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Saint John's First "Bible Project"

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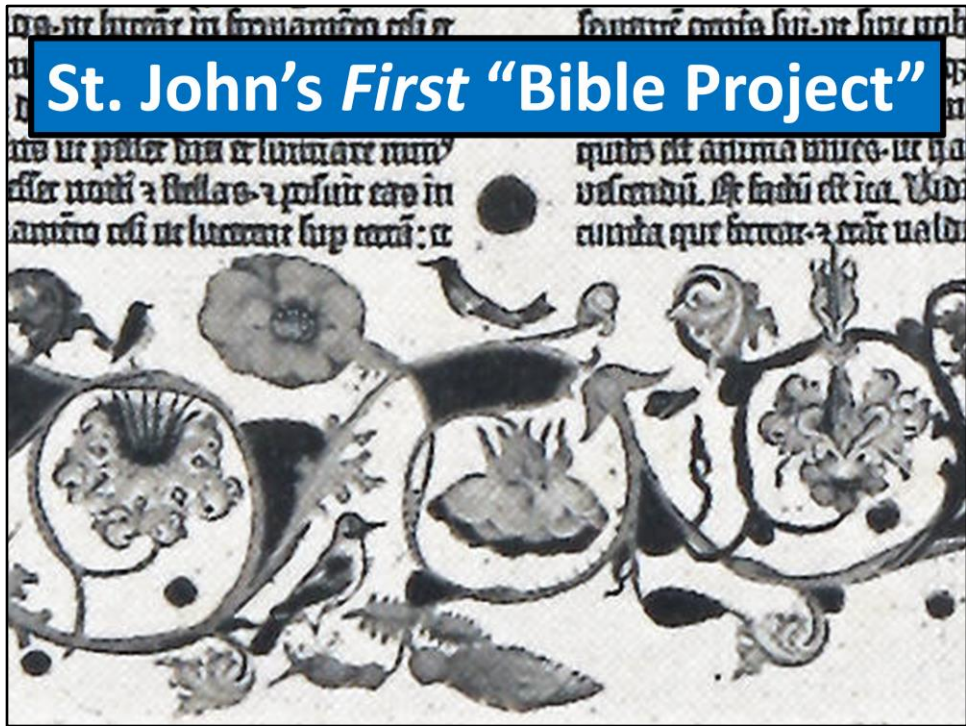
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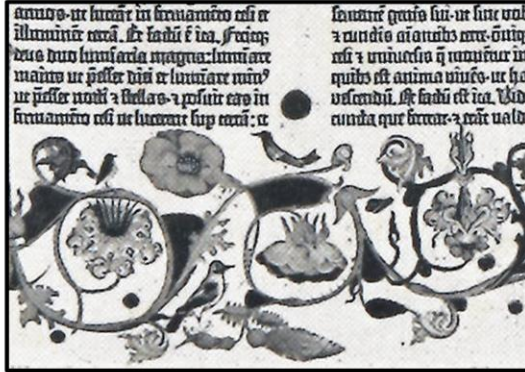
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Saint John's First "Bible Project"

(With a little background, first, from
The Record, ca. 1940)



With background from *The Record*, 1940

Printing Anniversary Edition

500 Years
In Europe

THE RECORD

400 Years
In America

Z-341

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY AND ORGAN OF THE ALUMNI

VOLUME 53

COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1940

NUMBER 16

"Record" Commemorates Printing Anniversary

State Collegiate Forensic Union To Meet Here Saturday

Orators Of Six Colleges Enter Three Divisions

On Saturday, May 18, the annual spring forensic meet of the Minnesota Forensic Union will be held in St. John's auditorium.

The meet is divided into three main parts—original oratory, extemporaneous speaking, and after-dinner speeches. After-dinner speeches will be given at the closing banquet on Saturday evening. The oratorical and extemporaneous events will be in the afternoon.

To represent St. John's university Mr. Fred Higgins, speech instructor, has chosen two of his pupils, Philip Clark, of St. Cloud, and Dick Malone, of Stillwater. Mr. Clark's field is oratory; he will speak on The College of Capitalism. Mr. Malone will compete in extemporaneous

Gutenberg's First Page



Incunabula, Old Manuscripts To Be Shown In Reference Library

By James Barry

In accordance with the world wide celebration of the Quincentennial Anniversary of the Invention of Printing, the Record presents a Library Edition this week in honor of Johann Gutenberg, the German inventor of movable type, and as a tribute to all his successors who have preserved the record of human thought, experience and intellectual activity through the ages.

Students Selected From Senior Class For Honor Society

That such a tribute be made by St. John's, a Benedictine institution of higher learning, is especially significant. Until the invention of movable type in the 15th century, all tomes, rolls or scrolls were written by hand. The world owes the preservation of the monuments of Roman and Greek culture to the diligence and patience of the monks. For centuries the Benedictine monks, by their

The five members of the senior class chosen to represent the class of '40 and as the first chapter members of the St. John's Chapter of the Delta Epsilon Sigma, national honor so-

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,29060>

The Record commemorates the 500th anniversary of printing <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,29060> – 500 year celebration. Gutenberg was the first European to use [movable type](#) printing, in around 1439, and the global inventor of the [printing press](#).

Thursday, May 16, 1940

Benedictines The First Custodians Of Learning

It is a truth well known to all historians and scholars that it is due to the zeal of the monks for collecting books and to their labor in multiplying books that the civilization of the ancients was preserved for posterity.

The Record, May 16, 1940, p. 2 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,29061>

Benedictines the first custodians of learning

The Record, May 16, 1940, p. 2 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,29061>

An old proverb, much cherished in the Benedictine order, reads: *Monasterium sine armario quasi castrum sine armamentario.*

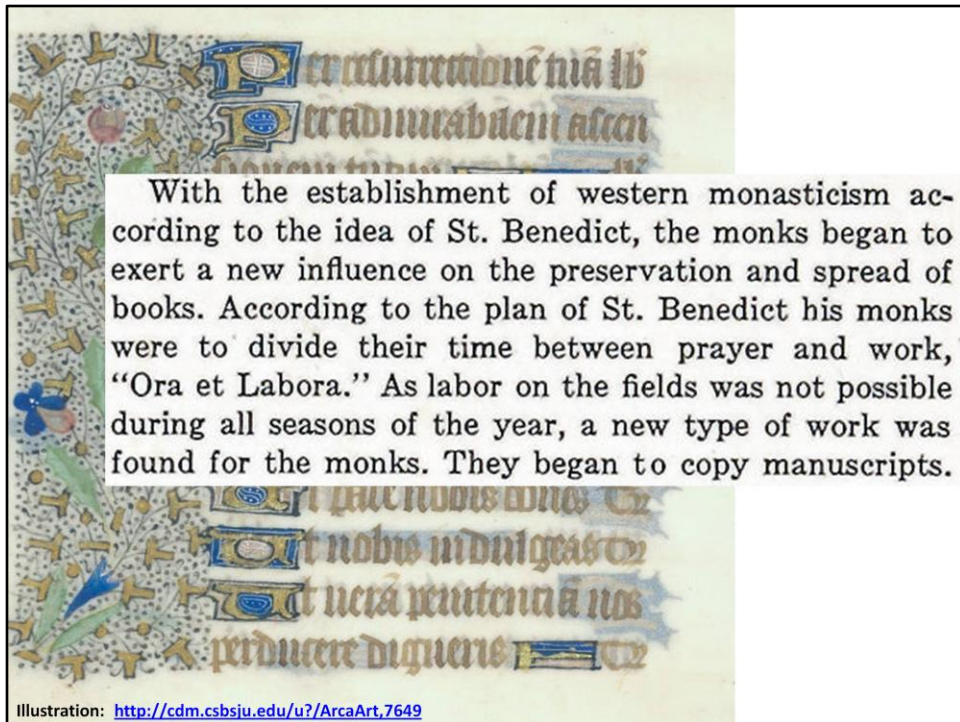
The proverb says that a monastery without a library is like a camp without an arsenal.

The monks' love for books and zeal for collecting books antedates the establishment of the Benedictines in the sixth century; it dates back to the very first cenobite,

The Record, May 16, 1940, p. 2 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,29061>

“A monastery without a library...”

The Record, May 16, 1940, p. 2 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,29061>



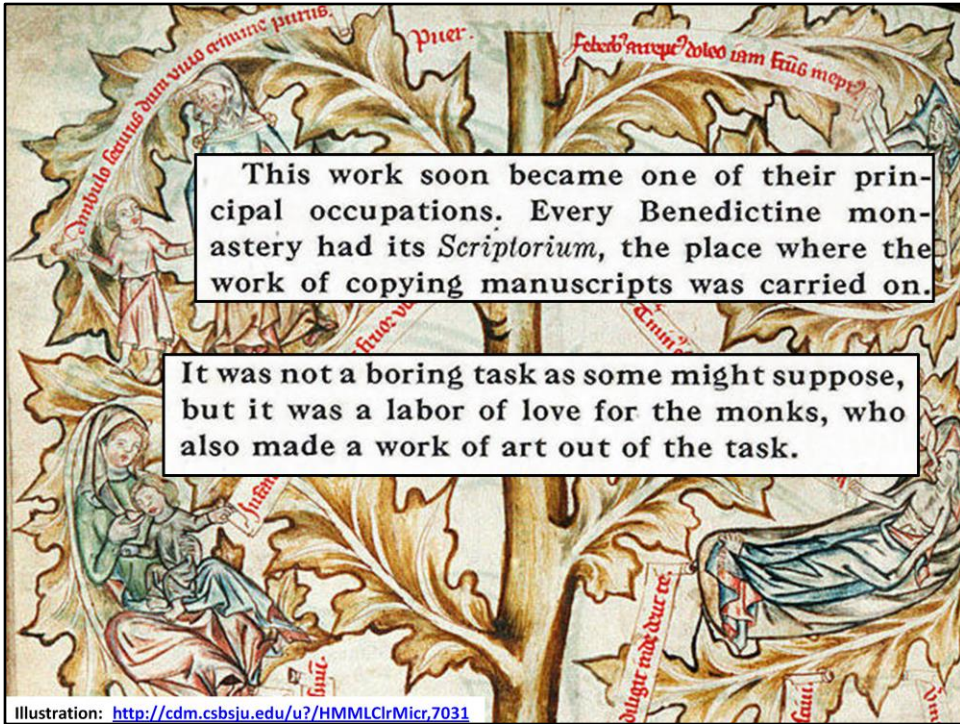
With the establishment of western monasticism according to the idea of St. Benedict, the monks began to exert a new influence on the preservation and spread of books. According to the plan of St. Benedict his monks were to divide their time between prayer and work, "Ora et Labora." As labor on the fields was not possible during all seasons of the year, a new type of work was found for the monks. They began to copy manuscripts.

"A new type of work was found for monks"

A familiar bit of human history, but with perhaps a slightly different slant??

(Cause/effect question?)

Illustration: <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?ArcaArt,7649>



Labor of love = works of art

For a Benedictine monk the library can never be too rich. Other material conveniences can easily become superfluous to his needs, perhaps even a hindrance to his work, but not the library. Though the library is a material collection of books, the monk looks at the library from a spiritual angle. He makes use of books as a potent means of advancement to perfection, for which purpose he came to the monastery. Next to prayer, books are the most convenient tool which the Benedictine seizes to help him attain his immortal destiny.



<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?ArcaArt,9223>

Books important to spiritual life of monks

Illustration: <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?ArcaArt,9223>

The very familiarity of the monks with books delayed the organization of a formal monastic library at St. John's for many years. Instead of a central library cared for by a librarian, the early monastery was characterized by a great many small collections. These were of two kinds: the personal collections of the individual monks, and the communal collection of the professors in the school. Our knowledge of both is sketchy.

From Roloff, Ronald William, O.S.B. *Saint John's University Library: An Historical Evaluation*. A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts, University of Minnesota, 1953, p. 28-29.

Central library slow to develop

From Roloff, Ronald William, O.S.B. *Saint John's University Library: An Historical Evaluation*. A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts, University of Minnesota, 1953, p. 28-29.

We have reliable evidence of the existence of private collections from the fact that individual monks often contributed books to the Abbey Library; and we find that upon the death of a priest of the monastery the library usually received the collection of books he had possessed. Apart from this we know little.

From Roloff, Ronald William, O.S.B. *Saint John's University Library: An Historical Evaluation*. A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts, University of Minnesota, 1953, p. 28-29.

Private collections added to the Abbey Library

From Roloff, Ronald William, O.S.B. *Saint John's University Library: An Historical Evaluation*. A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts, University of Minnesota, 1953, p. 28-29.

1878-79 Catalogue

U. I. O. G. D.

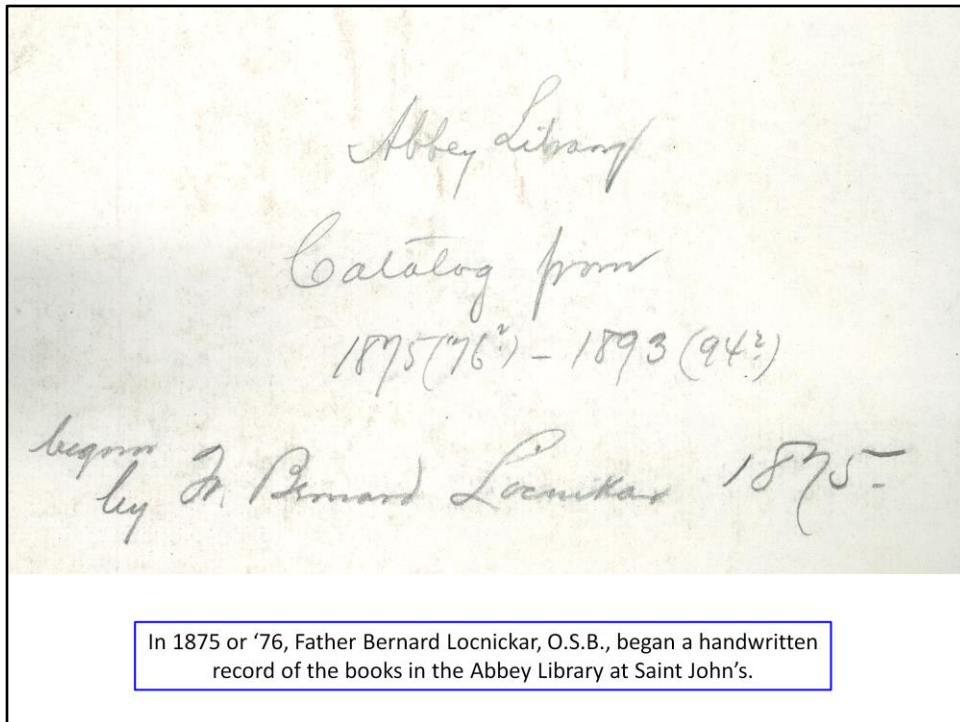
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.

ST. JOSEPH, STEARNS COUNTY, MINN.

Bordering on one of Minnesota's prettiest lakes, and near the lovely Watab, surrounded by a picturesque forest, four miles from St. Joseph—the nearest village—stands St. John's College, an institution favorably known to the greater and better portion of our citizens for these many years.

The St. Paul & Pacific Railroad passes through the College lands. A large and substantial building, 315 ft. front, a valuable library, a flourishing College, a thriving community, show that the Benedictine Order, established A. D. 525, is, as of yore, fulfilling its august mission. As early as 1493, thirteen members of this order, under their leader, Dom Bernardo Boil, landed with Columbus, on Montserrat, one of the West India Islands, to commence in the New World the great things which the order had begun and nobly done in the Old, the education and civilization of peoples and nations.

1878-79 Catalogue mentions "a valuable library"



Early Abbey Library ledger catalog

! This handwritten accession ledger was begun ABOUT THE SAME TIME that [“Charles Cutter](#) made the first explicit statement regarding the objectives of a bibliographic system in his [Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalog](#) in **1876.”** [Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_card_catalog] Hoffmann’s book on the first 50 years has the Cutter number “.H64” for “Hoffmann”: LD 4811.S8582 **H64**

First Abbey Library Catalog

The list as given is primarily an accession record, convertible, by applying an ingenious shorthand system (key on first page), into a system for locating the books in the sections where they are shelved. The accession record thus became also a kind of catalog.

1-3079' There are 8175 volumes recorded, of which nos. 1-3799 were entered by Bernard Locnikar, O.S.B., nos. 3800-5555 by Urban Fischer, O.S.B. (his entries are characterized by beautiful penmanship), nos. 5556-8175 by Francis Merzhmann, O.S.B., and Norber Hofbauer, O.S.B.

The first 75 entries are either Bibles, parts of the Bible, or Biblical literature.

First Abbey Library Catalog

Nro	Titulus et auctor operis	Tempus et modus acquis. Ad notandum
1.	Bibell. D. Joh. Viekenburgus augsabe. 1775	✓ 1775
2.	The Holy Bible, Danag, new edition	✓
3.	Hl. Schrift. Alsted, Regensburg, 1866	✓
4.	" " " " Landshut, 1881.	✓
5.	Biblia Hebraica. I	✓
6.	" " " " II	✓
7.	Biblia Sacra, latina et german. Alsted. I	✓ 1775 tomus I. & II. & III.
8.	" " " " II	✓
9.	" " " " III	✓
10.	Samachungen zur Hl. Schrift	✓
11.	Sacra Scriptura, lat. et germ. I	✓
12.	" " " " II	✓
13.	" " " " III	✓
14.	" " " " IV	✓
15.	" " " " V	✓

Of these, the largest number were in German, Latin, or both. However, there were also Bibles in Hebrew, Greek, and English.

Most books entered in catalog were bibles
 Image also appears on Matt's blog, http://www.booksfromthehmm basement.blogspot.com/2012_01_08_archive.html , but I took this photo.

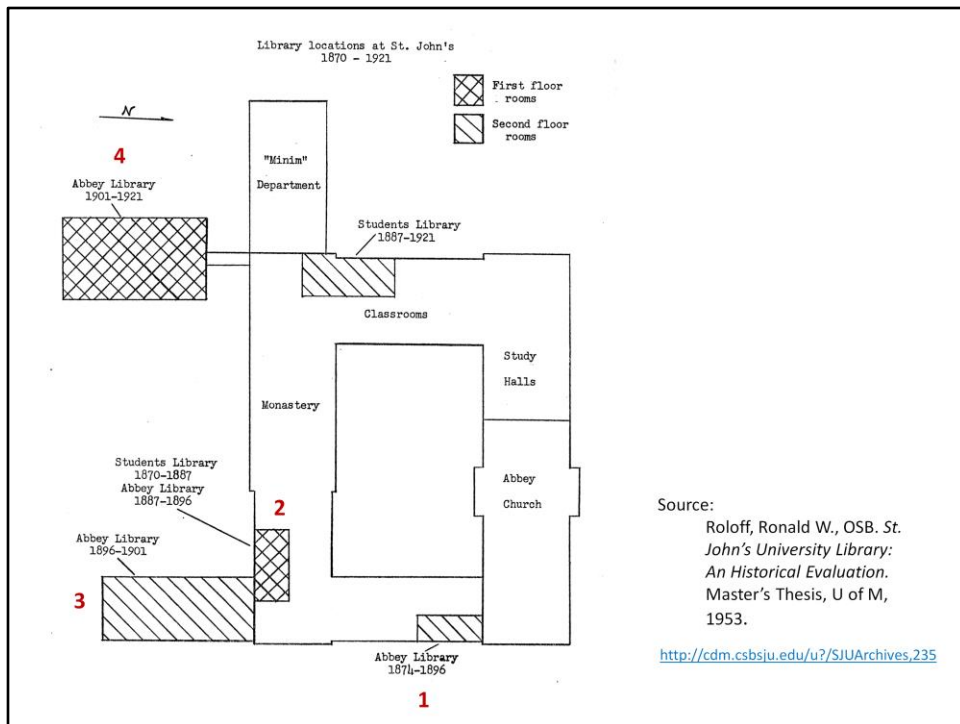


The first book listed by Fr. Bernard Locknikar was a 1572 copy of the Bible, translated into German by Johann Dietenberger.

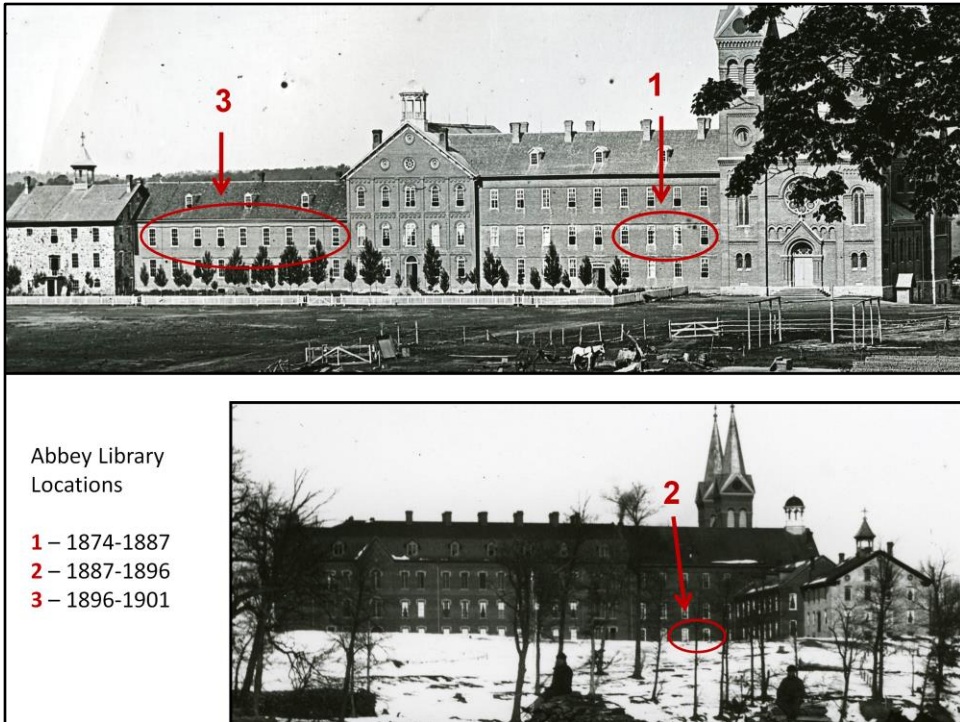
It is now in the Rare Books collection in Alcuin Library.

Photo by Matt Heintzelman
<http://www.hmml.org/news10/MH.htm>

First book listed was a 1572 Bible in German
From Matt's blog - <http://www.hmml.org/news10/MH.htm>



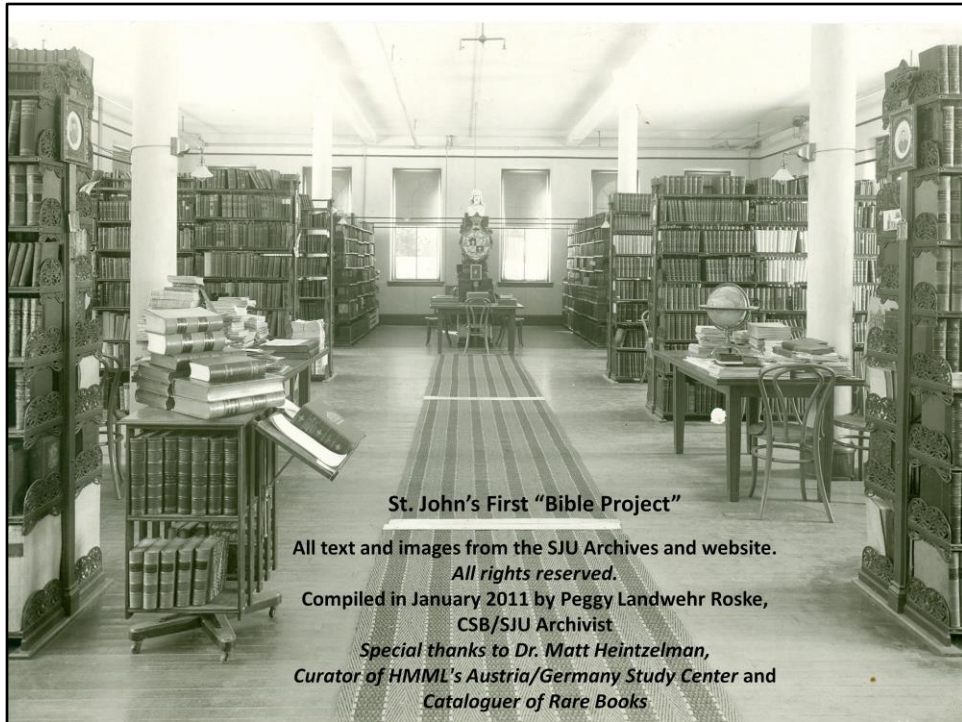
Abbey and student library locations in the early years: Roloff diagram
 From Roloff, Ronald William, O.S.B. *Saint John's University Library: An Historical Evaluation.* A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts, University of Minnesota, 1953, p. 87. NOTE: the bottom label for the Abbey Library should probably say "1874-1887," not "1874-1896."



Abbey and student library locations in the early years: photos
Cropped from Aschemann collection photos, LP066 (1883) and LP012 (ca. 1884,
according to [A Visual History of Saint Benedict's and Saint John's](#))



Abbey and student library locations in the early years: photo of Wimmer Hall exterior
Wimmer Hall - Library ca. 1910s-1920s?



St. John's First "Bible Project"

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Compiled in January 2011 by Peggy Landwehr Roske,
CSB/SJU Archivist

*Special thanks to Dr. Matt Heintzelman,
Curator of HMML's Austria/Germany Study Center and
Cataloguer of Rare Books*

Abbey and student library locations in the early years: photo of Wimmer Hall interior
O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Ascheman Coll.- historical photos – LP054 Wimmer
Hall Library ca. 1917