

The Saint John's Bible and Heritage Edition Fact Sheets

The Saint John's Bible (SJB)

- ✓ The SJB is the first handwritten illuminated Bible of its scale in over 500 years.
- ✓ The mission of the SJB: “To ignite the spiritual imagination of people around the world of all faith journeys.”
- ✓ Donald Jackson, Senior Scribe to the Queen of England, is the artistic director of the SJB.
- ✓ Key dates:
 - 1995 – Mr. Jackson presented his lifelong dream to handwrite the Bible to Fr. Eric Hollas, O.S.B.
 - 1998 – Saint John's Abbey and University commissioned Mr. Jackson to begin the project.
 - 2000 – Mr. Jackson drew the first words – “In the beginning” – on Ash Wednesday.
 - 2011 – Donald and Mabel Jackson presented the final page of the SJB to Saint John's.
- ✓ The scholarship behind the SJB was led by the Committee for Illumination and Text (CIT). Fr. Michael Patella, O.S.B., chaired the committee of artists, theologians and biblical scholars.
- ✓ The translation of this Bible is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).
- ✓ Six calligraphers, including Mr. Jackson, handwrote all 1,150 pages on approximately 300 sheets of calfskin vellum.
- ✓ A Jewish scribe drew the Hebrew script.
- ✓ Six artists, including Mr. Jackson, created over 160 major illuminations.
- ✓ The art of the SJB is inspired by artistic traditions from around the world.
- ✓ The 73 books in *The Saint John's Bible* are organized in the following seven volumes:

Old Testament

Pentateuch

Historical Books

Wisdom Books

Psalms

Prophets

New Testament

Gospels & Acts

Letters & Revelation

Heritage Edition

- ✓ In order to share the SJB with the world, Saint John's asked Donald Jackson to direct the creation of the Heritage Edition.
- ✓ The Heritage Edition is the only full-scale, illuminated, fine art edition of the Bible.
- ✓ Limited to only 299 seven-volume sets, Mr. Jackson's goal was to make the Heritage Edition true to the artistic intent of the original.
- ✓ Each volume is authenticated and initialed by Mr. Jackson.
- ✓ The Heritage Edition represents a major international collaboration.
 - Mr. Jackson traveled from Wales to Minnesota on a regular basis to direct the Heritage Edition's creation.
 - Fine book printing experts from England and the US provided invaluable direction.
 - Hill Museum & Manuscript Museum imaged all 1,150 original pages in ultra-high resolution.
 - New Hampshire's Monadnock Paper Mills produced the cotton paper used in the Heritage Edition.
 - Germany's Heidelberg Druckmaschinen AG provided the offset lithographic printing technology required for the Heritage Edition.
 - An Italian-based tannery supplied the custom calfskin leather used in binding the Heritage Edition.
 - The binding's headbands were hand-sewn in Pakistan.
 - All 1,150 pages for all 299 volumes are hand-stitched and bound in Arizona.
- ✓ No two Heritage Editions are identical because many illuminations required hand treatments by the Scriptorium's studio manager, Sarah Harris.
- ✓ True to the SJB's mission, a wide spectrum of institutions around the world have acquired the Heritage Edition including:
 - Vatican Museum and Vatican Library
 - St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London
 - Yale University
 - Mayo Clinic
 - Morgan Library & Museum
- ✓ To date, over 100 Heritage Editions have been acquired in the US, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Italy, and Australia.