

# Seattletters Newsletter

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## The Saint John's Bible

From 2007 to 2012, Jackson was Artistic Director of the \$40,000,000 publishing project centred on the Heritage Edition, facsimile volumes of The Saint John's Bible. Many are now in collections of widely varying institutions and faith communities around the world.

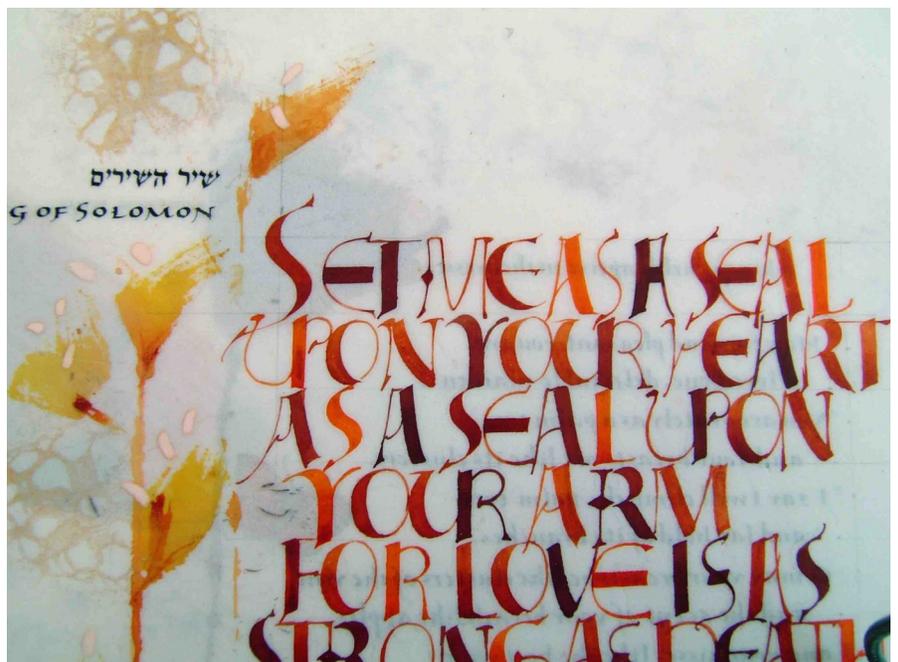
Amongst these are – Australian Catholic University, Australia (5 campuses); Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City (Mormon); Mayo Clinics, MN; Pepperdine University, CA; Saint Martin-in-the-Fields, London; Vassar College, NY; Vatican Museum and Vatican Library, Rome. They have also been acquired by Baptist and Methodist institutions as well as public and private collections.

A special set of the Apostles Edition was presented to the Library of Congress on the occasion of Pope Francis's address to Congress during his first visit to North America in September 2015.

## Keynote Speaker: Donald Jackson

One of the world's leading calligraphers, from 1998 till its completion in May 2011 Donald Jackson was the Artistic Director and principal illuminator of The Saint John's Bible. From his scriptorium in Wales, he oversaw scribes, artists and craftsmen who worked with him on the handwriting and illumination of this seven-volume, 1,150-page book. His studio/workshop remains the only calligraphy atelier in the United Kingdom where artist calligraphers are still regularly employed, maintaining the highest traditions of this ancient art in a modern context. From an early age, Jackson sought to combine the use of the ancient techniques of the calligrapher's art with the imaginary and spontaneous letter forms of his own time. As a teenager, his first ambition was to be 'The Queen's Scribe' and a close second was to inscribe and illuminate the Bible. His first ambition was soon fulfilled – for the second he had to await a further 30 years.

He was awarded a scholarship to Art College aged 13 and by the age of 20, as a graduate student, he was appointed visiting lecturer (professor) at the Camberwell College of Art, London. Within six years, he became the youngest artist calligrapher chosen to take part in the Victoria and Albert Museum's first International Calligraphy Show after the war. In 1964, aged 26, he was appointed a scribe to the Crown Office at the House of Lords. As Senior Illuminator to the Crown office of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, he is responsible for the creation of official state documents. In conjunction with a wide range of other calligraphic projects, he executes Historic Royal documents including Letters Patent under The Great Seal and Royal Charters. In 1985, he was decorated by the Queen with the Medal of The Royal Victorian Order (MVO) which is awarded for personal services to the Sovereign. In 2016 he was awarded a Papal Knight-hood by Pope Francis for his contribution to Christian art.



"Set me a seal upon your heart..." – Donald Jackson – 2003  
Wisdom Books, The Saint John's Bible

