

# HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY



## Original Folios of *Letters and Revelation* from *The Saint John's Bible* on Display for Public Viewing

(Collegeville, Minn., March 12, 2013) ... For the first time since their completion in 2011, original folios from *Letters and Revelation: The Saint John's Bible* will be on display for public viewing at Saint John's University. The exhibition, which includes 26 original pages, begins March 18, and runs through October 31, 2013 at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) on the campus of Saint John's Abbey and University.



*Letters and Revelation*, the culminating volume of the entire Bible project, is characterized by rich illuminations of some of the most dramatic and influential passages of all of sacred scripture. Paul's letters are the oldest Christian documents on record, and *The Saint John's Bible* presents these important passages with elegant special text treatments and graceful illuminations of Romans 8 – the *Fulfillment of Creation*, the *Harrowing of Hell*, and the much-loved Kenosis Hymn. These works, along with several other pages from *Letters*, are a part of the exhibition.

Detail from *Vision of the New Jerusalem*, Donald Jackson, 2011.  
*The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN, USA

*Revelation*, a powerful book of mystery and hope, is presented in a blaze of color and vivid imagery in *The Saint John's Bible*. Among the pages from *Revelation* on view are the opening *Revelation Incipit with the Son of Man*, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, and the gold-glittering *Vision of the New Jerusalem*. Also on display are tools and materials from the scriptorium such as quills, hand-ground pigments, gold leaf, calfskin vellum and ancient inks from China.

Accompanying the pages of the Bible will be the first public viewing of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library's newest acquisition: a Coptic manuscript leaf from a ninth century Psalter (book of Psalms). Psalms 24-28 are written on the fragment in a sloping ancient script in the Sahidic dialect of Upper Egypt. The juxtaposition of this 1,100 year old page of scripture with the new pages of *The Saint John's Bible* makes a powerful visual statement about the longevity of these ancient and sacred texts.



Psalter, in the Sahidic Dialect of Coptic, 9<sup>th</sup> Century, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

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Commissioned by Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, *The Saint John's Bible* is a contemporary work created in the tradition of handwritten medieval manuscripts. The artistic director of the project, Donald Jackson, is one of the world's foremost Western calligraphers and scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office at the House of Lords. Over a fifteen year period, Jackson worked in rural Wales, with a team of scribes and artists to write and illuminate *The Saint John's Bible* entirely by hand, using quills and paints hand-ground from precious minerals and stones such as lapis lazuli, vermilion, malachite, on beautiful calfskin vellum. Silver, platinum, and 24-karat gold leaf add light and brilliance to the pages.

*The Saint John's Bible*, consisting of 1,127 pages in seven volumes, was completed in 2011. It is housed at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML), Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minn., where pages are always available for public viewing. *The Saint John's Bible* tours to museums around the country offering educational and spiritual outreach programs.

#### **Also on Exhibition:**

2012 witnessed many book donations to the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library—samples from two of these donations are now on display. The family of **T.R. and LaJean Anderson** gave HMML an extensive collection dedicated to the history and cultural life of Minnesota and the upper Midwest. On display is the oldest map of North America in the Saint John's collections, as well as books by Sinclair Lewis and other Minnesota authors. The **Julian G. Plante** donation includes rare books, early modern European manuscripts, and a number of Ethiopian manuscripts (two of which are on display). Visitors can also see a letter signed by Emperor Charles V from the sixteenth century and a manuscript fragment from the twelfth century.

#### **Visiting Information**

HMML is open from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. Guests are welcome to view the exhibition at their leisure, and there is no entrance fee. Interpretive tours and presentations are available for groups wishing to book in advance. Information and booking requests may be directed to Tim Ternes by calling 320-363-3351 or by e-mail at [tternes@csbsju.edu](mailto:tternes@csbsju.edu). Go to [www.saintjohnsbible.org](http://www.saintjohnsbible.org) for more information.

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