

The Marjory Stanway Collection of African-Language Materials at Trinity School for Ministry

by Susanah Hanson

ABSTRACT: The Marjory Stanway Collection was established in 2007. The Collection has been developed to honor the efforts of the African church, and to provide a corpus for research in Bible translation. By 2009, the collection had outgrown its original alcove shelving and location, and was moved to its own room. Most of the approximately 650-volume collection is comprised of African-language Bibles and prayer books, with other items such as hymnals also present. In the present essay, three complicating factors of funding, acquisition, and cataloging are discussed in turn.

INTRODUCTION

Trinity School for Ministry is a small evangelical seminary in the Anglican tradition, located in southwest Pennsylvania. Part of Trinity's vision statement expresses the desire "to be a *global* center for Christian formation"¹(italics added). This emphasis can be seen in the composition of the current student body, when five of the twenty-nine students in the Fall 2012 incoming class were from Africa or Asia.² This global emphasis can also be seen in the many alumni who are in ministry throughout the world, in places such as Egypt, Brazil, Uganda, and Peru.³ This focus has been part of Trinity's character from the school's inception: Trinity's first Dean President, the Rt. Rev. Alf Stanway and his wife, Marjory, were natives of Australia who spent much of their married life in Africa, in Tanzania and Kenya.

ABOUT THE MARJORY STANWAY COLLECTION

The Marjory Stanway Collection⁴ at Trinity School for Ministry was dedicated in 2007, in memory of Mrs. Stanway, who died in 2005.⁵ In her honor, a special Collection of African-language Bibles, prayer books, and hymnals was assembled and named after her. It was the hope of those who conceived of this project that "the Collection will be a symbol and token of our recognition and gratitude for African faithfulness to the gospel in these difficult times, as well as a useful research tool for the present and the future."⁶

In addition, the formation of the Stanway Collection furthers a primary development objective of Trinity School

¹ http://www.tsm.edu/about_trinity/vision_purpose_and_values.

² This emphasis can be seen in the January-February 2008 edition of Trinity's magazine, *Seed and Harvest* (vol. 31, no. 1), found here: <http://www.tsm.edu/sites/default/files/Jan-Feb%202008.pdf>.

³ Klukas, Christopher. "The Global Impact of Trinity." *Seed & Harvest* 35 no. 2 (2012): 4-5. http://www.tsm.edu/sites/default/files/Seed_and_Harvest/S&H%20Spring%202012.pdf.

⁴ <http://www.tsm.edu/sites/default/files/Documents/Library/Stanway%20Collection%20-%20by%20Grant%20LeMarquand.pdf>.

[pdf](http://www.tsm.edu/sites/default/files/Documents/Library/Stanway%20Collection%20-%20by%20Grant%20LeMarquand.pdf). (Note that the PDF cited here is another format of the article by the Rt. Rev. Dr. LeMarquand cited in the following footnote.)

⁵ LeMarquand, Grant. "The Marjory Stanway Alcove." *Seed & Harvest* 30, no. 6 (2007): 7.

⁶ *Ibid.*

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for Ministry, i.e., providing “a repository where the Bible, as God’s Word Written, remains the primary source for library activities and basis for library resources.”⁷ The Collection has been provided with a climate-controlled Rare Book Room, which houses older Bibles in a variety of languages, and rare prayer books and other liturgical works, in addition to signed faculty writings, the Trinity Thesis Collection, and the Trinity Archives.

The founding objectives of the Stanway Collection were

1. To assemble a basic collection of materials
2. To establish partnerships with Bible Societies and translators in Africa to stay abreast of current and future developments and translations
3. To search for and obtain more valuable manuscripts from the Ancient Church today.⁸

These three objectives have been pursued concurrently and have been achieved, with varying degrees of success.⁹

The initial Collection was comprised mostly of gifts from friends of Trinity – students, alumni, friends, faculty, and other supporters. The books were housed in two small glass-fronted cabinets and a display case. Two paintings from the Rt. Rev. Alan Morris Missionary Watercolors Collection were added to the Stanway Collection by the Rev. Dr. Leslie Fairfield, Professor Emeritus of Trinity, while a third painting by Bishop Morris that had been previously purchased by the library was moved to the Stanway Collection.¹⁰ While these works of art were not created in Africa, they do feature African subjects and are based on Bishop Morris’ travels in Africa.

The Collection soon outgrew its allotted two bookcases, and, with the help of a grant, the library purchased two additional bookcases, along with more resources for the collection. In 2009, the Collection was moved from its original alcove to a separate room in the library. A sisal rug for the room was purchased with the proceeds of the sale of a set of surplus library card catalog cases. In 2010, two larger, antique, glass-fronted bookcases were purchased to accommodate the growing Collection. At present, the Collection includes over 650 cataloged items, and an estimated 75 uncataloged items.¹¹

In addition to print resources, the Collection also contains artwork from and about Africa. The three Missionary Watercolor paintings still grace the walls of the Collection, and other artwork has been added, including an icon of “The Flight into Egypt,” which was given to Trinity from the Most Rev. Mouneer Anis, Archbishop of the Anglican/

⁷ <http://www.tsm.edu/node/148>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ It should be noted that, for various reasons, one of the original hopes for the Stanway Collection was not realized. Bishop LeMarquand had planned to hold “an international conference on the translation of the Bible in Africa...to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible in English.”

¹⁰ More information about the Missionary Watercolors of Bishop Morris can be found at <http://www.thewatercolorsofalanmorris.com/>. One of the pieces that was donated to Trinity can be viewed here: <http://www.thewatercolorsofalanmorris.com/porfolioone>; the second painting from the bottom of the page.

¹¹ The Stanway Collection is believed to be the third largest collection of its kind in the United States, but it is difficult to compare its size to similar collections in the country, mostly because there are no other specifically African-language Bible collections. For example, the American Bible Society’s Rare Bible Collection @ MOBIA (<http://rarebiblesatmobia.org/about/>) features more than 2,000 global languages, though not limited to Africa. Likewise, the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library’s Special Collections (http://www.hmml.org/collections10/special_collections.htm) feature early manuscripts and rare books from a wider geographical area.

Episcopal Church of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa. The library was also given a rendering in a “cartoon” style of the story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, which was created in Ethiopia. Other artwork includes blessing crosses from the Sudan, a map of Africa, and three photos of Mrs. Marjory Stanway.

CHALLENGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLECTION

As the Collection came together, there were three main challenges: funding, acquisitions, and cataloging. We will discuss each in turn.

FUNDING

One of the biggest challenges with developing the Stanway Collection was securing funding. The initial Collection was donated. Further, all African students who study at Trinity are requested to bring with them a gift copy of both a Bible and prayer book in their own language, if such is available. Other donations have been received over time, but the majority of items have been purchased. It was agreed that \$3,000 a year of the library’s acquisition fund would be devoted solely to the purchase of new items. However, it was soon discovered that the more rare books are harder to find, and when found, usually much more expensive than newer books. Thus, \$3,000 does not go very far!

In late 2007, the Trinity library was honored to receive a grant from PNC Bank. The total amount of the grant given was \$25,000, and the Stanway Collection was allocated \$2,500 for furnishings and \$7,000 for print resources. Two additional glass-fronted bookcases were purchased for \$2,065, and the remaining grant funds were added to the budget for print resources. A total of \$7,544 was spent on books. These grand funds enabled 55 books to be added to the Collection.

In addition to the grant, the library has spent all of the budgeted \$3,000 a year for additional print resources. While not a large sum, this has at least allowed for continual growth of the Collection.

CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT

Having adequate funding presents one ongoing challenge for the special Collection. But a second that has emerged is determining what related resources are available for addition to the Collection, and where they can be obtained. The Stanway Collection would not have become what it is today without the excellent assistance of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Grant LeMarquand. Dr. LeMarquand was professor of New Testament at Trinity from 1999 to 2012 and was also the Academic Dean from 2007 to 2010. Before coming to Trinity, Dr. LeMarquand and his wife, Dr. Wendy LeMarquand, were missionaries in Africa. Although their original goal was to work with the people of the Sudan, conflict in that nation led to their relocation to Kenya. His time in Africa fostered Dr. LeMarquand’s great love for the people of Africa, as well as a knowledge of the continent and its languages that would be difficult to find elsewhere. In addition, Dr. LeMarquand’s passion for the subject positioned him well to keep searching for new resources. Dr. LeMarquand ultimately purchased for the library almost all of the items that have been added to the Stanway Collection year by year. Unfortunately for the Trinity Library and the Stanway Collection, Dr. LeMarquand has since been consecrated as a Bishop, and now resides in Ethiopia. Though the library expects that he will send materials for the Collection from time to time, the staff does not anticipate that it will be at the same level as before.

Other students, alumni, and friends of Trinity have given donations of items that were purchased when traveling in Africa. Dr. LeMarquand has obtained additional items from the Catholic bookshop in Nairobi, Kenya, and from a variety of Bible Societies around the world. A few additional items were purchased on eBay. In recent days, many rarer items have been found through <http://www.abebooks.com>. Another website that has been helpful is <http://www.bibleinmylanguage.com>. It is has been surprising and encouraging to see what is available online.

As of December 2007, the Stanway Collection had Bibles from over 120 languages, from Acholi to Zulu, with Bibles in the languages of Swahili, Coptic, and Ethiopic having the largest concentration. As of November 2012, the Collection holds approximately 160 different languages. The most recent acquisitions are a copy of the Gospels in Ga (Zimmerman's 1855 translation) and Crowther's translations of Exodus (1854) and Matthew (1853) into Yoruba, all of which were published by the British and Foreign Bible Society. A complete listing of the Stanway Collection may be viewed through Trinity Library's online catalog (<http://catalog.tsm.edu/>), searching by series for "Stanway Africa Alcove."

CATALOGING

The third area of difficulty for the Stanway Collection has been the cataloging of the items. Many of the African-language prayer books and Bibles do have an ISBN, and often a record has been established in OCLC for the items. However, even in these cases, many times a classification number has needed to be added. The majority of the collection resides in the BS 325 range. The Library of Congress classification manual for BS-BX has been very helpful, but the languages and Cutter numbers are limited in this section. Other Cutter numbers have been formed based on languages not represented in the Library of Congress manual. A close reading of the Library of Congress manual and cutter numbers has been necessary.

Not every item has a record in OCLC. For some items, it is possible for the librarian to produce an original cataloging record. However, this is only possible when there is enough English in the book to determine its title, subject matter, and publication information. While at times tedious and time-consuming, the original cataloging can be all that is necessary to prepare the items for the shelves. WorldCat (<http://www.worldcat.org>) has proved extraordinarily helpful in this endeavor, as the person cataloging the book can look at the item in order to access additional information, as well as to consult examples of how other libraries have cataloged these items. Many books that in the Stanway Collection has proven to be beyond our capacity to catalog. There might be insufficient information in English, or notes about the book may have been lost between place of origin and the library, or the items may be entirely in a language such as Arabic or Amharic. Trinity Library is planning to work with an outside source to help with the cataloging of these last items.

SUMMARY

For the future, it is hoped that all items in the Stanway Collection will be cataloged, and that their records will be available in the Library's OPAC. We also look forward to receiving more items for the Collection from students, alumni, and friends of Trinity, and to purchasing more items with the assistance of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Grant

LeMarquand. The World Scriptures website has listings for Bibles published by nation¹² – we hope someday that many of those languages are represented in the Stanway Collection! And, we hope that one day we will have the time and resources to develop a museum-style guide book for the Collection, in addition to creating both print and electronic finding aids.

The Stanway Collection has begun to reach its goals of highlighting the faithfulness of the African Christian community to the gospel, and of becoming a useful research tool. This second goal has begun to be realized, as the Trinity Library has been approached as a resource for other entities to obtain African-language Bibles and prayer books. We pray that in the future we are able to be of still greater assistance in this way.

¹² For example, this is the webpage for the African continent: <http://www.worldscriptures.org/maps/africa.html>. At the bottom of the page are country names. Clicking on these names leads to a listing of languages in which Bibles have been published.

