The Wurker-Gibson Bible Collection was begun by Paul Wurker, a German immigrant, after relocating to the US in 1928. It was displayed in the Lynville College Library, McMinnville, Oregon until his death in 1977.

Chester Gibson purchased the Bible collection for about $600. It included a 1516 Koberger Nuremberg Bible, 1532 Paris Bible, Luther’s 1534 Bible and over 60 other Bibles. In 1992 the total collection was valued at $41,845. In 1985 the Luther Bible was donated to Andrews University.

Paul Wurker, age 45, 1937

Chester Gibson

Revelation 8 (?). The Bible includes 117 woodcut illustrations, some colored.

The Wurker-Gibson Bible collection was displayed in the Lynville College Library, McMinnville, Oregon until his death in 1977.

Chester Gibson purchased the Bible collection for about $600. It included a 1516 Koberger Nuremberg Bible, 1532 Paris Bible, Luther’s 1534 Bible and over 60 other Bibles. In 1992 the total collection was valued at $41,845. In 1985 the Luther Bible was donated to Andrews University.

The 1534 Luther Bible was the first German language translation from the original languages. This translation stands out even more than previous translations because of Luther’s principles for translation and his dynamic use of the German language.

Hans Lufft, of Wittenberg, printed more than 100,000 copies of Luther’s Bibles. The 1534 Bible was printed as a Quarto, four pages per impression on hand-powered presses. Each edition necessitated resetting type by a skilled worker. Bibles were sold for two guilden and eight goshen, equivalent to a farmer’s wages for 16 days.

Description of Luther’s 1534 Bible

Luther’s Bible is bound in two volumes in roll-stamped pigskin over wooden boards, brass clasps and catches. It includes dedication to Johann Friedrich of Saxony, and plain end papers and edge. AU has volume two of the set. It is missing a title page and Revelation is incomplete.

The ornate first letter of each book was printed from a woodcut.

Revelation 8 (?). The Bible includes 117 woodcut illustrations, some colored.

Translation of Luther’s Bible

The 1534 Luther Bible was the first German language translation from the original languages. This translation stands out even more than previous translations because of Luther’s principles for translation and his dynamic use of the German language.

The printing technology was still a new invention. Printers could not invest in enough type and frames to set aside a completed Bible until they were ready to print a new edition. A good typesetter could produce up to 2000 characters per hour. Both typesetting and proofing were completed on a mirror version of the final printing.

Publication and Marketing of the Bible

Hans Lufft, of Wittenberg, printed more than 100,000 copies of Luther’s Bibles. The 1534 Bible was printed as a Quarto, four pages per impression on hand-powered presses. Each edition necessitated resetting type by a skilled worker. Bibles were sold for two guilden and eight goshen, equivalent to a farmer’s wages for 16 days.

Bibliography


