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In the Beginning

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The University of Dayton's Roesch Library has scheduled a series of free public lectures and discussions to accompany a traveling exhibit on the history and influence of the King James Bible.

"Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible" will be featured from Friday, Aug. 24, through Wednesday, Sept. 19, at Roesch Library. The exhibit celebrates the 400th anniversary of the first printing of the King James Bible in 1611 and examines its influential and complex history. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The University of Dayton is one of only

40 sites in the U.S. to host the traveling exhibit.

Manifold Greatness is a traveling exhibition for libraries organized by the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. It is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, with assistance from the Harry Ransom Center of the University of Texas. The traveling exhibition was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

A first-edition King James Bible, on loan from Denison University, will be displayed along with the University of Dayton's own first edition Douai-Rheims, a Catholic translation of the Bible, and other rare books from the University Libraries collections. The traveling exhibit includes high-quality reproductions of rare and historic books, manuscripts and works of art from the collections of the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford, along with interpretive text.

A reception to celebrate the opening will feature a lecture by exhibit co-curator Hannibal Hamlin, associate professor of English at The Ohio State University. Hamlin, an authority on the King James Bible, will discuss the extraordinary influence of the King James Bible. The reception and lecture will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, Roesch Library first floor.

Several lectures by University of Dayton faculty are also scheduled at Roesch Library. The first in the series is 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9, in the first floor gallery space with Alan Kimbrough, professor of English, who will discuss the King James Bible and Anglican Church Music. Three brown bag lunch lectures will feature faculty from various departments and scholarly backgrounds. The lectures are free and open to the public. For complete information on lectures, visit Manifold Greatness Lecture Series (url: <http://www.udayton.edu/libraries/manifoldgreatness/lectures.php>) on the Roesch Library website.

Several book discussions are scheduled at Roesch Library and the downtown branch of the Dayton Metro Library. The discussions are free and open to the public, but registration is requested. To register, visit Manifold Greatness Book Discussions (url: http://www.udayton.edu/libraries/manifoldgreatness/book_discussions.php) on the Roesch Library website.

To mark the closing of the exhibit, a panel discussion featuring University of Dayton faculty from the lecture series is scheduled for 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, Roesch Library ground floor LTC Forum.

For more information on the Manifold Greatness exhibit, lectures and discussions, including hours, directions and parking, visit Manifold Greatness (url: <http://www.udayton.edu/libraries/manifoldgreatness/index.php>) at the Roesch Library or contact kkelly2@udayton.edu.

For information contact Katy Kelly, communications and outreach librarian, 937-229-4274 or kkelly2@udayton.edu.