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JUNE 2011

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WELCOME

Whatever English translation is in vogue today, it's very hard to imagine that its appeal will last nearly as long as the King James Version. Even today there are those who see it as the only fully reliable and unadulterated English Bible. But how much do we really know about this text that is still held in such high esteem by so many? For example, what role did King James play in the making of this version? Was it ever really 'authorised' at all? Was it immediately and universally accepted when first published? How did it differ from previous English translations? How long after 1611 was it first published without the Apocrypha? What other alterations, intentional or otherwise, were introduced over the centuries? Perhaps you have your own questions relating to the KJV. If so, our forthcoming conference is a must for you. This will be a marvellous opportunity to examine and learn about an English version whose text 'acquired a sanctity properly ascribable only to the unmediated voice of God' (Greenslade, Cambridge History of the Bible).

Dr Paul Williamson
Chair, Moore College Library Committee

Simplicity & Integrity

THE KING JAMES VERSION OF THE BIBLE IN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

A CONFERENCE AT MOORE COLLEGE, THURSDAY 7 JULY

In George Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion*, Professor Higgins describes English as 'the language of Shakespear [sic] and Milton and The Bible'. No doubt Shaw was being wryly ironic in writing these words. But the fact that the King James Version of the English Bible had become by Shaw's day a linguistic institution cannot be doubted.

The KJV was not the first English Bible, and in our own day, there are so many English versions that few people would be able to name them all.

So what makes the King James Version worth celebrating in this its 400th year? No other English version of the Bible has dominated the life of English-speaking Christians as the KJV has. For nearly 300 years, it was the only English Bible in common use, particularly in Protestant circles. Many of its phrases have come into frequent English usage, whether the speaker knows the source or not.

For many Christians over a certain age, memorised Bible texts are from the KJV. Even today when its language has become somewhat archaic, it is

still the version used by many ultra-conservative churches, especially in the United States, because of its basis in the manuscript tradition known as the *textus receptus* ('received text').

Moore College's KJV400 conference is entitled *Simplicity and Integrity*, a phrase drawn from the Preface to the KJV as a self-description of the manner in which the translators had gone about their task. The conference will include papers, readings from the KJV, and musical items using KJV texts. Kim Robinson from the Moore College Library will introduce a display of historical Bibles from the Library's collection. The papers presented at the conference cover textual, literary and cultural issues related to the KJV.

STORY CONTINUES OVER >

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 >

The keynote speaker is **Professor Mark Strauss** from Bethel Seminary in San Diego and the Vice-chairman of the NIV Bible Translation Committee. His first-hand knowledge of English translations and the issues surrounding recent NIVs (such as the TNIV) makes him well placed to deliver a paper on 'The King James Version and the Politics of Bible translation'.

Professor Diane Speed, CEO of Sydney College of Divinity and an expert on the Bible in the medieval period will give an account of the background pre-dating the English translations. **Dr John Harris**, former director of Text and Translation for the Bible Society in Australia, and well known for his works on Aboriginal Christianity will present on a paper on 'The Power of the Word: The Bible and the Struggle for Freedom in Australia'. **Dr Greg Clarke** will give a paper on the KJV's relationship to Australian literature. Further papers will be given by **Dr Greg Anderson** and **Dr Michael Jensen**.

Dr Greg Anderson
Head, Mission Department

REGISTER NOW!

Online registration for the conference at www.library.moore.edu.au or contact the Library Manager, Julie Olston, on 02 9577 9897 or email Julie.olston@moore.edu.au

We do hope that you can join us for a great day of engaging talks, good food and great company!

Building for the future

AN UPDATE FROM DOUG MARR, THE DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY PLANNING

On 27 November 2010 the NSW Department of Planning approved the Moore College Concept Plan for the Newtown campus and also, most importantly, approved our Project Application for a new building to house the library.

The new building will be located at the corner of King Street and Carillon Avenue and will involve the demolition of the former Master Builders Association building and some of the smaller adjacent buildings in King Street. The approval was the culmination of a long and careful process to design facilities which will support the core purposes of the College and make a positive contribution to our ministry and also to the local community.

The approved building has six levels above ground plus a further two levels below ground. When completed, it will provide on site storage for the entire library collection together with world class facilities to give users access to physical and electronic items in surroundings which are appropriate to our important mission.

Now that the overall building has received planning approval, the College is moving into the detailed planning stage. Funding limitations indicate the project will need to be constructed in a number of stages so the immediate task is to assess the many competing space needs and then commission a structure which will provide the best possible

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facility. Although the property needs of many areas of the College are great, it is agreed that the most pressing and important requirement is for a new library. The Principal has established two working groups to prepare recommendations on key issues. The first group is examining the likely impact of electronic resources and how this may impact the need for physical storage in the medium to long term. The second group is considering how space in the new library could best be used for specific teaching and learning purposes. Both these groups will be reporting shortly and their input will be fed into the library design brief.

The College Governing Board is committed to this important facility and is delighted to be receiving free professional advice from supporters of the College who have experience in the development and construction of major buildings. Major work will probably be scheduled to occur during the long summer breaks with some progress being made late in 2011 and more significant construction in 2012.

CONTACT

Library Manager: Ms Julie A Olston, phone 02 9577 9897, email Julie.Olston@moore.edu.au

Contact Julie regarding overall library management and policy.

Senior Librarian, Acquisitions: Mr Kim Robinson, phone 02 9577 9880, email Kim.Robinson@moore.edu.au

Contact Kim with suggestions of additions to the library and with requests to access material in the Archives.

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