

## Frequently Asked Questions about Donations

### **Does Museum of the Bible accept artifact donations?**

Yes! The museum is happy to consider any artifact donations related to the Bible's narrative, history, and impact.

### **What kinds of artifacts are you interested in collecting?**

The museum is interested in any artifact that helps us tell great stories and that advances our mission to invite all people to engage with the Bible. However, we can only accept a limited number. Our decision is based on several factors, including:

- The artifact's potential contribution to the museum's mission
- Its ownership history
- Its uniqueness or potential to tell an interesting story
- Its fit with our existing collections
- Its physical condition
- The museum's resources to care for the artifact

You can find more information about the museum's collecting practices by reading our collections management policy here: <https://museumofthebible.org/policies/?tab=collections-management-policy>

### **Would you be interested in my old printed Bible?**

Printed Bibles often tell extraordinary stories, even though they are relatively common. The museum receives many inquiries about such artifacts, but we are especially interested in those that fall within these categories:

- Bibles owned by prominent individuals in United States history
- Bibles created or published outside of the United States and Europe
- Bibles connected to the history of and leaders in African American churches and communities
- Bibles created or published by missionaries or missionary communities in the United States and abroad

Please contact us at [collection@mBible.org](mailto:collection@mBible.org) for more information about our collecting interests.

### **How can I donate an object to Museum of the Bible?**

Please begin by contacting our staff at [collection@mBible.org](mailto:collection@mBible.org). We will first ask you to fill out a Donation Request Form, which includes your contact information, a basic description of the object, and any details you know about its history. The museum will then review this form, research the object, and determine whether or not to accept it into the Museum Collections

based, in part, on its uniqueness, condition, ownership history, its fit within the existing collections, and its potential contribution to the museum's mission.

### **How long does the donation process take?**

The Collection Committee carefully considers each object individually and makes its decision after careful deliberation. This process normally takes between 4 and 6 weeks. However, due to the individual nature of the process, some artifacts may take longer than others to review.

### **Can I drop something off at the door?**

Thanks, but no thanks! The museum does not accept unsolicited donations. Potential donors should begin by contacting us at [collection@mBible.org](mailto:collection@mBible.org) to fill out a Donation Request Form.

### **What will Museum of the Bible do with my donation?**

The museum uses objects in its collections in different ways, including its permanent and special exhibits, educational programming, and traveling exhibits in the United States and abroad. We also provide research access to our collections for scholars, authors, students, and film makers, and we make certain objects available to other institutions as short-term loans.

### **Will my donation ever be displayed?**

The museum cannot guarantee that any donation will be displayed. Our exhibits are planned years in advance and space within the museum is limited. This means that only a small portion of our collections will ever be exhibited. However, once an object is accepted into the collections, it becomes available for curators and other staff to use in a variety of projects. Whether or not it is ever displayed, your donation will contribute to the museum's mission!

### **How will the museum credit my donation if it is exhibited?**

The museum is happy for donors to specify, within reason, how they want their donation credited if it is displayed. Typically, a credit line includes an individual or organization. For example, "Gift of Ms. Elizabeth Stanton."

### **Will my donation be tax deductible?**

Donations are fully tax deductible within IRS guidelines. Please consult a tax adviser for information regarding tax deductions. The museum complies with all local and federal tax laws regarding gifts.

### **Does the museum purchase artifacts for its collections?**

On very rare occasions the museum may purchase items. However, we generally rely on the generosity of donors.

**Will the museum appraise my artifact?**

No, the museum does not offer appraisals.