THE EXHIBIT OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

AT

THE CENTURY OF PROGRESS EXPOSITION

CHICAGO, 1933

THE keynote of the exhibit of the one hundred and seventeen-year-old American Bible Society is set by the high central panel in the corner. Here under the Seal of the Society, with its motto "Search the Scriptures," is Jeremiah's summons to the world—

"Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations,
and declare it in the isles afar off"

the message of this exhibit to the Exposition and of the Society in all its world-wide work.

MEMORIAL TO THE TRANSLATORS

Flanking this are two panels constituting the Memorial to the Translators, in honor of the hundreds of men and women who have blessed the world and us by their laborious and painstaking service in translating the Book of Books into hundreds of languages. Only a few could be named here—the great pioneers and some others who have created the versions most used today.

JEROME, c. 340-420: Latin. The first translator known by name; the first known translator of the entire Bible. His translation, called the Vulgate, is the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.

ULFILAS, c. 310-384: Gothic. A missionary to the Western Goths, then living in what is now Bulgaria; the reputed originator of the Gothic alphabet—thus possibly the first translator to reduce a language to writing, that it might receive the Scriptures. He translated the whole Bible, except the Books of Kings, which he thought too warlike for his belligerent and unruly Goths.

CYRIL (d. 869) and Methodius (d. 885): Slavonic. Missionaries to the Slavs; supposed to have originated the Cyrillic alphabet (Russian, Rumanian, etc.) and to have translated nearly the whole Bible into Slavonic.

JOHN Wyclif, c. 1320-1384: English. The first of the great English translators; fighting valiantly in the struggle to have the Scriptures in the language of the common people of England. (See the third mural.)

WILLIAM TYNDALE, c. 1484-1536: English. The second great name of translators of the English Scriptures; the first to issue printed Scriptures (the New Testament) in English. He also translated the Pentateuch. (See the fourth mural.)

MILES COVERDALE, 1488-1569: English. The third great name in the history of the English Bible; the reviser and finisher of Tyndale's work, his Bible was the first whole printed Bible in English. Both Coverdale and Tyndale, through their translations, made great contributions to the King James Version, which is in almost universal use among English-speaking people.

MARTIN LUTHER, 1483-1546: German. The translator of the Bible of the Reformation in Germany, which is still substantially the Bible of the evangelical churches of Germany.

OLAUS PETRI, 1493-1552: Swedish. The Swedish reformer who is responsible for the first translation of the whole Bible into Swedish, which underlies even yet the current versions.

GIOVANNI DIODATO, 1576-1649: Italian. The translator of the Italian versions which are most widely used by Italian Protestants.

JOHN ELIOT, 1604-1659: Massachusetts Indian. His reduction of their language to writing and translation of the Bible for these Indians constitute not only the first Bible translated and printed in the Americas, but the first translation and printing of the entire Bible in a new language as a means of evangelization.


CIPRIANO DE VALERA, c. 1532-1600: Spanish. His revision of earlier Spanish versions is the version most widely used by the evangelical churches of Spain and Latin America.

FELIPE SISO DE SAN MIGUEL, 18th century: Spanish. The translator of the whole Bible from the Latin Vulgate—the first Spanish Bible printed on Spanish soil.

JOAO FERREIRA D'ALMEIDA, 1618-1691: Portuguese. The translator of the New Testament and of part of the Old Testament for the Portuguese in the East Indies. His work forms the basis of the version most widely used by evangelicals in Portugal and Brazil.

ANTONIO P. DE FOUTREDO, 1724-1797: Portuguese. The translator of the whole Bible from the Latin Vulgate.

WILLIAM CAREY, 1761-1824: Bengali, Sanskrit. A famous pioneer missionary and linguist, translator of the New Testament into Bengali and into Sanskrit; participant in the translations into Marathi and Hindi; founder, with Marshman and Ward, of the Serampore Press, by which translations were published in twenty-five languages of India before his death.


ADONIRAM JUDSON, 1788-1820: Burmese. A pioneer Baptist missionary, who translated the whole Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Burmese.

ROBERT MOFFATT, 1795-1883: Chavana. A missionary pioneer in South Africa, translator of the whole Bible, and one of the first of the host of translators who have worked on the hundreds of African languages.

JAMES CURTIS HEBBURN, 1815-1911: Japanese. The principal translator of the whole Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Japanese.

CORNELIUS V. A. VAN DUEN, 1828-1895: Arabic. The translator of the most widely used version of the whole Bible in Arabic.

HENRY NORT, 1774-1844: Tahiti. A pioneer missionary largely responsible for the translation of the whole Bible into Tahiti, and one of the first translators among the many languages of the islands of the Pacific.
The Mural Paintings
High on the walls at the left and right of the central panels are six mural paintings depicting significant occasions in the history of the Bible among English-speaking people. Beginning at the extreme left—

2. Cardinnom. More than 1,000 years ago a Saxon cowboy by the name of Cardinnom, in a stable of the famous abbey of Whitby, England, surprised an innkeeper with a lullaby that was later to be known throughout Europe. According to his own inspiration, "the beginning of creation things." The shepherd, having learned of Cardinnom's gifts, called upon him to paint the scene of the Nativity on the front page of the Latin, which he, in turn, reduced to song and poetry in the Anglo-Saxon. One of the oldest known hymns is presumed to be the earlier in English.

3. Tyndale. The man who had a scholar with wide interests, whose ecclesiastical history is the chief source of our knowledge of ancient English—

4. Bibles. John Wycliffe's contribution to the development of Christianty was manifold. "As the leading author of the Reformation," he etched a basic church doctrine and its institution, and thus his translation resolved. He gave himself with great diligence to the translation of the Bible into the vernacular, and he wrote in poetry, "the Holy Bible to be "the property of the people." He drew together and trained a group of 40 students, and together they began to forge a single universal tongue in the villages of central England. Like Wycliffe, it is Wycliffe's translation that we teach in preaching Bible truths by far.

5. Tommasi. The invention of printing, a half century after the death of Wycliffe, revolutionized all the methods of making the Bible a common possession. Scholarly attention enabled William Tyndale to study the original Hebrew and Greek of the Scriptures. His printed form of the Bible in English is far-reaching.

6. Knox. The English of Geneva, 1560's, in which the various altars of the ancient symbols of the four Evangelists, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John, to whom we owe the four Gospels. These reliefs are duplicated upon the facade of the Society's new Bible House in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Symbols of the Four Evangelists
On the left hand wall, below the murals, are four aluminum bas-reliefs of the ancient symbols of the four Evangelists, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John, to whom we owe the four Gospels. These reliefs are duplicated upon the facade of the Society's new Bible House in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Doramas
Below the bas-reliefs the four doramas illustrate the four major elements in the work of the American Bible Society in its world-wide work of making available to mankind that Book which alone is worthy to be man's indispensable guide in life here and to the life eternal. Beginning at the left, translational. This dorama shows a group of workmen translating the Bible in its most important dialect of the Philippines. The translator's task of finding the right words and employing them so as to be faithful to the original text is at once interesting and time-consuming. Scholarship, patient diligence, and love of the Scriptures are necessary to produce worthy results. The New Testament is the most frequently translated of all books, as well as the many geographical areas in which such labor is being carried on, will be seen on the large language chart and in the four exhibits. A booklet containing verses of Scripture in modern language is entitled "Every Man in His Own Tongue" may be secured by visitors who register at the desk.

Publication. When a translation has been completed, the Society's next task is that of publication. If the work is a single Gospel or a portion of Scripture and is to appear in English, it will likely be printed on the large press reproduced in the dorama representing publication. Not

DISTRIBUTION. It would take many doramas to depict the varied circumstances and areas in which the Society's distribution occurred. The next dorama shows the Society's specialty, four volumes are made available at Stephen's Library, London.

The Society's last catalogue is available upon request.

Bibles and the Blinds in 1833 with the present variety available, and the distribution through the century of 1,000,000 volumes for the blind in several languages and several speech areas.

Two Historical Bibles: One is a facsimile of the "Gettmen" Bible, the first printed Bible (1545-6) and possibly the first book printed from movable type in the Western World. It is Latin and is noted for its splendid design and is one of the first editions of the King James (or "Authorised") Version printed in 1611. Of the King James Version—"with spelling modernized and some minor corrections from the editions, more copies have been printed than of any Bible in the world, and more than of any book in the world. The American and British Bible Societies together have distributed as many copies of the whole Bible as all the rest of the world put together, to say nothing of some 80,000,000 of Testaments, and some 66,000,000 Gospels and other Portions. It is still the most widely read of all the English Bibles, and the right to translate has exercised an undefined influence on English literature, and upon the moral and religious life of the English-speaking peoples. As the most influential book in the world and contending for the message of God to man, every English-speaking person should be proud to have it, to guide his life by it, and to spread it among others. It is appropriate that beside it should be the American Bible Society's expression of appreciation to the many persons who have made the Society's work possible. In the next two cases the chief interest lies in three displays. The first is a group of—

Bibles of Large Circulation. Of the Agate, Minion, and Brevier type books, the Society has issued more than 3,728,000, 2,789,000, and 1,845,000, respectively. The Agate is a type Bible of large circulation. Contrasting with these are the—

Bibles of 1833 which show the appearance of the books issued by the Society then, and the

Bibles of 1911, which show the new forms of Bibles, Testaments, and Portions now available. A number of these are very new, being "out" only a few weeks. They include the latest point Bible, the "Snowdrop" Bible, the new type of Bibles, and the new editions of the New Testament from 5 cents up and Bibles in colored bindings. Copies of these are available at the counter, and many visitors will want to take advantage of the opportunity.

The Society invites visitors to ask questions and to secure literature about the world-wide work. If they will register their names and addresses, further information will be sent by mail from time to time.

The American Bible Society gratefully acknowledges the help of its energetic Chicago ally, the Chicago Bible Society, in supplementing the staff at the exhibit.
WHAT IT IS

It is a missionary society whose sole object is to promote the wider circulation of the Scriptures without note or comment. It is the sole American national and international society organized for this purpose and one of the oldest missionary societies in America.

It is one of the chief factors in making the Bible the cheapest and most ubiquitous book in the world—a priceless boon to the poor, and to the millions who have not known it. In scores of languages a Gospel may be had for three cents or less; in several, for one cent.

It is nonsectarian, receiving contributions from individuals and churches of many denominations, and welcoming the aid of all who share its purpose.

WHAT IT DOES

TRANSLATION—It is constantly aiding in the translation and revision of the Scriptures, and has aided their translation or revision in more than 90 languages, e.g., first giving the Scriptures to the American Indians in six of their languages, and to the Philippine Islanders in eight of their languages.

Scores of languages and dialects have received a written form first through translators of the Bible. The American Bible Society has shared considerably in this side-product of Scripture publication.

PUBLICATION—It has published or subsidized the publication of Scriptures in 135 languages; 69 of these have been printed at the Bible House in New York.

It now publishes in the United States, and in Tokyo, Manila, Shanghai, Bangkok, Vienna, Beirut, and Cairo.

It publishes Gospels for as little as one cent; many varieties of Bibles and Testaments; diglot editions containing two languages in parallel columns; large pulpits Bibles; Scriptures in large type; pocket editions; editions for the blind.

DISTRIBUTION—In addition to the translation and the publication of Scriptures, there is the most important work of getting them into the hands of the people.

This work is done without racial or denominational discrimination, through individuals, churches, Sunday schools, societies, hospitals, ministers, evangelists, missionaries, colporteurs, correspondents, and special agents employed by the Society.

The latest Annual Report of the Society shows employed a force of 328 colporteurs and 1,620 correspondents, and 235 others, assisted by 1,462 volunteers—a total of 3,645.

It circulates the Scriptures annually in more than 175 languages and dialects.

Since its organization in 1816, the Society has issued more than 246,000,000 Gospels, Testaments, and Bibles, and has circulated Scriptures in more than 215 languages.

TYPES OF SERVICE

MISSIONARY SERVICE—Its Agents and colporteurs are pioneers of missions at home and abroad.

It furnishes missionaries with the chief implement of their work—the Bible.

Its ten Home and twelve Foreign Agencies cover the entire home fields and thirty-five foreign countries; and it has correspondents in more than thirty countries outside of those included in the Agency fields.

WAR SERVICE—Beginning with the Mexican War in 1847, it has done a great and important service to the soldiers and sailors in all the conflicts in which the nation has been involved. In the World War, nearly 7,000,000 volumes were distributed to the soldiers and sailors of various nations. Similar service was rendered during the Russo-Japanese War and the Balkan and other wars during recent decades.

OTHER SPECIAL CLASSES—It supplies Bibles for the blind: English in six systems—Line Letter, Point Print, American Braille, Revised Braille, Grade 1 1/2, and English Braille, and Moon; Arabic in two systems: Spanish, Portuguese, Armenian, Armeno-Turkish, Japanese, Korean, and Siamese, one system each.

It seeks out, and brings the Bible to the poor, the ignorant, the untaught; prisoners, strangers, travelers; the destitute and unchurched classes, and the thousands of patients in our hospitals.

The Society is dependent upon churches and individual donors for the support of its work. Income from sales of Scriptures covers the cost only of the Scriptures sold. The work of translation and revision, the plates of new versions, Scriptures donated to destitute persons or given away by colporteurs in their persuasive work, reductions in prices on many editions in foreign lands and on some in the United States, the expenses of the centers of distribution and of the far-reaching colporteurs, must be met out of the gifts of those who care. Rents in the Bible House and the income of a modest permanent fund constitute a minor fraction of the required support. Every Agency Secretary of the Society faces constantly ripe opportunities for effective work which simply cannot be undertaken because the Society has not the funds with which to cover the expense of sending the worker, or to meet the difference between the cost of the Scriptures needed and a price within the range of the capacity of the people.

Lovers of the Bible are invited to share in the support of this great work. Inquiries will be gladly answered at the desk.

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
Bible House, Astor Place
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