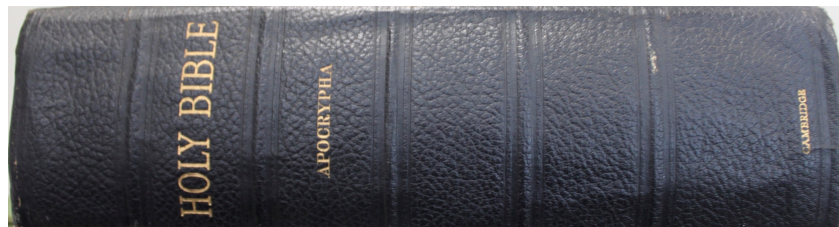


A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

THE 1942 BIBLE

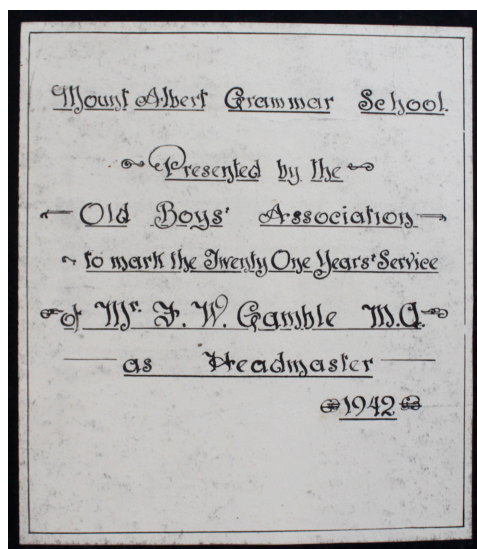
Size: Bible: 12 ½ in x 9 ¾ in x 3 ¼ in / 320 mm x 245 mm x 80 mm
Label: 8 in x 7 in x 200 mm x 175 mm

Description: This King James Bible replaces an earlier one, probably the first Bible.



The label inside the Bible reads:

Mount Albert Grammar School
Presented by the
Old Boys' Association
To the Twenty One Years Service
of Mr F.W. Gamble MA
as Headmaster 1942

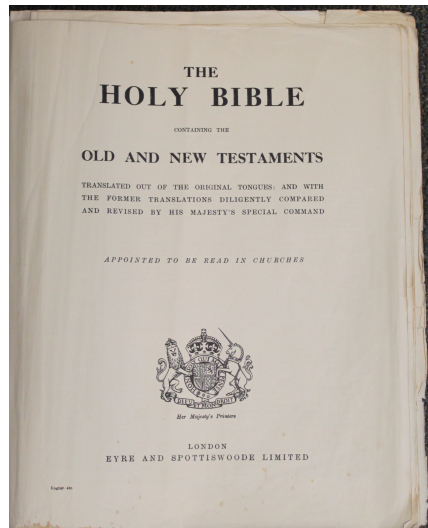


The earlier Bible is larger and heavier. It is:

19 ½ in x 10 in x 4 in / 320 mm x 250 mm x 100 mm

Like any family Bible there are a number of blank pages to record events, on one of them the 1961 prefects have signed their names.





Discussion: there was a Scripture reading at every morning assembly for the School's first half century, maintained by the first five Headmasters.

There was some seasonal regularity, Genesis at the beginning of the year. The Passion story towards Easter and the Nativity Story towards the end of the year. The rest of the year was filled up with Epistles, Gospel stories, Psalms and Acts.

The reading was followed by the Lord's Prayer and then the School Prayer which is the Prayer of the Mother School: Auckland Grammar School. Following this is the prayer for Albertians (originally for Old Boys). The Prayers end in a blessing. The words of the Prayers are:

School Prayer:

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, who seest all things which Thou has made, look down upon this School and pour down Thy blessing on all its members. Fill our hearts with thankfulness for all Thy mercies. Help us do our daily work with all diligence and cheerfulness so that we may use our time and talents for the good of our Nation and the honour and glory of Thy Holy Name.

Give us the spirit of truthfulness and courage [originally manliness] and grant that, while we labour after earthly knowledge we also grow in the Knowledge of Thee and of thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Albertians:

Bless we pray thee, O Lord all those who have gone forth to their work in the world. Grant them such strength and protection as shall support them in all dangers and carry them through all temptations. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Blessing:

May the Blessing of Almighty god, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you all, and remain in you always. Amen.

There was an illuminated version of these prayers which was left on the lectern. It had been there for many years, but it was removed in the mid 1960s by an unauthorised person and has not been seen since.

There were also School House Prayers which were said each evening after Prep (9 pm). The Lord's Prayer was followed by:

Master:

O God, our heavenly Father from who cometh every good and perfect gift, we pray Thee to bestow thy blessing on our School and House. We thank Thee for the heritage into which we have entered and pray Thee to make us worthy to strengthen all that is good in our traditions.

All:

Almighty god we thank Thee for rest and health, for work to do and the strength to do it, and for all the surroundings of our daily life that make it desirable and enjoyable. Do Thou raise our thoughts and purify our aspirations. Strengthen our will. We beseech Thee on the side of what is right and good and against what is wrong and evil.

Give us the love of knowledge, may the spirit of love and devotion bind us all more closely together so that we may labour not for our own advantage, but for the common good. May Thy wisdom guide and prosper our work and games, our clubs and societies, so that we may grow in the love of all that is true and honest and of good report. And when we go out into the world may we carry with us the ideal and the power of service, which Thou dost give us in Thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen

Master:

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

These prayerful ceremonies have been a part of the School and House from the beginning of both branches of Mount Albert Grammar School.

Today the School has members of many faiths and of none; a state of affairs that enriches us.

Yet it is the Christian traditions that has shaped Western society, its government, laws, education, architecture, music, art and literature and it was the monasteries from Iona to Mt Athos and Mt Sinai that kept the flickering flame of learning alight throughout the Early Middle Ages.

Brian Murphy