

## Unique Norwegian Cultural Treasure Now in Norwegian Hands

The valuable Danish Rosendahl Bible Collection has now become Norwegian, and can be viewed in Oslo at the exhibition “Treasures from the Rosendahl Bible Collection” at the Nordic Bible Museum.

- It is a magnificent and exclusive Bible collection with many unique and rare objects. It is reflective of it being curated by a collector with a keen eye for quality and with extensive knowledge of the history of the Bible. To us at the Nordic Bible Museum, it is a great addition to our collection and exhibition of rare Bibles, says executive director, Rune Arnhoff. The collection has now found a safe home in the museum, located in the center of Oslo.

There was a great interest to see the unique Rosendahl Collection among culture and history enthusiasts in Denmark when it was located there. It was, however, never part of an official exhibition. It is now possible to see parts of the famous book collection in Nedre Slottsgate in Oslo.

Danish Kristian Rosendahl began collecting in 1906

At the time, it was the great-grandfather of Palle Rosendahl who began collecting the rare Bibles. He was a printer and a bookbinder. Following generations have aided in collecting a considerable amount of books. When the collection was to be sold as part of the family's asset disposal, it was of great importance to both the seller and the buyer that the book collection remained intact. Considering this, the Bible Museum in Oslo has become an important keeper of the shared Nordic cultural heritage.

The Rosendahl Bible Collection consists of more than 500 Bibles and books. While the first generation of Rosendahls had religious interests, later generations were more concerned with the craft and artistry associated with the books. Several of the Bibles in the collection stand out for that reason: the beautiful bindings and exquisite typography.

Gutenberg, Martin Luther, and Christian III of Denmark

Among the books that can be viewed is the world's first Luther Bible from 1533. Later, this Bible obtained a Nordic connection as well. With the aid of Martin Luther, Christian III of Denmark arranged for the printer to visit Copenhagen with his wood blocks from the first Luther Bible. The Danish king and Luther both recognized the importance of the Scripture becoming available for the people. This happened when the Danish version was printed in 1550.

The collection also consists of a page from the first printed book, the Gutenberg Bible from 1450, as well as five incunables printed in the 1400s. The first Spanish Bible from 1569 in a completed version and an exceptionally rare page from a handwritten Bible found in Normandie from the 13th century are also part of the collection.

Executive director at the Nordic Bible Museum, Rune Arnhoff, is looking forward to presenting this unique cultural treasure. He has been committed to making the Rosendahl Bible Collection available to the public. The collection is also of importance in a European context.