

The King James Bible, sometimes called the King James Version or the Authorized Version, has been a sacred and cultural icon of the English-speaking world since it was first published in 1611. In September 2011, together with The Hungarian Bible Society, the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary hosted an international conference entitled *The King James Bible (1611–2011) – Prehistory and Afterlife* to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of this monumental work, one of the most influential books ever published in English. Our university was named after the Calvinist pastor Gáspár Károli (ca 1529–1591), who is considered the author of the first complete translation of the Bible into Hungarian (1590). The Károli Bible has played a similarly iconic role for Hungarians as the King James Bible has for the British. The organizers of the conference called for papers concerning both the “prehistory” and the “afterlife” of the King James Bible. The selection of the papers offered here represents a treasure trove for biblical scholars, theologians, linguists, and students of English literature and cultural studies.