

## Goodyear's Bible Museum Has Rare Editions on Exhibit

In 1382, Oxford theologian John Wycliffe made history, penning the first Bible handwritten in the English language. Wycliffe, who was also the inventor of bifocal eyeglasses, argued against the platform of the Roman Catholic Church and, as such, was known as the "Morning Star of the Reformation," even though the movement wouldn't actually begin for another 200 years. His arguments so enraged the church fathers that the Pope had Wycliffe's remains exhumed and burned 44 years after the theologian's death.

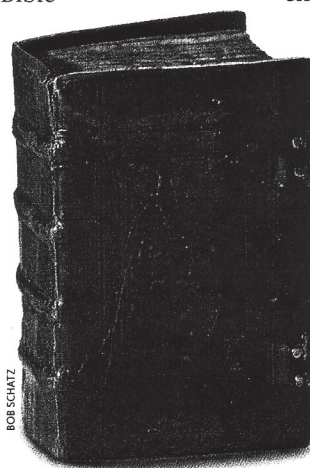
Some of Wycliffe's Bibles still circulate today and are among the most sought-out religious texts. But you don't have to travel to Britain to see these rare documents. A few of Wycliffe's manuscripts can be seen at the

Forbidden Book Bible Museum in Goodyear.

The oldest text at the museum is a complete New Testament translated by Wycliffe in 1392 — an item that commands a price tag of \$2 million.

The unusual antiquarian Bible Museum — hosted by Jonathan Byrd's Rare Books and Bibles, the world's largest dealer of rare and antique Bibles, Bible leaves and ancient theology books — displays six centuries of English Bibles.

Some of the rare Bibles in the



**The Hunne Bible, circa 1410**

changing exhibit include a 1663 Eliot Bible, printed in a phonetic rendering of the Algonquin Indian language by evangelist John Eliot, and a leaf from the Old Testament in a Gutenberg Bible, the first major book printed in Europe in 1454-1455. The Bible was printed in Mainz, Germany, by the inventor of the mechanized printing press, Johannes Gutenberg, in an edition of 180 illegal copies.

The Bible Museum, located in the Hampton Inn and Suites, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the vault is open by appointment.

Information: (623) 536-8614; [www.greatsite.com](http://www.greatsite.com).