

Pre-Modern Bibles:

From the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Complutensian Polyglot Bible

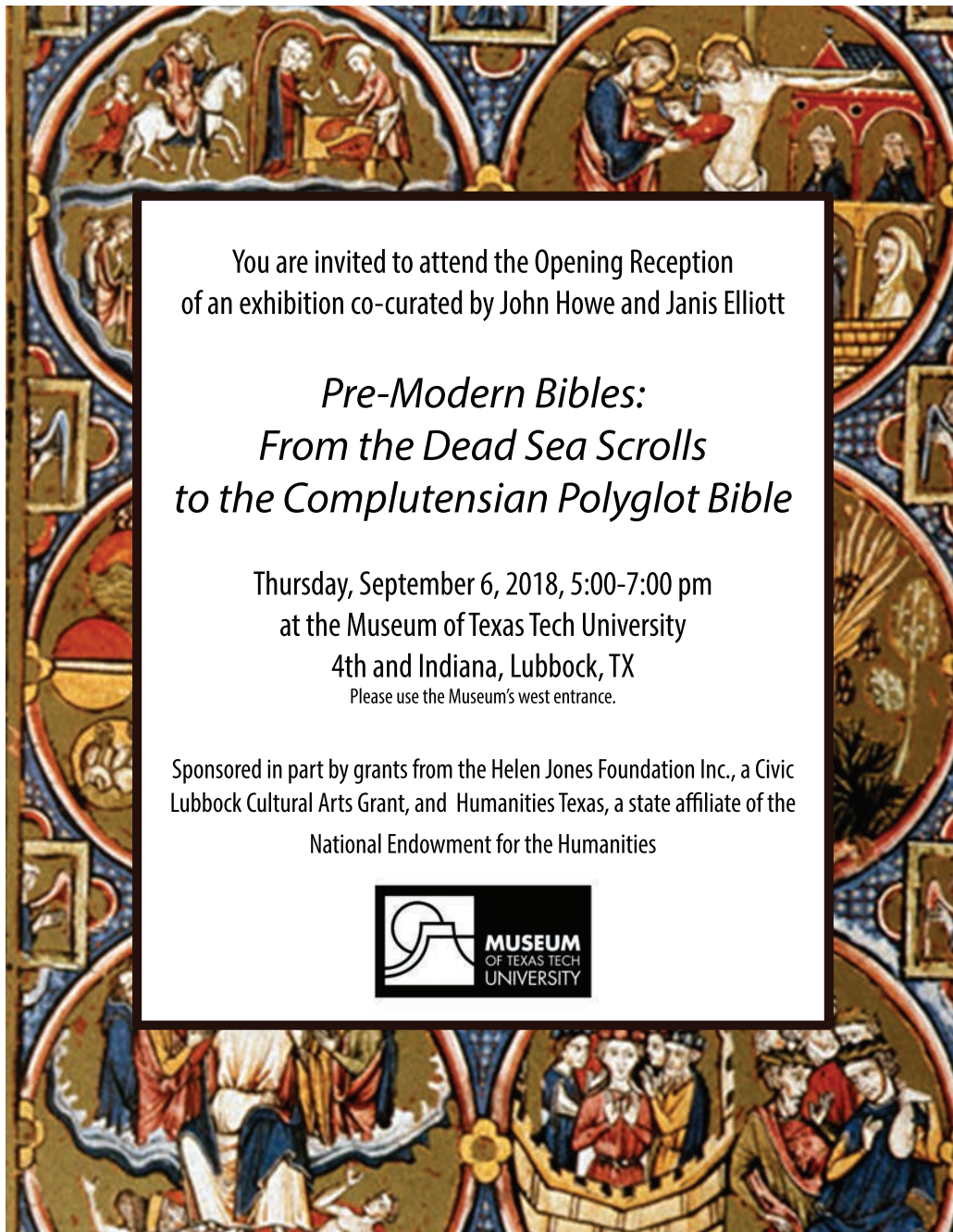
Co-Curated by Janis Elliott and John Howe

Museum of Texas Tech, 18 August 2018 through 3 March 2019

Edited by the chief religious scholars of the day, and employing the new technology of the printing press, the six-volume publication of the *Complutensian Polyglot Bible* took some 15 years to complete. Upon publication, 1517-20, it became the first printed text to present the Sacred Scripture in parallel columns in Hebrew, Greek, and Vulgate Latin, supplemented by Aramaic and a new Latin translation. Its 500th anniversary provides an ideal opportunity to showcase this massive work, which was the culmination of centuries of medieval and renaissance scriptural studies. This exhibition demonstrates how the Bible, one of the most important books of western civilization, came into existence, and how it was analyzed, glossed, lavishly illustrated, abridged, and disseminated over centuries, giving rise not only to modern biblical scholarship but also to western scholarship in general.

Many aspects of biblical scholarship, particularly of the pre-modern Western world, remain unknown not just to the general public but even to the academic community. A popular stereotype is that the "real" history of the Bible concerns the Greek and Hebrew texts, their recovery during the Renaissance and Reformation, and the wider dissemination of printed vernacular versions during the Reformation. This neglects the enormous influence of the Latin Bible in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, and the attention Latin scholars devoted to it. The pre-modern tradition of biblical studies not only helped shape biblical commentary but also established much of the Western academic tradition—everything from glosses (footnotes) to textual editing to cross-cultural textual studies involving the Greek and Jewish traditions. Even our popular images of devoted scholars immersed in their books derive from this intellectual tradition.

The Pre-Modern Bible: From the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Complutensian Polyglot Bible exhibition gathers together the largest collection of original and facsimile pre-modern and early modern biblical manuscripts ever assembled on the southern High Plains. The exhibition illuminates the intellectual history of the Bible and appeals to all visitors through the display of beautifully-illustrated manuscripts. It is on display at the Museum of Texas Tech from 18 August 2018 until 3 March 2019.




You are invited to attend the Opening Reception
of an exhibition co-curated by John Howe and Janis Elliott

*Pre-Modern Bibles:
From the Dead Sea Scrolls
to the Complutensian Polyglot Bible*

Thursday, September 6, 2018, 5:00-7:00 pm
at the Museum of Texas Tech University
4th and Indiana, Lubbock, TX
Please use the Museum's west entrance.

Sponsored in part by grants from the Helen Jones Foundation Inc., a Civic
Lubbock Cultural Arts Grant, and Humanities Texas, a state affiliate of the
National Endowment for the Humanities





The exhibition view, Dead Sea Scrolls, 1st century BCE.



Author Portrait of Saint Luke, *Godescalc Evangelistery*, 783 CE, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Ms. Lat. 1203, fol. 1r. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Godescalc_Evangelistery#/media/File:Vangeli_di_godescalco_\(evangelista_luca\),_Ms._Lat_1203_f._1r._21x31_cm_parigi_bibliothque_nationale,_783_circa.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Godescalc_Evangelistery#/media/File:Vangeli_di_godescalco_(evangelista_luca),_Ms._Lat_1203_f._1r._21x31_cm_parigi_bibliothque_nationale,_783_circa.jpg)



God as Geometer, *Bible Moralisée*, 13th century, Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Codex Vindobonensis, 2554, fol. 1v. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4d/God_the_Geometer.jpg



First page of the first edition, *Complutensian Polyglot Bible*, (1517-20 CE), Complutense University in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=Complutensian+Polyglot+Bible&title=Special%3ASearch&profile=advanced&fulltext=1&advancedSearch-current=%7B%7D&ns0=1&ns6=1&ns12=1&ns14=1&ns100=1&ns106=1#/media/File:Cisneros%27_original_complutensian_polyglot_Bible_-1.jpg