

SPOTLIGHT: The Green Collection

HOBBOY LOBBY PRESIDENT Steve Green bought his first biblical manuscripts at auction in November 2009. By the time the Green Collection debuted in March, he had, conservatively, more than 30,000 more biblical manuscripts and artifacts. While 300 or so of its most notable items have been on display at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, the collection has grown by another 10,000 items. After the Oklahoma "Passages" exhibition closes October 16, it will travel to Atlanta, the Vatican, New York, and other cities. Meanwhile, Green (who now spends about half his time on the collection) is scouting locations for a permanent museum.



26,800

People who have visited the Passages exhibit in Oklahoma so far.

\$2.6 billion

Net worth of Green family patriarch David, founder of Hobby Lobby, according to *Forbes*. It places him among the country's wealthiest 150 people.



Jewel: The collection's capstone is the Codex Climaci Rescriptus, one of the oldest near-complete Bibles in the world, in Greek and Christian Palestinian Aramaic.



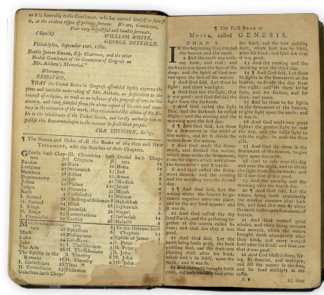
Important pieces: This Genesis fragment is part of the second-largest private collection of the Dead Sea Scrolls. All of Green's fragments are yet unpublished.

Collector and curator:

Green (left) works closely with Scott Carroll, who previously served as founder and director of Robert Van Kampen's Scriptorium (formerly the largest private collection of biblical manuscripts and artifacts). Here they hold a 13th-century, richly illustrated copy of the Ethiopic Gospels.



Luther letters: The Passages exhibition has many Reformation items, including Martin Luther's Bibles, tracts, and letters. It also highlights Catholic and Jewish contributions to the King James Bible.



Personal favorite: Green is particularly fond of his 1782 Aitken Bible, which the U.S. Congress endorsed; it became the first English Bible printed in North America.



Saved scrolls:

Green also owns the world's largest private collection of Jewish scrolls, including ones that survived the Spanish Inquisition, Nazi concentration camps, and China's Cultural Revolution.

\$20 million to \$40 million

Worth of the Green Collection items, according to unnamed specialists cited by *The New York Times*.

seventh day, wherefore the LORD blessed both day, and hallowed it.
12 * Honour thy father and thy mother: thy days may be long upon the land: LORD thy God: this is the first commandment.
13 * Thou shalt not kill.
14 * Thou shalt not commit adultery.
15 * Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
16 * Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, his wife, his servant, his ox, nor his ass: these are the words which the LORD commanded, saying, I am the LORD.
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Erroneous missing word—*not*—in the rare 1631 "Wicked Bible."