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Lehre und Wehre<br>Magazin fuer Ev.-Luth. Homiletik Theological Quarterly-Theological Monthly

| Vol. V | September, 1934 | No. 9 |
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Ein Prediger muss nicht alleln weiden, also dass er die Schafe unterwelse, wie sle rechte Ohristen sollen sein, sondern auch daneben den Woelfen wehren, dass sie die Schafe nicht angreifen und mit falscher Lehre verfuehren und Irrtum einfuehren. - Listher.

Es ist kein Ding, das die Leute mehr bei der Kirche behaelt demn die gute Predigt. - Apologie, Art. 24 .

If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? 1 Cor. $4,8$.

## Published for the

Fv. Inth. Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States CONCORDIA PUBLISEING FOUSE, St. Louis, Mo.

## Miscellanea.

## Old and Curious Editions of the Bible.

The origin of the first books of the Scriptures dates back to the age of Moses. In the course of many hundreds of years the "holy men of God" gave expression to the "message from on high" in the Hebrew language for the Old Testament and in Greek for the New Testament, both living languages, used in daily life by the people of those times.

The original writings of the Bible which came from the hands of the first writers were lost; however, the contents of their writings were preserved in this way, that, as the old copies of the text grew worn, duplicates were made on new material. Thus a number of codices came into existence. Not long ago public prints carried the news that the famed Codex Sinaiticus was bought for the British Museum for $\$ 511,250$ from the Soviet Government. Under heavy guard it was secretly moved from Russia to England. It is claimed that this amount was the largest sum ever paid for a book or manuscript and that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had offered it to an American last year for $\$ 1,250,000$.

A clergyman of Lincolnshire, England, John Wyclif, rendered the first complete translation of Holy Writ into the English of his own day. It was finished in the last quarter of the fourteenth century. But at Wyclif's time, English was still in the making; the version was a translation of the Latin Vulgate and was faulty in many respects. Hence Wyclif's Bible could not become the Bible of English-speaking people.

In this year the quadricentennial of Luther's translation of the complete Scriptures into the new High German is being celebrated throughout the world. This work is not based on the Vulgate, but on the original Hebrew and Greek texts and to our own day is recognized as a classic of permanent worth, becoming the prototype of nearly all versions into modern tongues.

After a number of early attempts to render the Bible into English a folio volume in black-letter types came from the presses of R. Barker (A. V.) in 1611. It was largely a revision of William Tyndale's translation of 1525 , and to this man the English-speaking race is more indebted for the Authorized, or King James, Version than to any other. Many new translations were made in the following centuries, but the Authorized Version of 1611 has retained its ascendency.

The earliest edition of a Bible published in America dates back to 1661, a translation into an Indian dialect by John Eliot and printed by Marmaduke Johnson at Cambridge, Mass.

The next Bible printed was that of Christopher Sauer (Saur) in the German language in Germantown, Pa., in 1743. One thousand copies were issued. Other editions were printed by him up to 1776 . A copy (third edition) by Sauer in 1776 is kept in a private library at Waukesha, Wis.

Permission was not granted the Colonies to publish the Bible in English prior to the Revolutionary War; the country was to that time supplied with such Bibles from England. The first English Bible printed in America came from the press of Robert Aitken of Philadelphia in 1782,

12mo size. Then followed the folio and quarto editions by Isaiah Thomas at Worcester, Mass., in 1791. In the same year Isaac Collins printed and published a quarto edition bound in two volumes at Trenton, N.J. In l8mo size an edition was produced in $1791 / 92$ by Wm . Young of Philadelphia. Hodge and Campbell of New York printed a self-interpreting Bible in forty numbers, folio, in 1792, the name of George Washington, then President of the States, heading the list of subscribers. Berriman and Company of Philadelphia published editions in 1796, folio. In 1798, John Thompson of Philadelphia printed a beautiful issue, folio, in forty numbers. These early American publications are very rare.

At the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago visitors were shown pages of the Gutenberg forty-two-line Latin Bible, also known as the Mazarin Bible because the copy that first attracted the notice of bibliographers was discovered among the books of Cardinal Mazarin, who died in 1661. Some time ago a copy of this celebrated issue was purchased for $\$ 106,000$ and then resold for $\$ 124,000$. Of that famous Bible there are extant forty-five copies, eleven in the United States, six alone in New York City; Germany has twelve, England nine, France four, Italy two, Spain two, Austria, Denmark, Portugal, Poland, Switzerland each one, while incomplete copies are found in private libraries of book collectors.

One of the most remarkable books in the world, called the "Devil's Bible" and also the "Giant of Books," was brought out of its hiding-place in the Royal Library of Stockholm, about ten years ago, following a request for a photostat copy from the city of Prague, where it was captured at the Swedish conquest in 1648. It was written 800 years ago, and tradition says that it was completed during a single night by a monk who was doomed to die. He, however, needed assistance from the evil spirit and in gratitude made a full-page portrait of Satan, horns, cloven hoofs, and all, which has ever since remained in the Bible. The book is perhaps the largest Bible in the world, its pages being a yard high by a foot and a half wide. It is written on 309 parchment sheets, for which, according to legend, 100 donkeys' hides were required. The lettering has been beautifully illuminated in gold and bright colors.

Among the curious issues of Bibles the following deserve mention:-
The Bug Bible. So called from its translation of Ps. 91, 5 "afraid for the bugs by night" for "terror." Issued 1551.

The Breeches Bible. The Geneva version of 1561 is sometimes so called because of its substitution of breeches for aprons in Gen. 3, 7. This translation was the English family Bible during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but was later supplanted by the Authorized Version.

The Placemakers' Bible. 1562. Due to a remarkable typographical error which occurs Matt. 5, 9 "Blessed are the placemakers" for "peacemakers."

The Treacle Bible. In Jer. 8, 22 its text reads: "Is there no treacle in Gilead?" for "balm." Issued in 1568.

The Rosin Bible. From the same passage, but translated "rosin" in the Douai Version of 1609 .

The He Bible. This issue derives its name from the rendering of Ruth 3, 15: "And he went into the city" instead of "she went." Issued 1611.

The Wicked Bible. Because the negative not has been omitted in the
commandment Ex. 20, 14, for which the printer was fined 300 pounds. Issued 1631.

The Thumb Bible. One inch square and half an inch thick. Published at Aberdeen in 1670.

The Vinegar Bible. So named from the head-line Luke 20, reading "The Parable of the Vinegar" instead of "Vineyard." Issued 1717.

The Printers' Bible. In an edition printed prior to 1702, Cotton Mather tells that a blundering typographer made King David exclaim Ps. 119, 161: "Printers have persecuted me" instead of "princes."

The Sting Bible. London, 1746, printed by Thomas Baskett. In Mark 7, 35 the unique wording is found: "The sting of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain" instead of "the string of his tongue," etc. A copy is in a private library at Platteville, Wis.

The Murderer's Bible. So called for an error in Jude 16: "murderers" for "murmurers." Printed 1801.

The Standing Fishes Bible, 1806. Ezek. 47, 10: "The fishes shall stand upon it" for "fishers."

The Discharge Bible, 1806. 1 Tim. 5, 21: "I discharge thee" for "charge."

The Wife-hater Bible, 1810. Luke 14, 26: "Hate not his own wife also" instead of "life."

The Ears to Ear Bible, 1810. Matt. 13, 43: "Who hath ears to ear," for "hear."

Rebekah's Camels Bible, 1823. Gen. 24, 61: "Rebekah arose and her camels" instead of "damsels."

To Remain Bible. Gal. 4, 29: "Persecuted him that was born after the spirit to remain, even so it is now." This typographical error, which was perpetrated in the first 8vo Bible printed for the Bible Society, takes its chief importance from the curious circumstances under which it arose. $\Delta$ 12mo Bible was being printed in Cambridge in 1805, and the proofreader, being in doubt as to whether or not he should remove a comma, applied to his superior, and the reply, penciled on the margin "to remain," was transferred to the body of the text and repeated in the Bible Society's 8vo edition of $1805 / 6$ and also in another 12 mo edition of 1819.

Caxton Memorial Bible. In 1877, four hundred years after the introduction of printing into England, this Bible was printed and bound in twelve hours to celebrate the occasion; but only 100 copies were struck off.

Age, as a rule, has very little to do with the actual value of books. What really counts is beauty, oddity, rarity, condition, and, last of all, antiquity.

The price of an old volume is often quick to take hold of the public imagination. Shelley's own copy of Queen Mab was sold for $\$ 12,500$ before it finally passed into a private collection, where it will remain. Baxter's Call to the Unconverted was bought for $\$ 34,000$. But the old copies of the Book of Books, manuscripts often finely executed in colors and black lettering, tooled folio editions dating to the last half of the 15th century, certain issues of other early and late prints, will command the special attention of present and future generations.

Platteville, Wis.
E. J. C. Merer.

## Der Miffintegedante bei Calvit．


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