AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS
AND THEIR TEXTS

This is the first major English-language introduction to the earliest manuscripts of the New Testament to appear for over forty years. An essential handbook for scholars and students, it provides a thorough grounding in the study and editing of the New Testament text combined with an emphasis on dramatic current developments in the field. Covering ancient sources in Greek, Syriac, Latin and Coptic, it

- describes the manuscripts and other ancient textual evidence, and the tools needed to study them
- deals with textual criticism and textual editing, describing modern approaches and techniques, with guidance on the use of editions
- introduces the witnesses and textual study of each of the main sections of the New Testament, discussing typical variants and their significance.

A companion website with full-colour images provides generous amounts of illustrative material, bringing the subject alive for the reader.

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A * is placed in the text where a plate is provided. I have confined the plates largely to the sections where I describe the development of text formats, namely chapters 1, 5 and 6. The following are the images:

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2. Florence, Biblioteca Laurenziana, PSI 2.124 (Gregory–Aland 0171), recto
3. London, British Library, Add. 43725, Codex Sinaiticus (Gregory–Aland 01), Quire 79, Folios 1v and 2r
4. Vercelli, Bibliotheca Capitolare, s.n., Codex Vercellensis, Folios 181r and 196v
5. Florence, Biblioteca Laurenziana Plut. I, Syr. 56, Folio 158v–159r
6. Basel, University Library, AN III.12 (Gregory–Aland 07), Folio 102v
7. St Petersburg, Russian National Library, Gr. 219 (Gregory–Aland 461)
8. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Lat. 9380, Codex Theodulphianus, Prologue to the Gospels
9. London, British Library Burney 18 (Gregory–Aland 480), Folio 66r
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13. J. J. Wetstein, Novum Testamentum Graecum, 1751–2, page 392

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14. A manuscript collation by T. S. Pattie

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15. Birmingham, University Library, Mingana Greek 7 (Gregory–Aland 713), Folio 113v–114r

Chapter 5.1
17. Relationship of manuscripts in the Epistle of James
18. A hypothetical stemma
19. A hypothetical database
20. Provisional stemma of manuscripts in the Catholic Letters

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21. Cambridge University Library, British and Foreign Bible Society MSS, 213, Codex Zacynthius (Gregory–Aland 040)

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23. Cologny, Biblioteca Bodmeriana II (Gregory–Aland P66), page 47
24. Cologny, Biblioteca Bodmeriana II (Gregory–Aland P66), page 9 (detail)
25. Cologny, Biblioteca Bodmeriana II (Gregory–Aland P66), page 9 (detail)
26. Cologny, Biblioteca Bodmeriana II (Gregory–Aland P66), page 41 (detail)
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28. Athos, Vatopediu 949 (Gregory–Aland 1582), Folio 267r
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29. Athos, Vatopediu 949 (Gregory–Aland 1582), Folio 286r
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32. Athos, Dionysiu (10) 55 (Gregory–Aland 045), page 459
34. Athos, Vatopediu 949 (Gregory–Aland 1582), Folio 246r
35. R. Stephanus’ Greek New Testament, 1550, page 240
36. The Complutensian Polyglot (1514)
38. Irico’s transcription of the Old Latin Gospels Codex Vercellensis, columns 559–62
40. F. H. Scrivener, A Full and Exact Collation of about Twenty Greek Manuscripts of the Holy Gospels etc., London, 1853, pages 170–1
41. Tischendorf’s Editio octava, volume 11, page 264
42. The Münster Editio critica maior Part IV, Catholic Letters, Instalment 2, Letters of Peter, page 196
43. The IGNTP edition of the papyri of John: A transcription, page 118
44. The IGNTP edition of the papyri of John: The apparatus, page 386
45. The IGNTP edition of the papyri of John: An image, plate 47

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46. Tischendorf’s Editio octava, volume 1, pages 303–4
48. The Vetus Latina edition, Apocalypsis Iohannis, page 16

Chapter 7.2

49. Augsburg, University Library, Cod. I.1.4.1 (Gregory–Aland 2814), Folio 88v
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50. Provisional stemma of manuscripts in the Letter of James

Chapter 10.7

51. Birmingham, Mingana Collection, Peckover Gr. 7 (Gregory–Aland 713), Folio 65v–66r
Links to URLs

I have taken the opportunity to use the website for the images to put in the links to the URLs mentioned in the text. These may be accessed at www.cambridge.org/9780521719896, and each one should take the reader straight to the site.
Acknowledgements

An introductory text of this kind, drawing as it does on several centuries of detailed research, is in itself an acknowledgement of debt to generations of scholars. It especially reflects the contribution of contemporaries, whose writings have inspired and whose papers and conversation have stimulated me. Some readers may recognise the influence of such discussion from time to time in what follows.

In particular, what I have written has no doubt been substantially moulded by the twenty years in which I have worked with colleagues in editing the International Greek New Testament Project. We began work on the Gospel of John in 1987, and in that time I have spent many hours, days and weeks in the company of others working on this project. For half of that time (since 1997), we have been working in increasingly close partnership with the Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung, Münster. The challenges of a major project and the expertise of many colleagues leave their traces everywhere.

More recently I have benefited in my own institution from congenial and expanding text-critical surroundings. The Centre for the Editing of Texts in Religion was established in 2000. Its range was expanded in 2005 with the formation of the Institute for Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing. Both staff and students have broadened my horizons and challenged my thinking, as has the execution of our current projects.

A number of these colleagues read this book in draft and offered encouragement, corrections and improvements. The staff of Cambridge University Press have, as ever, been helpful in many ways.

At one stage I even considered dedicating this book to all New Testament textual critics, living and departed. However, I was reminded of a promise made in the days when we read picture books together, that when I wrote one myself I would dedicate it to my children. So this book is for Louise, James, John and Alison.

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Abbreviations

This list contains abbreviations, and short titles of works cited in more than one chapter. If a work is cited more than once only within a few pages, the short title is easily understood and is not listed here.

K. Aland, Die alten Übersetzungen
K. Aland (ed.), Die alten Übersetzungen des Neuen Testaments, die Kirchenübersetzte und Lektionäre. Der gegenwärtige Stand ihrer Erforschung und ihre Bedeutung für die griechische Textgeschichte (ANTF 5), Berlin, 1972

K. Aland, Repertorium


Aland and Juckel, NT in syrischer Überlieferung 1

Aland and Juckel, NT in syrischer Überlieferung 2
List of abbreviations

Hebräerbrief (ANTF 32), Berlin and New York, 2002


Anderson, Family 1 in Matthew A. Anderson, The Textual Tradition of the Gospels. Family 1 in Matthew (NTTS 32), Leiden and Boston, 2004


BETL Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium, Leuven


CBL Collectanea Biblica Latina

CBNTS Coniectanea Biblica New Testament Series

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| Clemons, *Index of Syriac Manuscripts* | J. T. Clemons, *An Index of Syriac Manuscripts Containing the Epistles and the Apocalypse* (SD 33), Salt Lake City, 1968  
| **CSCO**              | Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium |
An Introduction to the New Testament Manuscripts and their Texts
D. C. Parker
Frontmatter
More information

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List of abbreviations

List of abbreviations

Elliott, A Survey of Manuscripts

Elliott and Parker, Papyri

Epp, Collected Essays

Epp and Fee, Metzger Festschrift

Epp and Fee, Studies

ETL Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanensis

Fee, Papyrus Bodmer II (P66)
G. D. Fee, Papyrus Bodmer II (P66): Its Textual Relationships and Scribal Characteristics (SD 34), Salt Lake City, 1968

Festschrift Delobel

Fischer, Beiträge
B. Fischer, Beiträge zur Geschichte der lateinischen Bibeltexte (GLB 12), Freiburg, 1986

Fischer, ‘Das Neue Testament in lateinischer Sprache’

Frede, Altlateinische Paulus-Handschriften
H. J. Frede, Altlateinische Paulus-Handschriften (GLB 4), Freiburg, 1964

G.–A.
Gregory–Aland number

Gamble, Books and Readers
List of abbreviations


Gardthausen, Palaeographie (1979)

Gibson, Bible in the Latin West (1993)

GLB Aus der Geschichte der lateinischen Bibel (1900–1993)

Gregory, Textkritik (1900–1993)


Gryson, Philologia Sacra (1993)

Gryson, Répertoire général (1993)

Harlfinger, Griechische Kodikologie (1980)

Horner, Northern Dialect, vol. iv


Horner, Southern Dialect


Horton, The Earliest Gospels


HTR

Harvard Theological Review

ICSBS

Institute of Classical Studies Bulletin Supplement

IGNTP

International Greek New Testament Project

IGNTP Luke


JBL

Journal of Biblical Literature

Jongkind, Codex Sinaiticus


JSNT

Journal for the Study of the New Testament

JSNTSS


JTS

Journal of Theological Studies

Kannengiesser


Kenyon, Greek Bible


Kenyon, Greek Papyri


Kenyon, Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts

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<td>Lake, <em>Codex 1</em></td>
<td>K. Lake, <em>Codex 1 of the Gospels and its Allies (TS 1.7/3)</em>, Cambridge, 1902</td>
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Migne, PG

Milne and Skeat, *Scribes and Correctors of the Codex Sinaiticus*

Mullen, Crisp and Parker, *John*

Münster Bericht
Bericht der Hermann Kunst Stiftung der Förderung der neutestamentlichen Textforschung, Münster

Myshrall, ‘Codex Sinaiticus’

Nestle–Aland

NovT
*Novum Testamentum*

NovT'Suppl
Supplements to *Novum Testamentum*

NTA
Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen

*NT auf Papyrus I*
W. Grunewald (ed.) with K. Junack, *Das Neue Testament auf Papyrus, I. Die Katholischen Briefe*, (ANTF 6), Berlin and New York, 1986

*NT auf Papyrus II*

NTS
New Testament Studies

NTTS
New Testament Tools and Studies

P. (or Pap.)
Papyrus (usually of a papyrus collection, e.g. P. Michigan refers to an inventory number in the Michigan papyri

*Paléographie grecque et byzantine*

Parker, Codex Bezae
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<td>PBA</td>
<td><em>Proceedings of the British Academy</em></td>
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<td>P. Oxy.</td>
<td>Oxyrhynchus Papyrus</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>RB</em></td>
<td><em>Revue Biblique</em></td>
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Schmid, Andreas von Kaisareia. Einleitung  

Schmid, ‘Genealogy by Chance!’  

Schmid, Marcion und sein Apostolos  

Schmid, Elliott and Parker, Majuscules  

Scrivener, Augiensis  
F. H. A. Scrivener, An Exact Transcript of the Codex Augiensis … to Which Is Added a Full Collation of Fifty Manuscripts, Cambridge and London, 1859

Scrivener, Plain Introduction  

SD  
Studies and Documents

Skeat, Collected Biblical Writings  
J. K. Elliott (ed.), The Collected Biblical Writings of T. C. Skeat (NovTSuppl 113), Leiden and Boston, 2004

SL  
Sonderlesart

SNTSMS  
Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series

Souter1  
A. Souter (ed.), Novum Testamentum Graece. Textus a retractatoribus anglis adhibito brevem adnotationem criticam subiecit, Oxford, 1910

Souter2  
A. Souter (ed.), Novum Testamentum Graece etc., 2nd edn, Oxford, 1947
List of abbreviations

Stegmüller, Repertorium

Streeter, The Four Gospels

Studies in Stemmatology

Swanson, Greek Manuscripts

Swete, Introduction

Taylor, Studies in the Early Text

Textus Receptus, Oxford, 1873
Η Καινη Διαθηκη, *Novum Testamentum, accedunt parallela S. Scripturae loca, Vetust capitolorum notatio, Canones Eusebii*, Oxford, 1873

Thompson, Introduction

Tischendorf, Editio octava

Tregelles, Account of the Printed Text

TS Teststelle (see 1.3.8)

TS Texts and Studies (first number indicates whether it is first, second or third series)

TU Texte und Untersuchungen

Turner, GMAW

Turner, Typology
List of abbreviations

Turyn, Great Britain

van Haelst, Catalogue

VC

von Soden
H. von Soden, Die Schriften des Neuen Testaments in ihrer ältesten erreichbaren Textgestalt hergestellt auf grund ihrer Textgeschichte, 4 vols., Göttingen, 1902–13

Vööbus, Early Versions

Wachtel, ‘Kinds of Variants’

Wachtel and Parker, ‘The Joint IGNTP/INTF Gospel of John’

Wachtel, Spencer and Howe, ‘The Greek Vorlage of the Syra Harclensis’

Wachtel, Spencer and Howe, ‘Representing Multiple Pathways’
List of abbreviations

Weber, *Biblia Sacra*  

Weren and Koch, *Recent Developments*  

Westcott and Hort  

White, *Actuum Apostolorum*  
J. White, *Actuum Apostolorum et epistolarum tam catholicarum quam paulinarum, versio Syriaca Philoxeniana etc.*, 2 vols., Oxford, 1803

Wordsworth and White  
J. Wordsworth and H. J. White, *Novum Testamentum Domini Nostri Iesu Christi Latine secundum editionem Sancti Hieronymi*, 3 vols., Oxford, 1889–1954 (for full details, see 3.3.2)

WUNT  
Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament

ZNW  
Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft

Zuntz, *Ancestry*  

Zuntz, *Opuscula Selecta*  

Zuntz, *Text of the Epistles*  