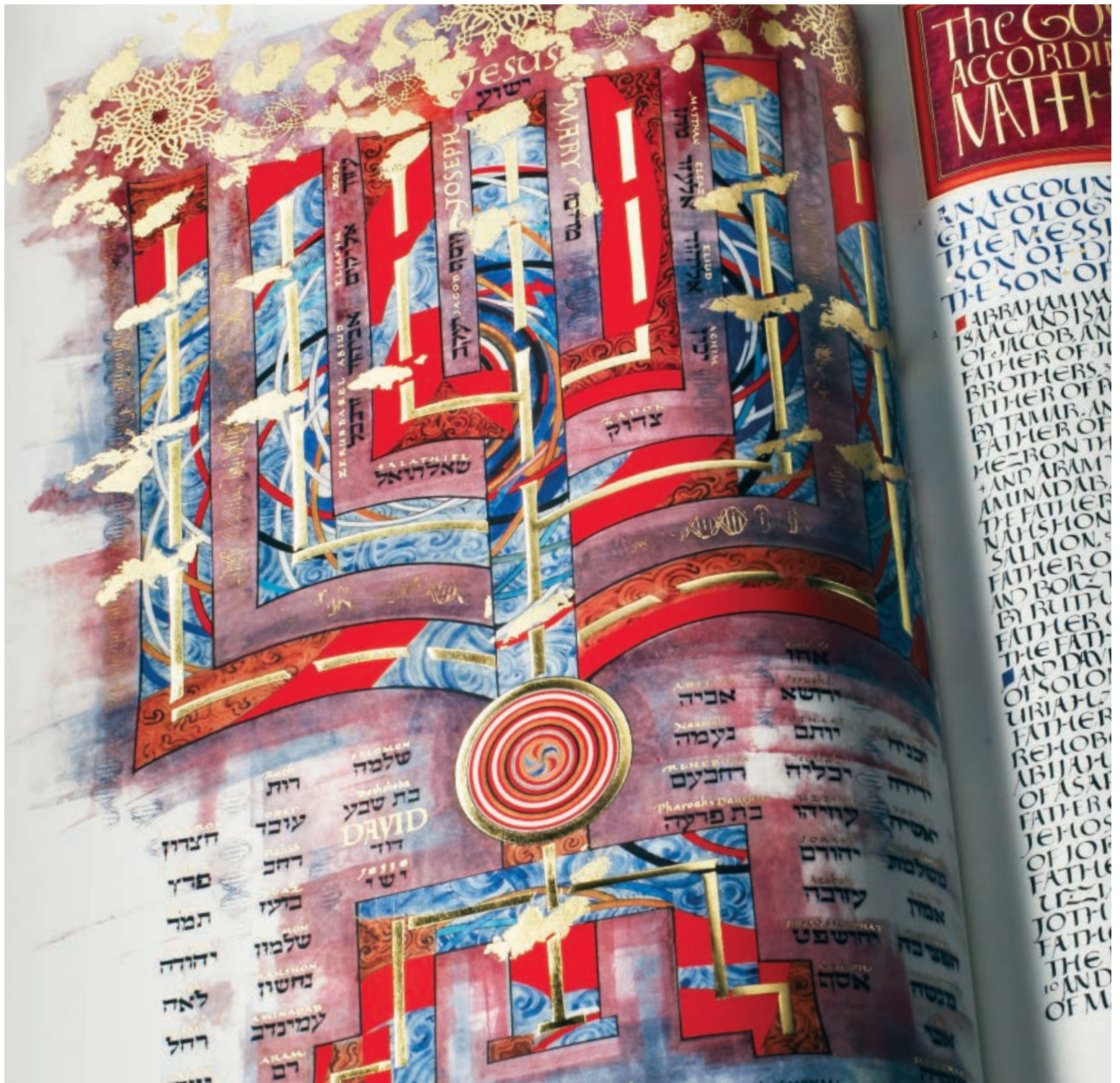


A Year with *The Saint John's Bible*





Messianic Predictions, Thomas Ingmire, Copyright 2005, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Minnesota USA.

“We tend to read greedily and hastily, as we do so many other things: this beautiful text shows us a better way. This project not only revives the ancient tradition of the church sponsoring creative arts, it also offers an insight into that lost skill of patient and prayerful reading.”

— THE MOST REVEREND ROWAN WILLIAMS,
FORMER ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Foreword

The Saint John's Bible is the first completely handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey since the invention of the printing press more than five hundred years ago. Master calligrapher Donald Jackson — the official scribe and calligrapher to Queen Elizabeth II — dreamed of producing such a Bible as early as 1970. He proposed the project in 1995 to Saint John's Abbey and University, which commissioned *The Saint John's Bible* in 1998. Mr. Jackson delivered the final pages in 2011.

An international team of calligraphers and artists created the original manuscript of more than 1,100 pages from calfskin vellum and the manuscript includes 160 major illuminations. The entire work is divided into seven volumes; and when open, each volume stands two feet tall by three feet wide.

The Committee on Illumination and Text (CIT) at Saint John's University provided the biblical and theological scholarship behind the project. The CIT is comprised of artists, medievalists, theologians, biblical scholars and art historians, and under the leadership of Fr. Michael Patella, OSB, it presented Donald Jackson with briefs and abstracts for the verses of the Bible for illumination.

The Saint John's Bible is a Bible for the 21st century and it makes use of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation of the Bible. This translation was chosen because it is theologically sound and used in a broad spectrum of churches.

The artists took several approaches to representing the divine in the pages of *The Saint John's Bible*. Reading the Gospels, you will see the images of Jesus range from representational to abstract. In Prophets, the rainbow, the sign of God's enduring promise to Noah, is used to show the presence of God. Gold leaf is used throughout, from Creation to Apocalypse, to direct the reader to the presence of the divine.

The signs of our times are important elements throughout *The Saint John's Bible*. Strands of DNA are woven into the illumination of the "Genealogy of Jesus." Satellite photos of the Ganges Delta and photos from the Hubble telescope were used to depict Creation. In Acts of the Apostles, *To the Ends of the Earth* includes the first vision of earth as seen from space in a handwritten Bible.



Photo by Michael Freeman



Photo by Buck Holzemer Photography

Heritage Edition

The mission of *The Saint John's Bible* is to ignite the spiritual imagination of people from all faith journeys. To that end, Saint John's University created the Heritage Edition to spark the imagination of individuals, institutions and communities around the world. Under Mr. Jackson's direction, the seven volumes of the Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible* are true to the scale, beauty and artistic intent of original manuscript. The Heritage Edition is limited to only 299 sets, of which over 100 have been acquired to date.

“When we placed [the Heritage Edition] side-by-side on a table in Cambridge with the great Bible of Bury St. Edmunds Abbey [c. 1135] and the even vaster Bible of Dover Priory [c. 1160], it hardly seemed to be a facsimile at all but a living manuscript, as heavy and as lovely to touch and feel as its medieval ancestors.”

— DR. CHRISTOPHER DE HAMEL, DIRECTOR OF THE MATTHEW PARKER LIBRARY,
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE



Photo by Michael Freeman

THE MAKING OF A HERITAGE EDITION

Designed specifically for *The Saint John's Bible*, the paper of the Heritage Edition is 100% cotton. The weight and feel of the pages approximate that of the vellum in the original manuscript.

Under Donald Jackson's creative direction, the 1,150 pages of the Heritage Edition are printed using state-of-the-art offset lithographic printing technology from Heidelberg Corporation. Prior to final printing, each page requires Mr. Jackson's approval.

After printing, gold and silver foils are applied using a variety of stamping and embossing processes. To ensure the textures and surfaces are true to the artistic intent of the original manuscript, Donald Jackson's studio manager, Sarah Harris, hand treats thousands of illuminations. Therefore, no two Heritage Edition sets are identical.

The volumes are bound — by hand — in a single piece of Italian calfskin leather and adorned with a solid silver clasp. The headbands are handsewn in Pakistan. Each volume is numbered and initialed by Donald Jackson, and protected in a burgundy clamshell box.



Photo by Buck Holzemer Photography

A Year with *The Saint John's Bible*

Saint John's University created A Year with *The Saint John's Bible* to give institutions a way to experience *The Saint John's Bible* for a full year. The program includes the following:

■ DELIVERY OF THE GOSPELS & ACTS HERITAGE EDITION VOLUME

The year begins when *Gospels & Acts*, the sixth volume of *The Saint John's Bible* Heritage Edition, arrives at your institution. This exquisite volume features some of the most inspiring illuminations including *Genealogy of Jesus*, *Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes*, *Luke's Anthology*, *The Crucifixion*, the *Gospel of John Frontispiece* and many others.

The following are some of the ways you can share *Gospels & Acts* with your community:

- Place the volume on permanent display to create or compliment a sacred space at your facility.
- Share the volume in Bible study, Scripture readings, and group prayer.
- Invite the community to visit your church, campus, or library to turn pages and explore *The Saint John's Bible*.
- Use *Gospels & Acts* in interdisciplinary studies including theology, literature, history and fine arts.



Jim Triggs, executive director of the Heritage Program, provides workshop participants with information on how to share their Heritage Editions within their communities. Photo by Kerry Werlinger.

■ ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

The purpose of the workshop is to assist in making most of the arrival of *The Saint John's Bible*. The workshop includes the following:

- A two-hour immersion session on “why” and “how” the original manuscript was created
- A presentation on the major illuminations of *The Saint John's Bible*
- A review of best practices for sharing and displaying *The Saint John's Bible* with the community
- An overview on proper care and use of the Heritage Edition
- Introductions to key members of *The Saint John's Bible* team
- An overview of the “Seeing the Word” program
- A review of marketing and media opportunities with *The Saint John's Bible*
- The best practices in fundraising to acquire the Heritage Edition

Workshop Location and Schedule

The workshop can be conducted at your location, at Saint John's University, or both. We strongly recommend that you schedule the workshop in advance of beginning *A Year with The Saint John's Bible*.

“Today's sessions were enormously helpful and provided a wealth of information, inspiration and resources! I feel like we received a whole new gift in addition to the gift of the Bible. The creativity, spirituality and sheer effort that has been put into these beautiful books is humbling. Thank you and your staff for your generous hospitality and insight.”

— REBECCA HILTON,
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR MISSION INTEGRATION,
COLLEGE OF ST. MARY,
OMAHA, NE

A Year with *The Saint John's Bible*, continued

■ GUEST LECTURER

To support *A Year With The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's will provide one of the following guest lecturers:



Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB
Photo by John Biasi

Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB

As the director of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) in 1995, Fr. Eric had the initial conversation with Donald Jackson, which led to the commissioning of the project in 1998. Fr. Eric received his B.A. from Princeton University in 1971. Following seminary studies at Saint John's University, he received a Ph.D. in medieval studies from Yale University. Among his many activities, Fr. Eric speaks to audiences around the world on *The Saint John's Bible*.

Tim Ternes

Tim is the Director of *The Saint John's Bible* at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library in Collegeville, Minnesota. As director he works with the artistic team for the project, facilitating planning and exhibitions for the original pages and reproductions, as well as curating and caring for the original folios of the Bible.



Tim Ternes
Photo by John Biasi



Michael Patella, OSB, SSD

Fr. Michael Patella, OSB, SSD

Fr. Patella is professor of New Testament at the School of Theology•Seminary of Saint John's University, Collegeville. As chair of the Committee on Illumination and Text, Fr. Patella led the scholarship behind *The Saint John's Bible*. His latest book, *Word and Image: The Hermeneutics of The Saint John's Bible* (Liturgical Press, 2013), won the Catholic Press Award for Scripture. He has been a frequent contributor to *The Bible Today* and is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association.

Susan Sink

Susan is the author of *The Art of The Saint John's Bible* which explores the art and theology behind *The Saint John's Bible*. She is also an author of a book of poems, *The Way of All the Earth*. Her poems and stories have been published in national literary magazines, including *Poetry*, *Chicago Review*, *Santa Monica Review*, *Spoon River Anthology* and others.



Susan Sink

■ EXHIBITION

In addition to the *Gospels & Acts* volume, Saint John's will ship additional framed pages from the Heritage Edition. These illuminated displays can be incorporated into a yearlong exhibit which includes:

- Didactics (image descriptions) for all illuminations
- High-resolution images for posters and brochures
- Expert and notable testimonials
- Rack card handouts
- Extra newsletters
- Looping videos
- Electronic templates for exhibition boards



Photo by Joslyn Art Museum

*“This is a work of art ...
a beautiful work of art ...
a work for eternity.”*

— HIS HOLINESS, POPE BENEDICT XVI



Photo by photographic Service L'Osservatore Romano

A Year with *The Saint John's Bible*, continued

■ IMAGE USE AGREEMENT

Saint John's University gives participating institutions the permission to use high resolution images from *The Saint John's Bible* for programming purposes. These digital images can be used for event promotions, media kits, educational activities, and other programs related to *The Saint John's Bible*. Participating institutions receive a one-year image use license and a DVD which contains all 160 major illuminations, image credit text, logos, and Heritage Edition photography.

"One of the extraordinary undertakings of our time."

— SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

■ PROGRAM FEE

The fee for *A Year With The Saint John's Bible* is \$9,500. If your institution decides to acquire the complete 7-volume Heritage Edition, the entire fee will be applied to the purchase price.



Baptism of Jesus, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Minnesota USA.



Creation, Donald Jackson with contributions by Chris Tomlin,, Copyright 2003, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Minnesota USA.

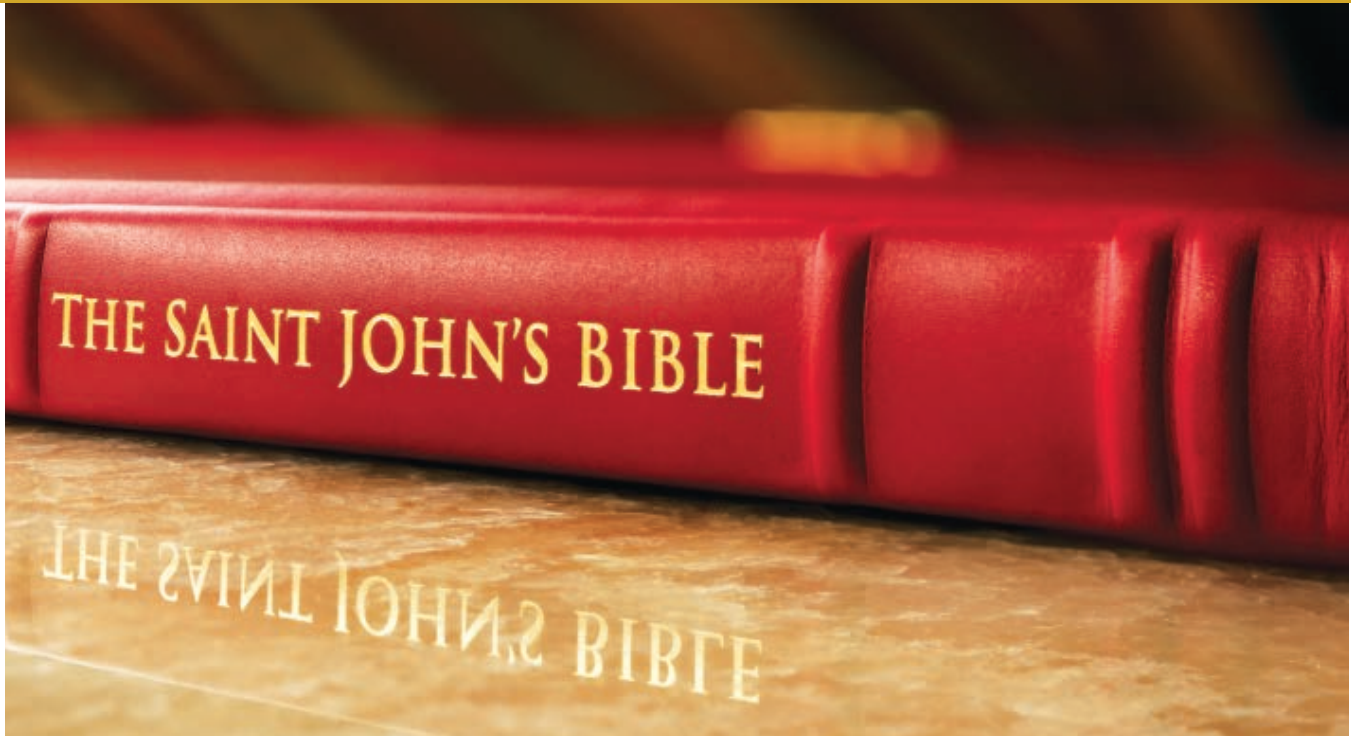


Photo by Buck Holzemer Photography

Case Studies in Sharing *The Saint John's Bible*

The following case studies provide a glimpse of how the Heritage Edition is being used in higher education:

■ MORGAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

On October 19, 2011, *The Saint John's Bible* was presented to the Morgan Library in New York City. As a capstone to its biblical facsimile collection, the Morgan Library will make the volume available to researchers around the world.

■ MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

Dr. John Pauly, Marquette's former provost, and Dr. Janice Welburn, Marquette's Raynor Memorial Libraries dean, were instrumental in the acquisition of the Heritage Edition. A volume of the Bible is on permanent display in the rare books room and, during Mission Week, it was showcased in a popular area of the student union building.

— *Continued on next page*

“The Bible stands as testament to God’s love for us; only that force could compel such amazing effort over so many years by many talented people. For those of us who teach within the Ignatian tradition, The Saint John’s Bible inspires moments of reflection and discernment in our faculty and students.”

— DR. JOHN PAULY,
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
FORMER PROVOST

Case Studies in Sharing *The Saint John's Bible*, continued

■ UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library at the University of Michigan has the country's largest papyrus collection and an extensive collection of biblical manuscripts, as well as a leaf from the Gutenberg Bible. The University added the Heritage Edition to this collection and featured it in a biblical manuscript presentation in 2012.

■ ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Heritage Edition resides at ASU in the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Students and faculty employ the Bible to emphasize the importance of the international transmission of intellectual texts and religious faith through early print production and distribution.

■ LOYOLA-NOTRE DAME LIBRARY

Loyola-Notre Dame Library in Baltimore dedicated a permanent display case and exhibit space on the main floor of the library on February 17, 2012. The library will rotate volumes and turn pages throughout the year.



Grandparents Day at Azusa Pacific University.
Photo courtesy of Azusa Pacific University



Photo by Rev. Canon Dr. James M. Rosenthal

■ ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS CHURCH

St Martin-in-the-Fields, known as one of the most significant ecclesiastical buildings in the English-speaking world, was the first Anglican Church in the world to receive the Heritage Edition. Reverend Nicholas Holtam, former vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, said, “The Saint John’s Bible is a work of great art, engaging the reader’s senses with the sacred text. It also raises a discussion about the meaning, nature and authority of the text. It will bring a new focus on the Holy Scriptures in the recently renewed church.”

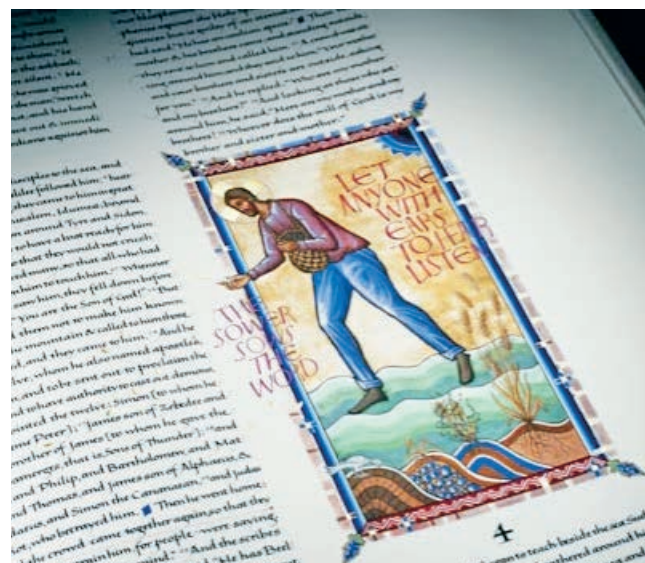
■ YALE UNIVERSITY

Yale announced the acquisition of *The Saint John’s Bible* Heritage Edition on May 2, 2012. The acquisition represents a collaboration between the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, an interdisciplinary graduate center at Yale. The University will house *The Saint John’s Bible* Heritage Edition at the Divinity School Library.

“The Beinecke Library and the Institute of Sacred Music are pleased to help bring such an outstanding work to Yale. The acquisition of The Saint John’s Bible will provide an opportunity for scholars, faculty and students to compare this modern edition with the Beinecke’s medieval manuscripts and early printed Bibles.”

— E.C. SCHROEDER,
DIRECTOR OF THE
BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND
MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

Images from the Heritage Edition



Photos by Buck Holzemer Photography



Photos by Buck Holzemer Photography



Detail from *The Great Amen*, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2011,
The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Minnesota USA.



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