

# The 'Summit' Of a Library

By JOHN DASH

In his inimitable and amiable ramble, Robert Gullo, head of the Lavery Library at St. John Fisher

College, reveals that he thinks the summit of the many collections housed at the library is the gathering of rare Bibles now on display in the Gioia Room.

The collection, which spans four centuries, began with a gift, Gullo says. Several years back, he was presented with a Lutheran Bible, published in Wittenberg, Saxony, in 1589. The volume is dedicated to Augustus I, duke of Saxony, descendent of Frederick II, protector of Luther. The binding of the book's wooden cover boards appears to have been mended with hand-scripted parchment.

In explaining the "history" of the Bible, Gullo noted that it is "The Book" compiled from many books and traditions. "What more appropriate place for the Bible than in a library, also a collection of books?" he asks.

He is also pleased that the collection is in the Rochester area, an area he said that has been "a hotbed of religion."

He cites the foundings of the Church of Latter Day Saints and Spiritualism, the keen rivalries of already established religions to garner new members into their churches, and the general concern with religion that has charac-



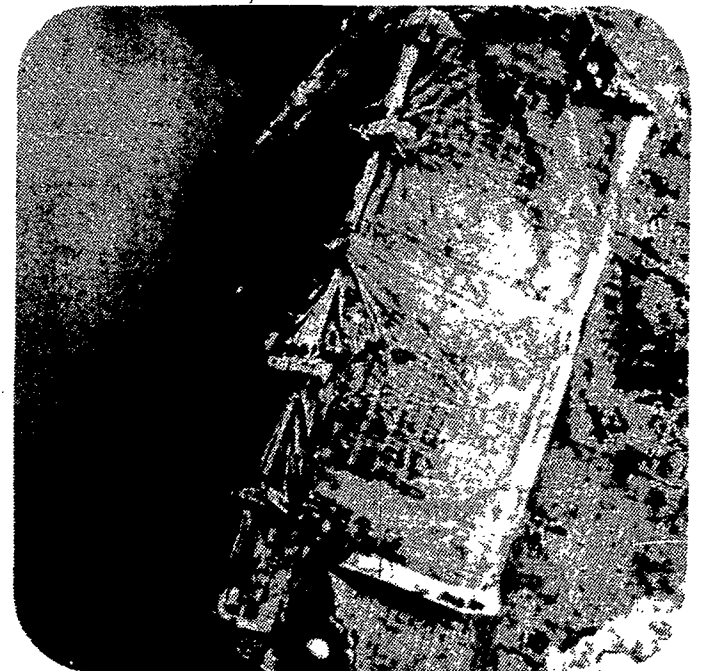
The main display table in the Gioia Room. The tiny volume at the far lower left is a hand-scripted Koran dating from the 1400s.

terized the region to demonstrate his point.

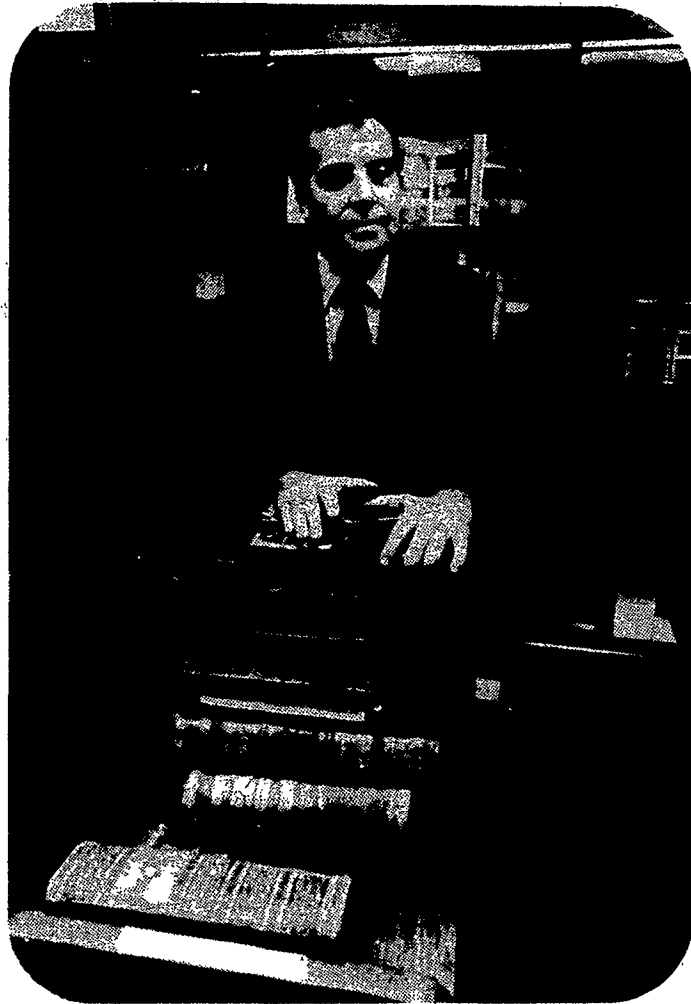
"There are a lot of Bibles in such an atmosphere," he noted.

The collection is especially heavy in the area of the 19th century, Gullo notes, since that is the time the largest number of Bibles were introduced into this area.

Also included in the collection are hand-scripted volumes of the Koran, the sacred text of Islam. The tiny volumes date from the 15th Century, he said.



The binding of the Saxon Bible has been repaired with a parchment leaf from an even more ancient manuscript.



Gullo displays a number of Bibles.

Photos by Susan McKinney

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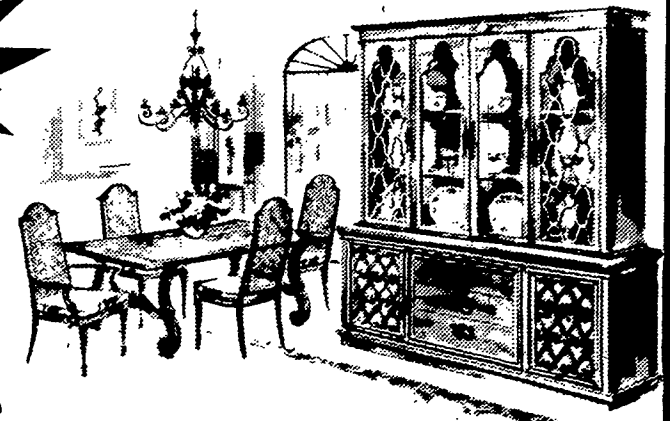
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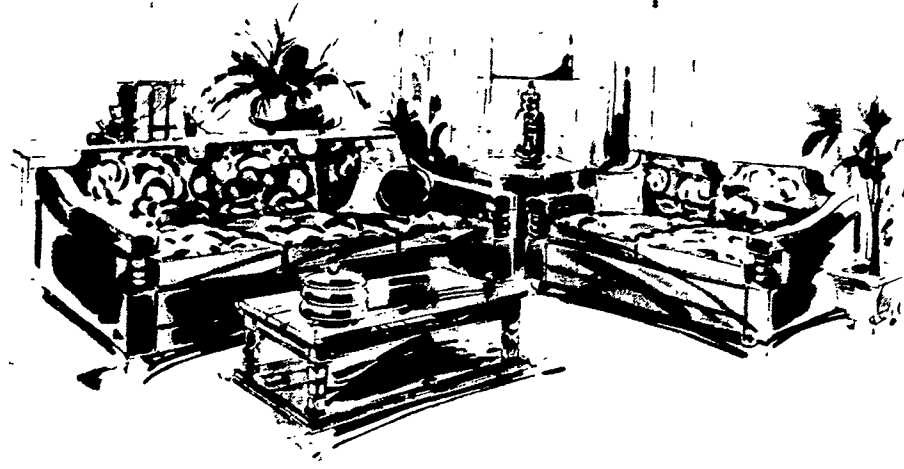
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