



SUBMITTED BY ISABELLA ZHONG

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# Adornment: the art of the Bible

## *The Museum of the Bible travels to Ashland University*

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The Museum of the Bible made its way to Ashland University for its first stop on the 2018 tour. It is currently showing in the Hawkins-Conard Student Center conference rooms on the second floor. The tour is called “Adornment: the Art of the Bible.”

This exhibit is open and free to the public, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday and Saturday from April 2-14.

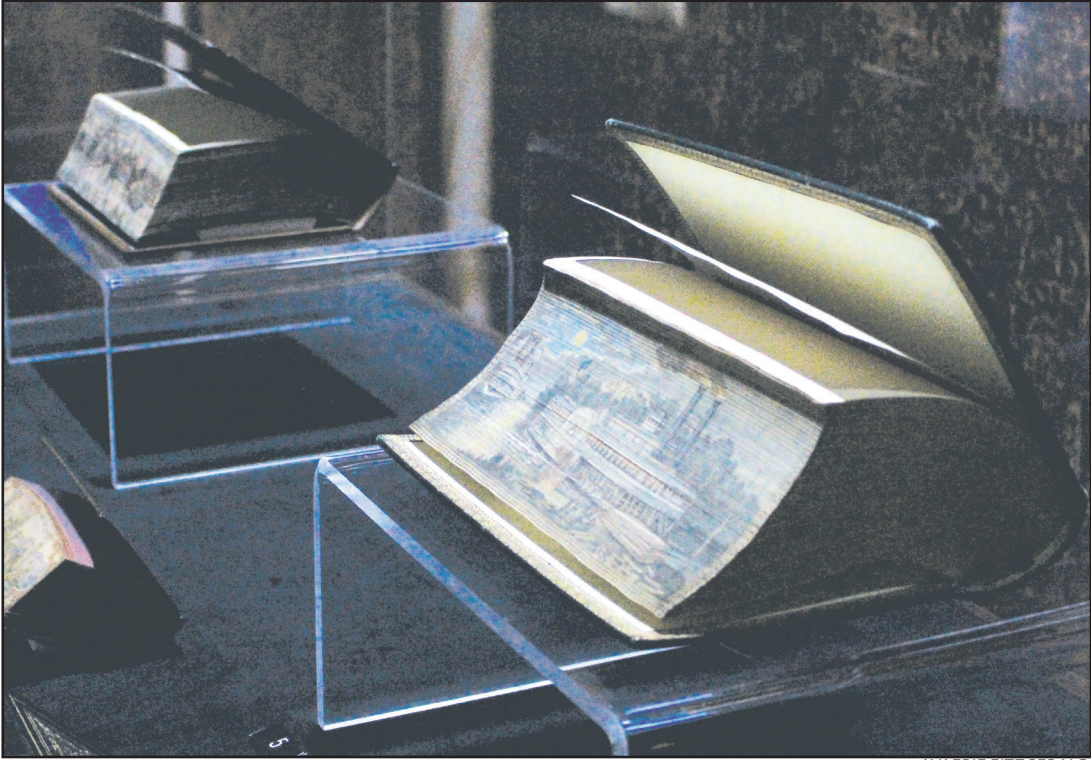
It includes various versions of the Bible that date as far back as 600 A.D. The Bibles on display are all different sizes and languages. Some are written in ancient Hebrew and Greek, while many of the newer Bibles are written in old English.

The Bible that dates back to 600

very good. It was smaller than I thought, but I still had a great time when I was there. The displayed items are amazingly preserved. I was surprised that some pages can be so colorful due to how old those are,” said Isabella Zhong, a student from North Central State College. “My favorite part is learning those ancient printing techniques. As a graphic designer, I love to explore the history of art, typography and printing.”

Twentieth-Century surrealist painter, Salvador Dali, illustrated a written work by the psychologist Sigmund Freud, “Moses and Monotheism”, in which Freud argues that Moses was Egyptian and not Hebrew. The painting by Dali is currently on display in the exhibit and depicts Moses dreaming of Egyptian symbolism.

In the center of the work there



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The side of each Bible would look ordinary if laid at a normal position, however, when the pages are spread out, an image of a historical event from the Bible can be seen.

but community members and local elementary and high school students, as well as homeschool groups.

The security guard in charge of the displays, Jabbar Cole, said, “On Friday there were a little more than 70 in attendance. Today [Saturday], there have been around 20 so far.”

Several medieval artists used art to draw attention to their copies and to help reader with the memorization of key verses. In some of these versions, pictures provided a visual representation of what themes were occurring within the story.

One Bible on display, Physica Sacra (The Study of the Sacred in Nature), dating back to 1731, was the first of its kind to include elements of the natural world to explain su-

pernatural themes. The artist of this Bible, Jakob Scheuchzer, used 760 copper engravings to create a print on each page incorporating scientific knowledge, which included detailed prints of the round earth and a description of space.

Artists sometimes painted scenes from the Old Testament and New Testament. They were acting as teachers of medieval theology, making it easier to follow along with the text from the Bible, as well as adding an image that readers can connect with certain characters.

A book’s cover is the first thing that readers see when they look at books. While the Bible usually sticks to a basic cover, many of the older copies are bound in different fabrics and leathers.

The most popular binding is

leather. Artisans throughout history have created beautiful covers with different colored fabrics and stains, and sometimes they used wood so that it could be carved and decorated more easily.

Some of the Bibles on display are made from precious stones and jewels. These Bible covers were made to look beautiful to draw attention to the text and the book owner.

According to the AU News Center website, President Dr. Carlos Campo said, “Ashland University is honored to be the host campus for the Adornment exhibit this spring. We believe this exhibit will be especially interesting and meaningful for those in homeschool groups, charter schools and Sunday school classes as well as the general public and our students.”



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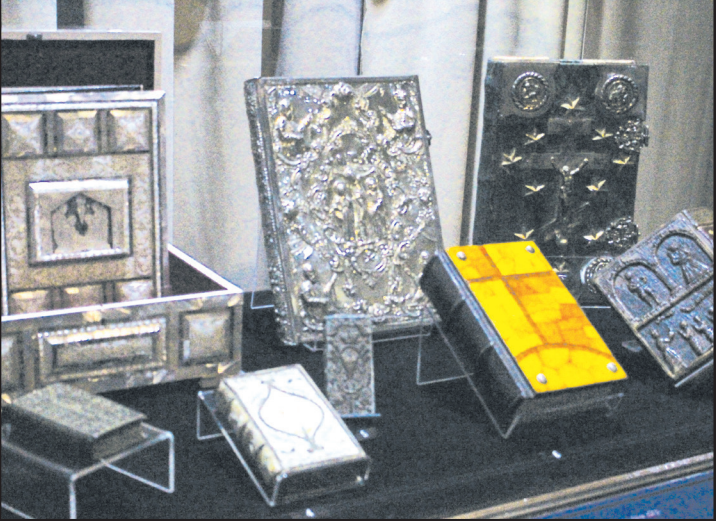
A toddler plays with the interactive exhibit showing each of the pages of one of the older Bibles.

A.D. was written in Greek and then translated into Syriac. It was called the Codex Climaci Rescriptus Leaf (The Ladder of Divine Ascent). Between the margins there is a ladder drawn, which symbolizes that the reader was ready to move up to the next rung of the spiritual ladder.

“I think the exhibition was

is a bull. The bull represents the God of the Christian monotheism. He draws attention to the point of monotheism by depicting a Roman Catholic bishop near the animal. A black angel sits atop some ruins praying and watching.

Many of those who have traveled to see the Museum of the Bible’s exhibit have not been AU students,



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Covers were often used to create beauty and to draw attention to the Bible and the owner.



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There were many older Bibles at the exhibit that were in languages other than English. This one was kept in good condition for its age.