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978-0-521-10527-9 - 'Codex Climaci Rescriptus Graecus'

Ian A. Moir

Frontmatter

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TEXTS AND STUDIES

Contributions to
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II

'CODEX CLIMACI RESCRIPTUS GRAECUS'

MS. GREGORY 1561, L

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'CODEX CLIMACI RESCRIPTUS GRAECUS'

A STUDY OF PORTIONS OF THE GREEK
NEW TESTAMENT COMPRISING THE UNDERWRITING
OF PART OF A PALIMPSEST IN THE LIBRARY OF
WESTMINSTER COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

(MS. GREGORY 156I, L)

BY

IAN A. MOIR



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Not palimpsest.
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- VI Fol. 95b (*verso*). Harmony.
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PREFACE

My attention was drawn to the Climacus palimpsest by Principal Elmslie of Westminster College, Cambridge and, in view of Gregory's description, 'dieses hoch interessante Buch', it seemed worth taking a chance that the underlying Greek text to be found on one-third of this MS. might contain something more than the Received Text. The results have not proved disappointing. From a textual point of view there are some interesting readings, especially in Mark, where I judge that the MS. is another witness for the 'Caesarean' Text.

A discovery of equal importance has been the fact that this Greek MS. is no straightforward copy of the Gospels nor yet is it a lectionary. It is in two sections: one is an early attempt to provide a synopsis of the Gospels, which, unfortunately, only covers a part of the Passion Narrative; the second is a very unusual selection of excerpts from Matthew and John written as a continuous text of these two Gospels, but revealing intentional *lacunae* which are often very difficult to explain from a literary point of view and also on grounds of logic or grammar.

So far as I am aware, no biblical document of this kind has hitherto been discovered, and I therefore present the results of this study as being of importance for the writing of the literary history of the text of the New Testament and as having their own contribution to add in the general field of textual criticism.

It is hoped to publish separately the text of six pages of the MS. containing Greek underwriting comprising Joshua iv. 3-11 and Psalms cxxxv. 13b-cxxxvi. 9 and cxl. 1-cxlii. 1. These pages are referred to only when their evidence is relevant to the discussion.

In carrying out this work, I have only completed a study whose beginning was made possible by the great enthusiasm of the late Mrs A. S. Lewis in the field of biblical study. In 1909 in *Horae Semiticae*, VIII, Mrs Lewis published, along with the Palestinian Syriac underwriting, one-tenth of the Greek underwriting of

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our MS.¹ Her published text apparently proved a puzzle to leading contemporary scholars. By using ultra-violet light, I have carefully revised Mrs Lewis's text and have deciphered, so far as legible, the remaining nine-tenths of the Greek text. New material is thus provided for part of the New Testament (especially for St John). I have made use of one or two notes left with the MS. by the Rev. P. L. Hedley in 1931.

In reaching my conclusions regarding the MS. I have been constantly indebted to the work of leading palaeographers and textual critics during the past century. The late Sir F. G. Kenyon, the late Professor A. Souter and the late Professor Ellis H. Minns gave me, by letter and personally, valuable help on specific points. Periodical contributions, especially those of B. H. Streeter and R. V. G. Tasker, have been widely used.

This study was made possible by an award from the Divinity Faculty of Aberdeen University, and I have to acknowledge a generous grant from the Hort Memorial Fund towards the cost of photography and the use of ultra-violet ray apparatus.

Various library staffs, especially those of Aberdeen, Cambridge, Edinburgh and St Andrews Universities, New College, Edinburgh, and the National Library of Scotland spared no pains in making available rare volumes and periodical articles. Professor W. Manson of Edinburgh gave valuable assistance in many details, and throughout the work I received every assistance from the Editor of this Series, Professor C. H. Dodd, from whose constant interest, advice and friendly encouragement I have derived untold benefit.

To the staff of the University Press I owe no small gratitude for their unfailing attention and helpfulness.

For deciphering and photographic facilities, I would acknowledge the assistance of the librarian and staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, and of Mr J. Steljes of the Natural Philosophy Department of the University of Edinburgh.

The textual discussions are based on an apparatus independently compiled from the work of Tischendorf (Ed. VIII maior) with

¹ Here and throughout the phrase 'our MS.' refers to the Greek underwriting unless the contrary is expressly stated or is implied in the context.

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supplementary information from S. C. E. Legg's edition of Matthew and Mark, from other recent studies and from the complicated apparatus of von Soden. Much of the evidence has been independently checked from facsimiles.

I have retained Mrs Lewis's title as the title for this study and have added the qualification 'Graecus' to indicate the particular portion of the contents of the MS. which is here dealt with.

As the work has been revised for publication over a considerable period amid the heavy pressure of work in a widespread country parish, some discrepancies may occasionally appear. It is hoped that they will not be found too numerous.

I. A. M.

MANSE OF BALQUHIDDER
PERTSHIRE