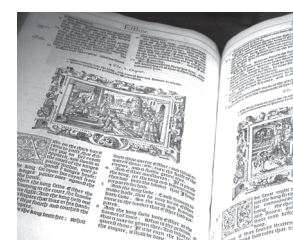


THE COMMUNITY PAGE

Ink & Blood
Now Showing

Ink & Blood: History Retold



The earliest published Bibles now grace the Ink & Blood exhibition.

The Museum of Idaho's current exhibit, Ink & Blood, has been held over by popular demand. A fascinating collection of historical artifacts, Ink & Blood addresses the passionate conflict found in the history of the written word over the centuries. This conflict is vividly displayed through artifacts that highlight the printed word and the impact it has had upon the world.

Amid fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls, portions of Bible parchments, and early samples of hand-written editions of the Bible, the most popular and impressive items to most visitors are the replica of the Gutenberg Press and the 1536 edition of William Tyndale's English Bible.



A working replica of Gutenberg's press is an exhibition highlight.

JOHANNES GUTENBERG

Johannes Gutenberg was born in Mainz, Germany in 1400. The son of a patrician family, he developed the skills of metallurgy and gold smithing.

In Gutenberg's day, books were handwritten and were so rare that the most precious books in a church's library were chained to the reading tables to safeguard them. The cost of a book in those days was equal to a farm or a large house.



Johannes Gutenberg, printing press inventor

Johannes' frustrated love of books, combined with his technical skill led him to first carve out metal letters that he arranged into a sentence, blackened with ink, and pressed against paper with his hands to print the words. The result was spotty and difficult to read.

The solution came while observing people making paper out of animal skins in a press designed to expel water. He realized that this same method, also used to make cheese and wine, would work with printing. Utilizing his movable type, Johannes built his first press, and the world was forever changed.

In 1450, Gutenberg formed a partner-



The Museum of Idaho, a premier national traveling exhibit museum, brings the four corners of the world and its history to Idaho Falls.

ship with a wealthy man, Johann Fust. Difficulties soon followed. Paper was hard to produce, and the ink made paper stick to the press. Gutenberg was able to overcome the technical problem by creating a new kind of oil-based ink, but the financial burden was too great. In just five years he was bankrupt. Fust gained control of the press and Gutenberg was left with only his dream.

But for the charity of Archbishop Adolf of Nassau, Gutenberg would have died on the streets, homeless and broke. An amazing outcome for the father of a printing method that would remain constant into the 20th century and would be a key factor in ushering in the European Renaissance.

WILLIAM TYNDALE

William Tyndale, scholar, theologian and martyr, was born in Gloucestershire, England in 1494. William was educated at Oxford and Cambridge, addicted to the study of scripture and a gifted linguist. An associate commented that Tyndale was "so skilled in eight languages [...] that whichever he speaks, you might think it his native tongue!" He would need this gift later as he fled for his life.

As a young tutor to an influential family, Tyndale yearned to translate the Bible into English directly from the original Hebrew and Greek, allowing people to read God's word in their own tongue. Because the church and King Henry VIII opposed him to the point of seeking his life, his desire would lead him to sacrifice his home, any chance of marriage and family, and to leave England to spend the short remainder of his life in exile.

In the year 1525 Tyndale's translation was finally ready for the printer in Cologne, Germany, where he was hiding, but his enemies discovered the progress and forbade printers to finish the work. Escaping with his life and most of the completed sheets, Tyndale fled to Worms, Germany, where the printing was completed.

The first copies of the Tyndale New Testament arrived in England in January of 1526, and faced a constant threat of destruction at the direction of Cardinal Wolsey. Friends and

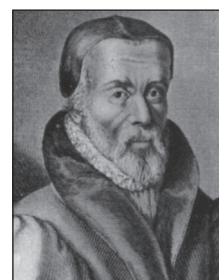
fellow believers faced loss of property, imprisonment, torture, and even death for spreading the copies that were destroyed nearly as fast as they could be printed.

The fierce hatred of his work is evidenced by the fact that of the possible 18,000 first edition volumes printed, only one complete copy, one partial copy, and one fragment of the first edition are known to be in existence today.

Tyndale was eventually betrayed by a supposed friend, and kept imprisoned in Belgium for over a year, after which he was tied to the stake, strangled, and having recovered consciousness, burned at the stake for "heresy" in 1536.

The Tyndale Bible changed the world and the destiny of nations. The Bible brought to America by the first settlers was an edition of the Tyndale Bible.

What a debt of gratitude we owe to men who dreamed, who sacrificed, and who died to allow us to read the words of God in our own homes and in our own tongue. The battle of Ink & Blood.



William Tyndale, martyr for the English Bible.

Idaho Falls Museum's Origins Make History

The Museum of Idaho has had a far-reaching impact on our community. It had a humble beginning in 1898 as a small library in early Idaho Falls. The Village Improvement Society, devoted to beautifying and elevating the environment, applied for and received a financial grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation in 1905 to build a community library.

Completed in 1916, the historically registered library served an ever-growing population until 1977 when a new, larger library was opened, leaving the old Carnegie building to sit empty and unused for 10 years. Just when Idaho Falls was about to raze the abandoned building, the Bonneville County Historical Society persuaded city fathers to lease it to them for a museum. Formed in 1975 by a group of devoted and hard-working citizens, the Society began to receive donations of historic artifacts, but had only a small space in the County Courthouse to display them.

The journey to becoming the largest museum in Idaho began when the city, in conjunction with the Public Works Administration undertook a remodeling and expansion project. In 1992, the Society purchased additional space, and then in 2000 a native son and philanthropist, Gregory C. Carr, announced his purchase of the Masonic Temple and the property north for a donation to the museum. His \$3 million gift became the seed money to modernize and expand the building, tripling its size.

Because that donation was used only for the physical facility, the Society, owner of the museum, supports its ongoing operations through soliciting other gifts, donations, grants, and from exhibit proceeds. Dedicated members and friends of the Society, continue to donate time and resources to the gratifying success of this



The Idaho Falls Carnegie Library under construction in 1916. The historically registered library served an ever-growing population until 1977 when a new, larger library was opened.



Masonic Temple as it existed prior to its acquisition by the museum.

unique city asset. The economic impact of the museum on the city is remarkable, according to David Pennock, Executive Director of the Society. The museum will host its 400,000th visitor any day now after only four years in operation. To put this into perspective, the industry standard of visitors is 6 percent of surrounding population each year, up to 12 percent for very successful museums. The Museum of Idaho, a non-profit, self-supporting facility, has hosted over 100 percent of its surrounding population each year for four years, with a total of \$10 million in additional revenue to our city.

Even though the museum draws that kind of attention, its financial support base is comparatively small,

making funding a constant challenge or, seen from another angle, a constant opportunity for our citizens to help carry the load. The benefits to our city from the Museum of Idaho are equally as impressive educationally as economic. One hundred thousand students have come in organized school groups riding in buses from all over the state, including as far away as Boise. One couple recently drove from Salem, Oregon, over 700 miles, simply to see the current attraction, Ink & Blood. They were not in town to visit anyone or anything else but the museum. And tourist season hadn't even begun yet.

The Museum of Idaho promotes itself as Idaho's premier national traveling exhibit museum, a claim that is clearly not overstated.