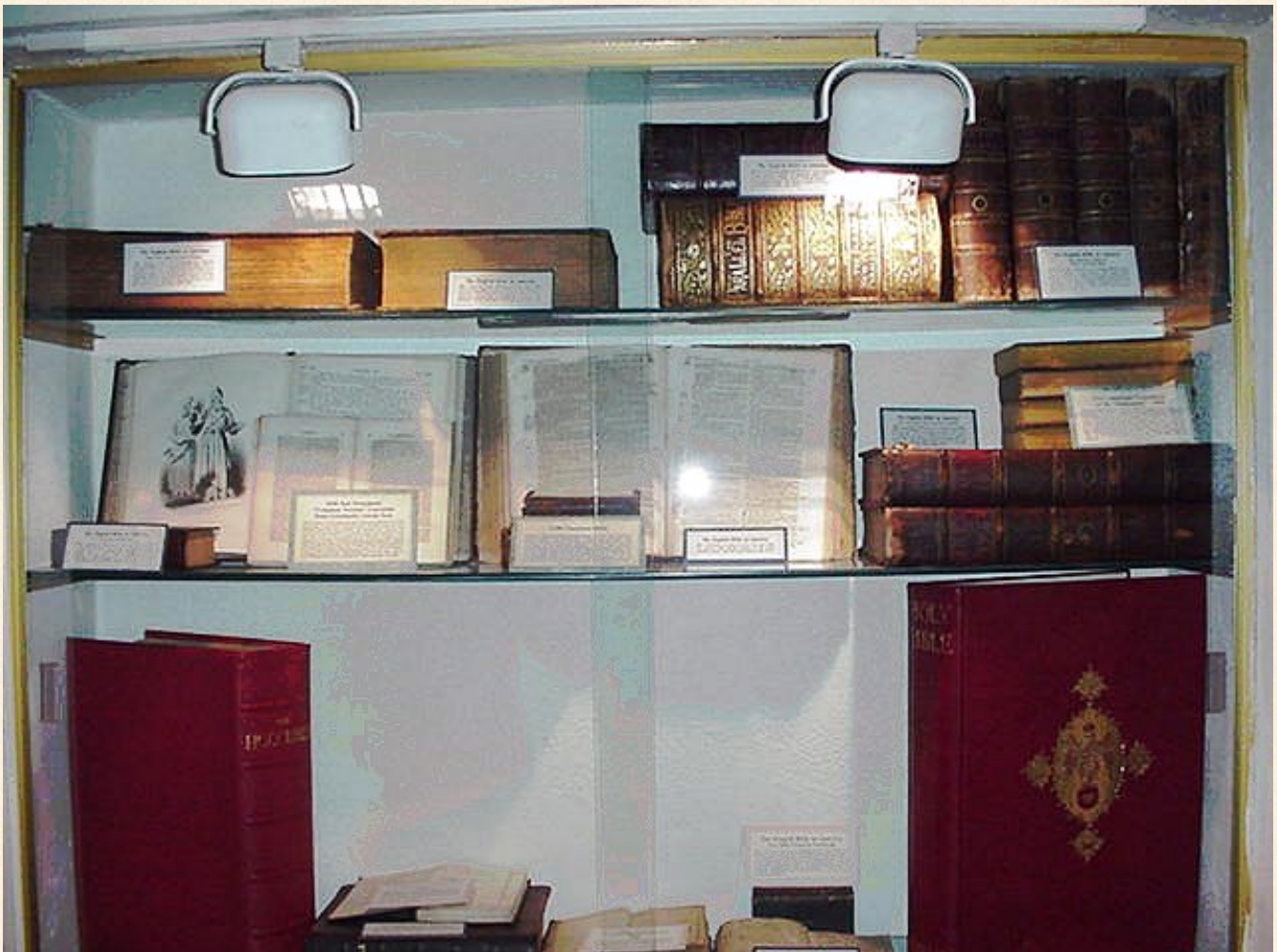
---

## STATION 28: The English Bible in America

*First Printed in*

**1782**

Gems of the American Bible are shown at [Station 45](#) (the "Bay Psalm Book"), [Station 46](#) (the Eliot "Indian Bible") and [Station 47](#) (two examples of the Aitken "Bible of the Revolution"). Leaves from famous and important American Bibles are shown in the "Room of the City," [Station 40](#). Finally, don't miss the "Bible in Iron" at [Station 42](#), and the American Bibles in European & Native American languages at [Station 53](#).



## ***Overall view of Station 28***

---

Though Bibles or Testaments had been printed in the English Colonies of America in languages other than English as early as 1661 (a New Testament in the Algonquin Indian language, part of the "Eliot Indian Bible" shown at [Station 46](#)), and the famous "Bay Psalm Book" was the first portion of scripture printed in the New World and the first book printed in British America (shown at [Station 45](#)), the monopoly of printing English-language Bibles was maintained in England until the American Revolution. In 1777, one year after the Declaration of Independence, Robert Aitken of Philadelphia, printer to the Congress, produced a small New Testament.

Beginning in 1781 and finishing in 1782, Aitken printed the complete Bible in English, its small size attesting to the limited printing technology which had been available in the "Colonies" up to that time. This was the only Bible ever authorized by an Act of Congress. The examples displayed at [Station 47](#) are two of fewer than 40 known, most of which are locked forever in museums or institutional libraries; there are probably fewer than five in private hands.

Its rarity is rooted in its simple layout, crowded margins and the poor quality of the paper used; over time, and from hard use, pages tore or became browned, and the humble Aitken Bible was supplanted in the homes of its owners by newer editions, printed from superior type and on better quality paper, available as a result of the cessation of hostilities and reopening of European sources of supply. Within a few years, printers throughout the former colonies had begun production of Bibles and Testaments in larger sizes, using new technology or careful corrections of the text to ensure consistency and accuracy.

The American Bibles shown here and at the following Stations 29 & 30 are a representation of the first few decades of the English Bible in America, a period that began the flood of 19th Century Bible publishing in this country, with elaborate illustrated editions, "family" Bibles sold by door-to-door salesmen and new annotated versions, as well as the efforts of the American Bible Society to provide Bibles to all who wanted them. The growth of Bible publishing in the United States kept pace with the rise of American industry and power. The Bibles shown here were the embryonic beginnings of that great effort.

---

***Bibles shown at  
this Station  
include:***

- **(1782) Facsimile of the "Aitken Bible"** - Limited edition modern reproduction; **two** originals, plus Aitken's "Metrical Psalms," are shown at [Station 47](#).
- **1791 Isaac Collins' First Folio Edition** - the first "Family Bible," also called the "Model Bible" for the accuracy of its text. (EBA #31)
- **1791 Isaiah Thomas' First Folio Edition** - Counterpart to Isaac Collins' Family Bible (shown at Station 29), this large and scrupulously accurate Bible marks the start of mass production of American Bibles in English. (EBA #29)
- **1791-2 Bible** by W. Young of Philadelphia, bound with the "Metrical Psalms (1793). (EBA #32)
- **1792 Bible** by Hugh Gaine of New York City, printed from "standing type." (EBA #40)
- **1799 Isaiah Thomas Bible, *duodecimo*** edition from standing type, with imprint "United States of Columbia." (EBA #67)
- **1804-9 First American Edition of Scott's Annotated Bible** - in 5 volumes. Subscribers included **Thomas Jefferson**; printed by Woodward of Philadelphia. (EBA #113)
- **1807 Bible** by Matthew Carey of Philadelphia. (EBA #145)
- **1807 Bible** by Collins, Perkins & Co. of New York, based on Collins' 1791 Folio. (EBA #142)
- **1814** Collins & Co. third quarto edition. (EBA #256)
- **1819** Quarto Bible by Matthew Carey & Co. (EBA #373)
- **1935 - "The Finest Lectern Bible Ever Produced in English"** - typography and design by **Bruce Rogers**; printed at Oxford. (Herbert #2249)
- **1949 - Rogers' American Lectern Bible** (EBA #2474)

---

## 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 a Wall Case on the Mezzanine level, at the red #28.



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