Adopt a Book

The byble in English, : that is to say, the contente of all the holy scripture, bothe of the olde and new Testament, according to the translacio that is appointed to be read in churches. London: Imprinted at London by Edwarde Whytchurche, 1553.
34 cm.

Rare Books & Special Collections
Strong Room 220.5 E 1553

About

The byble in English, also known as the Great Bible owing to its size, was the first authorised edition of the Bible in English. It was prepared by Myles Coverdale, working under commission of Sir Thomas Cromwell, Secretary to King Henry VIII of England. The King subsequently authorised its reading aloud in the church services of the Church of England.

The Great Bible includes much from the Tyndale Bible, with features objectionable to the bishops revised. As the Tyndale Bible was incomplete, Coverdale translated the remaining books of the Old Testament from the Latin Vulgate and German translations, rather than working from the original Greek and Hebrew texts.
**Original Condition**

Ornate blind tooled calf over wooden boards, with brass corners and clasps. Previously rebacked. Main title page torn and front board split in two. Leather straps require strengthening and old glue has become brittle and dry. In its current condition item cannot be safely read or exhibited.

**Restoration by Anthony Zammit**

A number of previous repairs to both the spine and textblock were removed. The spine lining and the individual pages were thoroughly cleaned and a new spine lining was then created. Major sewing work was commenced to reattach the raised bands to the textblock and the split front wooden board was repaired. New thread was custom-dyed to use for re-sewing the headband and tailband and leather was also custom-dyed to create a new, stronger spine. The Japanese paper, used to repair tears to individual pages and to reinforce fragile corners, was also dyed to match. The Great Bible can now be safely exhibited and easily opened for reading.