

17TH CENTURY BIBLES: EARLY ENGLISH PRINTED BIBLES:

(And a few other languages.)

1610 Hebrew Bible: This quarto-size Hebrew Bible has been newly rebound in full, light-
0 brown leather with gold stamping on the spine. The Psalms are dated 1615, Proverbs
1614, Daniel, Hezra and Nechemian are dated 1611, with other dates on other title pages,
indicating that this edition was pieced together from several printings, or else the final
publication was delayed.

1611-11 First Edition King James Bible:

been very carefully hand-penned in to correspond to the date of the first German edition. This jewel of early commentary by Luther is an exposition on the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith. Reading this book is like reading the heart of the Reformation! It is bound in full leather, and is in its original binding, with crude hasps made of iron. It measures 6 ¼ by 7 ½ by 1 ¾ inches. (An interesting study would be determining how many copies of this edition have survived?)

1619-

The paper of this edition is of inferior quality, so many of the edges of the pages are deteriorating. However all of the pages are present, just worn at the edges. The major distinction of this volume is the signature of Robert Barker, the printer of the First Edition King James Bible of 1611, opposite the title page. There are other signatures in this volume, but without further research, this is the only one of distinction. It is bound in full, black leather with the leather fasteners missing.

1625 Exposition of the Second Epistle of the Apostle Paul to Timothy: This commentary is by John Barlow, minister at Plymouth. It is printed in London by I.B. for John Bellamie. The text is complete and this quarto volume is bound in full, blind-stamped leather in excellent condition. Research is needed to determine more about this author.


Printed by Ex Officina Plantiniana, it contains an elaborate title page done on wood-block, with other wood-block decorations in other places. It contains a topical index at the end of the text. Some collectors collect books simply for their “high ridge” bindings. This one is a superb example of such.

1631 Wicked Bible, one of eleven known copies in the world: It is called the “Wicked Bible” because the word “not” was omitted from the seventh commandment in Exodus 20:14. This special page, as well as the entire Bible is in excellent condition for exhibiting, missing only the general title page. The printers were fined 300 pounds for allowing the error to get into the printing, and they were ordered to destroy the whole printing of 1,000 copies. This is the reason for only 11 of these rare Bibles known to exist in the world. It is bound in contemporary, full, brown leather and it is in good very condition.

1632 Hieronymus, Platus, The Happiness of a Religious State, translated into English: Anno Domini 1632, quarto, translated by H. More, BM 1240, information from Early English Printed Books, number 6269. The book measures 6 ¾ by 9 ½ by 1 ¾ inches, is bound in full, brown leather with the spine of the book being repaired with 4 high ridge cords, but long ago to need to be repaired again! Though the cords hold it
1632 Hi

1641 French Commentary on Matthew, Mark, Luke and John:(2 volumes in one) R. P. Corn. Cornelii, A Lapide E Societate Jesu, S. Scripture Olim Lovanii, Commentarii in IV. Evangelia, Tomus Primus. The book measures 9 ½ by 14 by 3 ¼ inches, and is bound in pigskin that has five high ridge cords across the spine, with the whole of the binding elaborately blind-stamped. In the center of the front cover is the Cross and HIS symbol within an oval; around this is a square with various figures, and there is continuing design within the rectangular border clear to the edges of the volume. The same is true of the back board, except the center design is of the Virgin and Infant within the center oval. The volume has had leather and brass closing straps at one time, but now all that remains are the two brass closures on the front board. The volume is in excellent condition and is a good example of elaborate blind-stamp binding.

1642 Jesu Christi Domini Nostri Novum Testamentum, Sive Novum Foedus, Theodori Bezae: Joachimi Camerarii, Cantabrigieae: Anno Dom. MDCXLII. It measures 9 by 13 ½ by 2 ¼ inches and has been rebound in probably the 20th century with ¾ marbled paper and a leather spine and is in excellent condition. I believe I am right that it is the most complete of all of the Greek texts to date. It contains the Greek text and two Latin versions, and much commentary/critical examination. (I am not a Greek scholar; and my books that might give me more information are already packed up!)

1641-1655 King James Version, quarto printed by John Field: All preliminaries, including the genealogies, as well as all text is in very perfect condition. It contains the Book of Common Prayer, which is dated 1641. The Old Testament title page is 1648. This is followed by the Psalms of David, of P v low  / Ó

1821: This near perfect copy was nicknamed “the Preacher’s Bible.” It was so called because the very small type enables this one volume—about the size of a study Bible today—to have the full text, the Prayer Book, two editions of the Psalms—one being the famous poetic version of Sternhold and Hopkins—and a hundred and ninety pages of concordance. **The silver hasps carry the date Sept. 7, 1821 on the upper clasp, and**

According to a hand written note of sentiment on the inside, this would have been the date when John Ashburner presented it to George Forbes, and about the time it would have been rebound. The covers and spine are very ornately decorated in blind stamping. (1666 was the great fire of London, by the way, when many early Bibles would have been destroyed.) **The cover is in beautiful condition,** but the front board was separated when dropped while I was preparing for a recent exhibit. It can easily be reattached, and I continue to exhibit it now along with other beautiful bindings, with a mylar band around the covers with the silver clasps showing the engraving mentioned above.

1675 Henry Hammond Paraphrase of the New Testament: This folio edition (10 by 14 ¼ by 2 ½ inches) was first printed in 1653, this being the fourth edition. Hammond was President of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Chaplain to Charles I. He also assisted Brian Walton in his famous London Polyglot of 1657. It is bound in very fine leather on the spine and leather corners, with marbled paper on the remainder of the boards, and it is in excellent condition.

1677 Thomae A Kempis, Cannonici Regularis Ordinis S. Augustini, De Imitatione Christi: A small edition of the famous Imitation of Christ, by Thomas A Kempis, printed in Venetiis, 1677, A pud Milochum, Superiorum Permissu. The size of the vellum bound