

London editions, one printed by John Day and William Seres in 1549 and the other by Nicholas Hyll in 1551, in two issues, for William Bonham and John Walley. Edmund Becke's edition of 1551, professedly Matthew, in fact prints the Old Testament and Apocrypha in Richard Taverner's revision of 1539. Coverdale's own revision, under the patronage of Thomas Cromwell, produced in 1539 the Great Bible. The third and fourth editions of 1540 and 1541 present in the collection include Thomas Cranmer's preface first added to the second edition. The Great Bible New Testament is also found in a copy of the 1551-52 edition of a translation of Erasmus's *Paraphrases* first published in 1548-49.

The Great Bible Old Testament and Tyndale's New Testament formed the basis of the Geneva revision undertaken by Whittingham, Gilby and Sampson and published in 1560. The 15 editions held by the Bible Society, from the second edition of 1562 to that of 1640, illustrate not only its popularity but the development of the text, with the gradual introduction of Laurence Tomson's New Testament translation from 1587 and Junius's Revelation from 1599. Whittingham's own Geneva New Testament of 1557, the precursor of the Geneva text, is also held in the first edition, printed by Robert Estienne's brother-in-law, Conrad Badius. Despite the granting of a royal licence to John Bodley, the Geneva version was not printed in England until 1576. In the meantime Matthew Parker had superintended another revision of the Great Bible text, the Bishops' Bible of 1568, which dispensed with the contentious Calvinist notes of Geneva. There are four editions in the collection, those of 1575, 1585, 1588 and 1591. The Reims New Testament and the Douay Old Testament, the Roman Catholic response to Protestant translations into English, are also represented, the Reims by the fourth edition of 1633 and Fulke's second critical edition of 1601, the Douay by the *editio princeps* of 1609-10.

The translators of the Authorized Version of 1611 were influenced by the Geneva and Reims translations even though their main task was the revision of the Bishops' Bible by reference to the Hebrew and Greek texts. The Society's collection of King James Bibles, with 22 seventeenth-century editions and six published in the eighteenth century, is particularly strong. Although the true first edition is wanting, the Great She Bible is present along with the second, third and fourth distinct black-letter folio editions of 1613, 1617 and 1634. A 1629 folio proves to be the first edition of the Authorized Version printed in Cambridge and a 1675 quarto the first English Bible printed at Oxford. The impressive large folio edition printed at Oxford by John Baskett in 1717, the Vinegar Bible, is also present in a fine copy.

Many of the English Bibles have other, bibliographically distinct, items bound with them. There are, for example, 19 editions of Sternhold