

copy of the 1778 edition bears an inscription recording that it was given to Bryan Barrett on 16 March 1778 by Dr Ducarel himself.

Associations of one kind or another inevitably abound in a collection of Bibles. Many were used to record the births, deaths and marriages within a family for a century or more. Some inscriptions in this collection are of particular interest, such as that in the copy of a 1630 Cambridge King James Bible which asserts that Lieutenant Phillip Browne was quartered with the widow Browne in Lichfield on 14 July 1646, the day the city surrendered to the Parliamentary forces. On this occasion the writer's memory may have played him false for in fact the garrison capitulated on 10, not 14, July. A 1630 edition of the Thirty-nine Articles bears the signatures of parishioners of Buriton and Chalton in Hampshire witnessing that twice, on 30 December 1660 and 13 March 1669, a Dr Edmund Barker read and consented to the articles of the Church of England. Of local interest is a 1620-21 quarto edition of the Authorized Version, later the property of Bishop Nevill, the first Anglican Bishop of Dunedin, which is held by tradition to have been brought to New Zealand in 1824 by the early missionary-farmer Richard Davis. And a 1608 Geneva Bible, formerly belonging to William Ronaldson, is shown in a lengthy inscription to have been presented to him shortly before his departure for New Zealand in 1855 in the hope that "he will be instrumental, in publishing the Truth in the language spoken by the Polynesians, so that Idolatry, like the Mastadon and Dinornis may past [*sic*] away, to be replaced by the Gospel &c &c".

A survey of this kind cannot do justice to the collection. But even a preliminary examination does reveal impressive strengths. The collection has been built up over a number of years largely through the generosity of both the Society's parent body in London and many donors in Britain and New Zealand. By depositing the collection in the Library the Bible Society in New Zealand has demonstrated a proper concern for its preservation. The Society has also, through its goodwill, made a valuable collection more readily accessible for scholarly research.

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