

## HISTORY

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Seventeen editions of the King James Bible appeared in its first three years. The 1614 edition contained more than 400 variations from the 1611 edition (Price, 280). From 1611 to 1640, 182 editions of the King James Bible appeared with there being only fifteen editions of the Geneva for this same period (Kenyon, 305).

The so-called final revision was printed in 1638. The King James has been revised throughout its history, starting as early as 1616. There is considerable variety in the spelling of proper names: e.g., Isaiah/Esaias; Jeremiah/Jermey/Jermeias; Elijah/Elias. Mythical animals like the unicorn, dragon, cockatrice, and arrowsnake appear. For other distinctions see Lewis (35-58).

Explanatory notes began to be called for, and they began to appear as early as 1649. Bishop Lloyd's King James in 1701 was the first to incorporate Archbishop Ussher's chronological system that set creation at 4004 BCE (Ussher died in 1656). Following that date, Archbishop Ussher's chronological system commonly appeared in the King James Bibles, as one can see in many of the Bibles in the college's collection after 1701.

In 1762, the Cambridge Bible introduced 383 marginal notes into the King James, together with other changes (Price, 281). In 1769, Dr. Benjamin Blayney introduced more changes into the Oxford Bible, including tables dealing with weights, measures and coins. As late as 1873 the Cambridge Paragraph Bible gave a list of variations from the text of the King James as it first appeared in 1611. This list of variations covered sixteen closely printed pages.

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# THE SAVE-A-BOOK PROGRAM

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Commission on Archives & History, West MI Conference

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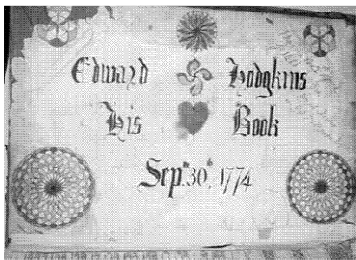
## SAVE-A-BOOK PROGRAM

The Save-A-Book Program works to stabilize and restore damaged, worn and/or fragile materials in the Albion College Rare Books Collection, one book at a time. All current donations go towards the restoration of the 1611 King James Bible (KJV), 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2<sup>nd</sup> issue pictured throughout this brochure. The following research on the KJV was supplied by Dr. Frank Frick, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Albion College.

### DESCRIPTION 28 x 38.5 cm (folio)

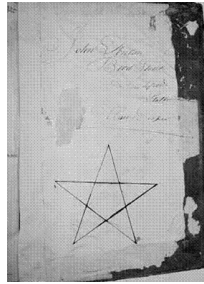
This Bible is bound in calf on cardboard. The cover is embossed at the margins. The margins of each leaf are ruled with double lines on the top, left and right margins. Between the double lines of the top margin are descriptive titles of chapters, numbers of chapters and names of books.

The inside front cover has five circular geometric drawings that are enhanced with watercolor. There is also a drawing of a pinwheel and a heart, both of which have been drawn in ink and water colored. An inked inscription in an old English alphabet reads:



*Edward Hodgkins, his Book, Sep. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1774.* There is also a note, written in pencil that states: *This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> [??] y 1611. See Royal Arms on leaf The Genealogies.* Assuredly this refers to the coat of arms of James I on the title page of the genealogy section. James ruled England from 1603-1625.

The following handwritten inscription is found on the inside back cover: *John Fenton, Bird Street, Litchfield, Staffordshire, Hair Dresser.* Below this is a hand-drawn five-pointed star.

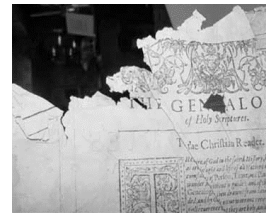


The Bible includes the Apocrypha. This printing has elaborate initial letters for the individual books. That of the Gospel of Matthew shows Neptune taming sea horses, which is strangely unrelated to the contents of the Gospel. This volume contains a well-known misprint in 1 Corinthians 4:9, which was corrected beginning in 1616. This edition reads *approved to death*, while post-1616 editions have been corrected to read *appointed to death*, the phrase that had been used by Tyndale, Coverdale, the Great Bible and the Bishop's Bible. It also reads *straine at a gnat* in Matthew 23:24, instead of *strain out a gnat*. This mistranslation was probably a printer's error.

### CONDITION

It is in poor condition, with much of the leather binding, especially on the spine, missing. There was an attempt at repairing the cover with three strips of tape, now broken. There is considerable water staining on the tops of pages.

There are no title pages of any kind for the Bible, the Apocrypha or the New Testament. Two pages in Galatians are badly damaged. Pages in 1 and 2 Timothy are torn from the binding. Everything following 2 Timothy 3:13a is missing.



Stuck onto the top of the page with the lineage of Shem is a receipt, apparently used as repair tape.



These types of “repairs” appear throughout. On the front of this handwritten receipt are the words *Received by one...* On the read of this badly-damaged page, one can see other words from this receipt: *...Shillings and rent due on...*

Several leaves in this section are missing their upper right corner. There are also worn holes along the upper margin of some pages.

### PROVENANCE

A handwritten note from William R. Longstreet, the donor of this volume and of many of the other items in the college's Bible Collection, was found inserted into the middle of this volume. It identifies this Bible as belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the King James Version, sometimes called “The Great ‘She’ Bible,” since Ruth 3:15 reads (correctly) *and she went into the citie* instead of the erroneous reading in the first issue of the 1<sup>st</sup> ed., which read *and he went into the citie*.

This issue is also sometimes called the “Judas” Bible because in Matthew 26:36 it reads Judas instead of Jesus in the verse: *Then cometh Judas with them into a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit yee here, while I goe and pray yonder.* Curiously enough, an attempt has been made to erase the word Judas in this copy.

In a continuation of Longstreet's note, he says: *This Bible reached Saginaw from Manchester England in Early Summer 1941 during Second Great War. Longstreet.*