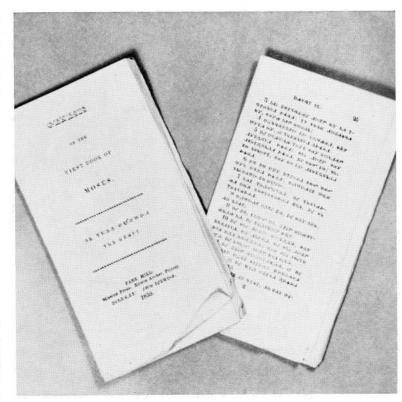
The Bizzell Bible Collection

By JOE A. DAVIS Photos by J. P. Smith

O.U.'s library is the academic and intellectual center of the University. Several important collections make the library an important source for scholarly research. One of these is the Bizzell Bible Collection. The Bizzell Collection contains 655 volumes, including Bibles dating from 1479 to modern times, separate Old and New Testaments, commentaries and interpretations, books of illustrations, histories of the Bible, works concerning the history and geography of the Holy Land, textual studies, books on the life of Christ, prayer and hymn books. Most of the volumes were collected by Dr. William Bennett Bizzell, president of the University from 1931 to 1941. Dr. Bizzell died May 13, 1944, and his Bible collection was presented to the University Library in 1949 by his heirs. Dr. Bizzell loved books and the knowledge they represented. Stamped in all of his personal books was the quotation from Shakespeare, "Ignorance is the curse of God, Knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven." Dr. Bizzell became a collector of rare Bibles by accident. One day while he was a student at Harvard, he was browsing through a shabby Boston bookstore. He discovered a battered but interesting old Bible and bought it for \$1. Later, he found the old book to be a first edition of the Breeches Bible, named for the passage in Genesis in which Adam and Eve were ejected from the Garden of Eden and made themselves "breeches" of fig leaves. Another of his important finds was the Koberger Bible, the oldest book in the collection. One of the most interesting aspects of the Bible is the wood cut on the first page. Hand carved, the illustration is credited by some historians of printing to be one of the first to be used in a Bible. It was the practice of early printers to make the binding of books from scraps of paper usually taken from the floor of the printing shop. That is the method of binding used by the Koberger Bible's printer. The collection, housed in the Bizzell Bible Collection room in the basement of the library, has never been completely catalogued and few people know its full contents. Only a few books have been added to the collection since it was presented to the library by Mrs. Bizzell, widow of the late O.U. president. One of the most important was the "Bible of the Revolution." Donated by an anonymous alumnus, the Bible was the first printed in America in the English language. It is the only Bible ever authorized by Congress. Printed in 1782 by Robert Aitken in Philadelphia, the Bible was published here because the supply of Bibles from England had been cut off by the Revolutionary War. According to a 1940 census, only about 75 copies are still in existence. The Bibles come in many sizes—everything from mammoth polyglot Bibles two feet in width to those less than an inch wide. The polyglot—or multi-language Bible—offers the scholar a chance to compare different passages of the Bible in different languages. In most large polyglot Bibles, passages of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, English and German appear side by side in adjoining columns. One of the most important in the Bizzell Collection is Walton's Polyglot Bible published in London in 1655 to 1657. This particular work fills six volumes and is in 16 languages. The Bizzell Collection does not include a Gutenberg Bible, which was believed to have been printed in 1454 and is the first book printed in Europe from movable metal types. However, the Collection does have a notable facsimile printed in Germany in 1913. The Bible is one of only 300 copies printed at that time. Both are in the standard Gutenberg form which included 42 lines to the page and both are printed in Latin. Gutenberg printed his famous original at Mainz, Germany. The Bizzell Collection also contains an interesting array of Bibles preceding the famous King James version, which first appeared in 1611. The 54 King James-appointed translators used such sources as William Tyndale's translations of the New Testament and the Bishops Bible as references for the famous old translation. Some of the translations used for references and contained in the Bizzell Collection are: The Bible in Englysche, published in London in 1541, and a copy of the original 1526 edition of The New Testament Of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, published in 1837. Both were translated by Tyndale. William Bates, rector of St. Dunstan's Church in London during part of the 17th century, called Tyndale's translation of the New Testament "the greatest work of English prose ever achieved by a single individual." Tyndale followed the Erasmus Greek text and his translations display the influence of Luther's 1522 German translation. Tyndale became a martyr ten years after making his first translation. He was strangled and his body burned in 1536. His New Testament translations are practically the basic version used by the King James Edition. The British Museum has the only fragment of the first issue of Tyndale's New Testament known as "the Cologne Fragment." But the Bizzell Collection has a facsimile of the unique fragment made by the Claredon Press at Oxford in 1926. The Bishop's Bible was produced by a company of divines led by Archbishop of Canterbury, Matthew Parker. The translators consisted mostly of bishops, giving the work its name. The Bible was begun in 1562 and the first publication made in 1568. The Bizzell Collection contains the second folio edition published in London in 1572. The Collection is an amazing one considering that it is largely the work of one man. It is a tribute to that man who loved books and who searched the world for unique ones. (His own personal library was also very large.) The Bizzell Collection lacks many books and is of limited value to the researcher. It is, however, the best Bible collection in Oklahoma and possibly the entire Southwest. RIGHT: About a half-dozen of the Bizzell Bibles are in Indian languages, such as Shawnee and Muskogee. The most famous are the Cherokee Bibles. Broken into parts, each pamphlet-like book usually contains one chapter from the Bible. Pictured here are Cherokee Bibles, published in 1850 in Indian Territory.



BELOW: Printed approximately 25 years after the invention of movable type, this edition of the Koberger Bible was completed in 1479. The Bible is printed in Latin with two columns to the page and 48 lines to the column. The pages are of vellum or sheepskin and are extremely well preserved.

Continued on next page

Locus libror nume

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aluto exera urel quereret. Apollomus fi
ur ille mag" or usulgue loquie, fute phofopluse or paragonic trabăti, feraut permunuscula perferens. detu

fol 1

las peranfusit caucalum. Sono firebas maflagerbas, opulatulima unbe regna pe netraust, et ab extremi tratilimo pisió an ne tráimillo puent ab bragmanas, se bast cam in tisono formá auro et o trátatió et potanti inter pauces obticuolos de natura de monto, ac ex curlo disculos de tratilimo mos chaltoses, metos affertos extrebes fires pau buret boconem. Inde per elamitise babillo mos, chaltoses, metos, affertos, arribos, fires, pismeses, arabes, palefinnos, reuerbas do alectáoná epecta ab étacopiá, ut egipolopistas es famolifima folto menfá uticset infatulo. Suseme ale un visa que discusiva fires profitenes, lempre fuentes fieces efemp profitenes, lempre fuentes fieces. Semplit fup boc plenillime octo poluminosephilottrarus.

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que poit annos quarus etermi affapte barnatus et trovier politut en apotedus eusgeturin, in forti in bacuti curreret aut euror
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un bocto act, a un aureu belinquis trauces
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per ha reformateum

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tune et tolernot fituoli ettas alefa noties fi
fe pobari etvera. Rugenio becile, e fine bocone laubabile ett. Hon do mormani foo do
purran "inferem". Achine cera a do formà
bum facilia: ettali artificas e plaffe ceffen
minuo: tamb fotur muny el de quiulo e' poerti. Danulus apollol' ab petro gamalictia
lege voyfi e apbetas obnessi fe giocarate.

La amar' fipi riculatio etiu. postea beceret
oficier. Atma crii ni e nuice no carnalia.

BIZZELL BIBLE COLLECTION

RIGHT: The Bizzell Collection contains a great variety of works. The small Bible pictured here is only about an inch wide and is written in shorthand.

BELOW: The first edition of the King James version of the Bible was completed in 1611 and is known as the great "He" edition, named for the error in Ruth 3, verse 15: "And HE went into the city," rather than than SHE. The error was corrected in the second edition, which is known as the "She" edition.

Boaz his kindnes

Ruth.

towardRuth

Diskindes Ru

but, adop date I found grace in thine
cres, that thou thoutbeft take knowledge of nic. Acting J am a dranger?

If also Soas authereto and fast divided in the top of nic. Acting J am a dranger?

If also Soas authereto and fast divided in the top of nic. Acting J am a dranger?

If also Soas authereto and fast divided in the top of nice in the top of the top of

teft.

Amb toben thee thas rafen by to gleane. Was some the gleane. Was commanded his young men. farmin. But her gleane cuen among the theaters, "tepach her not. to Amb ter fall allo tone of the hand-fuls of purpose for her, and hem that the may gleane them, and rebuke her not.

futs of purpoff for the r, and learn them that the may gleane them, and reduce the root.

17 Do the gleaned in the field bindle eight and the bear out that the bad gleaneds and that a doubt an Ephah of darley.

18 And there tooks e pp, and then the that the end the root in latter the that there had gleaned and there the that the had referred. After the that field be that the had referred. After the that field but in the had referred. After the that field be the rooter in latte field be the rooter that the had referred. After the that fold and the had thought to day and there that the that thou theff do the that though the field be the that the that the had thought, and fall. The mans name that though a south to the the that the that the that the flat the first the course the bath not left off the the that the bath the left the flat the that the bath of the flat th

buto be ontef our nert kinfemen.
... And Burt the Boabireffe fud

be fail but one alfo. Thou that keepe fail by my yong men, but if they have embed all my harueft.

2. And Pasonu fail but of Ruth her baughter mi alab. His good my blughter, that thou goe our buth his mailbens, that they merte then not many other hetb.

2. Soo ther kept fail by the maubens of Soosy to gitame, but to tren to be faster harueft, and bibleit buth her mother in laib.

CHAP. III.

By Naora her antroction, c Both lieft at Boaz historie. 8 Boaz acknowledgeth the right of akinfernan. 14 He fendeth her a-way with the measures of batley.

way with the medicate of bales.

Desi Adoms her mother in table lab binto her. Opbanghter, that I may be been to the table lab binto her. Optable her binto her binto here in the the table her binto her

bother, and he foull tell the tobal tobe.

And thee fails butto her, All that thou fasted butto her, All that thou fasted butto her, All that thou fasted butto her floore, and his acrobing to all that her mother in tails badd her.

And librin koas, had catenation brunke, and his heart that mirrere, her brent to be doubte at the ende of the heape of come; and her came forty, and bruncher and her came forty, and bruncher and her at the floorest his feet, and laid her bother.

S And it came to paffe at mid brunch brunker and the man that afraid, and turned hundriff; and behold a from an at a the feeter.

lay at his feete.

Mad her chair with our thour and the antisected. I want then chair made freeze the fairt our thour handbands, for their are a neare tunfeman.

Boaztalketh with

Chap.iiij.

Ruthskinfman.

10 And bee laid, Estelled be thou of the Lour, my daughter: for thou ball the more more knowed to the latter eith them at the beginning, in as much as then followed not your men, to be.

as then followed that young therepost, or rich.

"Annow my daughter, feare not, I will bot to the all that thou required freal the latter any prople doeth know, that thou art a verticus libe.

smoth, that thou are a bettend to be made and made and the first state of the first state

while be knothen, that a reunter the floor.

12 life be fair, 35 mg the badle that
then had been thee, and holde at. And
then had been thee, and holde at. And
them the bille it, he meadure to fire
of batter, and land u on her; and
the therm and the circ.

12 me bloom thee came to bee mo
ther mans, the fair, 12 ho or thou my
banging was a looke bee an that the

omment was the class of an inflat the man hab done to her.

17 And the faith, Thefe fire measures of barrer game he me, to be faith to me, Construping twing the measures as Liber faith, as Then faith the, Sort first, may boungh ter bund thou know how the matter useful for the man well not be in ceft. benefit have finished the thing this day

CHAP, HIII.

then been 250 as up to the date of the dat

2 And her tooke ten men of the Elbers of the ette and faid, Set ye dollene here. And they fate dollene.
3 And he faid buto the hanfeman:

3 And he fast onto the naturman. Mannuthat is come agains out of the countere of Boat, felleth a parrell of land, which was our brother Clame

this, byind has but which elinicitys.

4 And I thought to aduct the thee, hang, Sup * before the mhabitants, and before the Education of my people. If thou that redeeme *, redeeme *, when tell mee, that I may knob! for there is none to redeeme. Deliber thee, and I may knob! for there is none to redeeme. Deliber thee, and I may knob! for there is none to redeeme. Deliber thee, and I may knob. I will redeeme.

5 Then had Soos, what day thou buyeft the field of the hand of Raomi, thou must buy e allo of Euch the Poabuctle, the buffe of the bead, to raid by the name of the bead upon his suberticance.

eance.

6 Cand the hinfeman faid, Jean-nor redocine a for my fette, left H marre mine ordine inheritance : redeeme thou my right to thy fette, for J cannot re-

the right to the that has he make it for 'Dem. 5;

" About this that he make it for 'Dem. 5;

must think in Alfact, concerning rebermust and concerning thanging, for to
contrine all thangs: a man plurkehoff
by thoor, and game to his neighbour:
anothes—a archimome in Afract.

S. Eberfore the kuifeman fair dince
Soan, Superforthee: fo he derived this
thoor.

Soas, Survey of the foot.

9 (And Isoas faide bitte the Elders and bitte all the people, Peachtimellers and but bought all that that Elders, and all that that Chilons, and Pahlons, of the hande of Gamil. of Maonii.

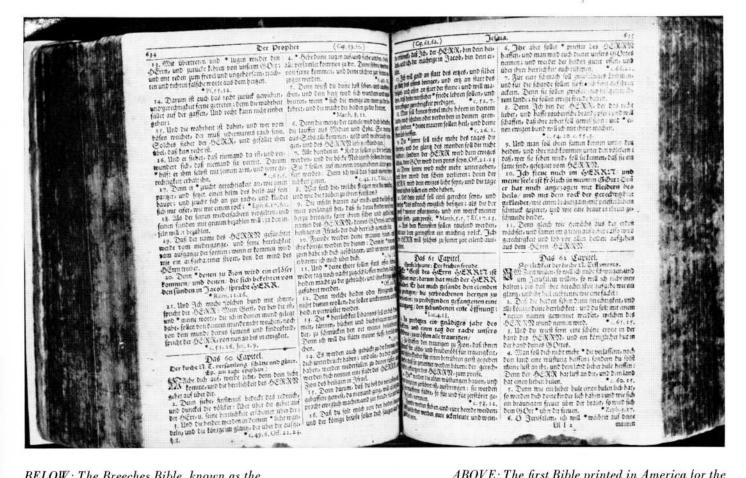
of Hamil.

10 (Parameter Auth the (Poalistelle, the Unit of (Paphion), have I parthalfoto be my thife, to reade up the manned fit dead be push this inheritance, that the manne of the bead be not cut off from a mong his beethern, and from the gate of his plate; we are burnelles this bay.

11 And all the people that there in the gate, and the Elderts faid. We are this utilities: The IL Out made the thornauthar is come and than boule, the Van the claubter II and the Colorest Color this the houle of Ideact, and both this one built the houle of Ideact, and both this one built the houle of Ideact, and both this one built the houle of Ideact, and both this one built the Schilchem.

23ethichem. 12. And let the boule be the the house of Ohares, ("Ibhom Tamar bare E 23 b 2





BELOW: The Breeches Bible, known as the Geneva or Puritan Bible, was made under the influence of Calvin in Geneva. It is the first English Bible to divide chapters into verses.

ABOVE: The first Bible printed in America for the European colonists was the first edition of the Saur Bible, printed in 1743 by Christopher Saur at Germantown, Pennsylvania. It was written in German.

