The Saint John’s Bible and Heritage Edition Fact Sheets

The Saint John’s Bible (SJB)

✓ The SJB is the first handwritten illuminated Bible of its scale in over 500 years.
✓ The mission of the SJB: “To ignite the spiritual imagination of people around the world of all faith journeys.”
✓ Donald Jackson, Senior Scribe to the Queen of England, is the artistic director of the SJB.
✓ Key dates:
  o 1995 – Mr. Jackson presented his lifelong dream to handwrite the Bible to Fr. Eric Hollas, O.S.B.
  o 1998 – Saint John’s Abbey and University commissioned Mr. Jackson to begin the project.
  o 2000 – Mr. Jackson drew the first words – “In the beginning” – on Ash Wednesday.
  o 2011 – Donald and Mabel Jackson presented the final page of the SJB to Saint John’s.
✓ The scholarship behind the SJB was led by the Committee for Illumination and Text (CIT). Fr. Michael Patella, O.S.B., chaired the committee of artists, theologians and biblical scholars.
✓ The translation of this Bible is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).
✓ Six calligraphers, including Mr. Jackson, handwrote all 1,150 pages on approximately 300 sheets of calfskin vellum.
✓ A Jewish scribe drew the Hebrew script.
✓ Six artists, including Mr. Jackson, created over 160 major illuminations.
✓ The art of the SJB is inspired by artistic traditions from around the world.
✓ The 73 books in The Saint John’s Bible are organized in the following seven volumes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Testament</th>
<th>New Testament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pentateuch</td>
<td>Gospels &amp; Acts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Books</td>
<td>Letters &amp; Revelation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisdom Books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prophets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Heritage Edition

✓ In order to share the SJB with the world, Saint John’s asked Donald Jackson to direct the creation of the Heritage Edition.

✓ The Heritage Edition is the only full-scale, illuminated, fine art edition of the Bible.

✓ Limited to only 299 seven-volume sets, Mr. Jackson’s goal was to make the Heritage Edition “true to the artistic intent of the original.”

✓ Each volume is authenticated and initialed by Mr. Jackson.

✓ The Heritage Edition represents a major international collaboration.
  o Mr. Jackson traveled from Wales to Minnesota on a regular basis to direct the Heritage Edition’s creation.
  o Fine book printing experts from England and the US provided invaluable direction.
  o Hill Museum & Manuscript Museum imaged all 1,150 original pages in ultra-high resolution.
  o Germany’s Heidelberg Druckmaschinen AG provided the offset lithographic printing technology required for the Heritage Edition.
  o An Italian-based tannery supplied the custom calfskin leather used in binding the Heritage Edition.
  o The binding’s headbands were hand-sewn in Pakistan.
  o All 1,150 pages for all 299 volumes are hand-stitched and bound in Arizona.

✓ No two Heritage Editions are identical because many illuminations required hand treatments by the Scriptorium’s studio manager, Sarah Harris.

✓ True to the SJB’s mission, a wide spectrum of institutions around the world have acquired the Heritage Edition including:
  o Vatican Museum and Vatican Library
  o St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London
  o Yale University
  o Mayo Clinic
  o Morgan Library & Museum

✓ To date, over 100 Heritage Editions have been acquired around the world.