

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
Reassessment of the Evidence
Patricia Walters
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE ASSUMED AUTHORIAL UNITY OF LUKE AND ACTS

For nearly 1,900 years, few have questioned the single authorship of Luke and Acts. A careful reassessment of the internal and external evidence, however, reveals this assumption to be built on a shakier foundation than was previously thought. Patricia Walters' innovative study offers a newly designed statistical analysis of Luke and Acts, pointing to the existence of highly significant differences in their prose style. In particular, a comprehensive survey and re-examination of the two books' least contested authorial stratum – their seams and summaries – brings to light ancient prose compositional patterns that distinguish Luke and Acts beyond a reasonable doubt. Walters' application of statistical analysis is unique in biblical scholarship and will provide impetus for using similar methods in other areas of the field. This book will therefore be of great interest to academic researchers and students of early Christianity, classical literature and rhetoric, and New Testament studies.

PATRICIA WALTERS is an assistant professor and Coordinator of the Religious Studies program at Rockford College, Illinois.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
Reassessment of the Evidence

Patricia Walters

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

MONOGRAPH SERIES

General Editor: John M. Court

145

THE ASSUMED AUTHORIAL UNITY OF LUKE AND ACTS

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence
 Patricia Walters
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

MONOGRAPH SERIES

Recent titles in the series

129. The Exorcism Stories in Luke–Acts
 TODD KLUTZ
 978 0521 83804 7
130. Jews, Gentiles and Ethnic Reconciliation
 TET-LIM N. YEE
 978 0521 83831 3
131. Ancient Rhetoric and Paul’s Apology
 FREDRICK J. LONG
 978 0521 84233 4
132. Reconstructing Honor in Roman Philippi
 JOSEPH H. HELLERMAN
 978 0521 84909 8
133. Theological Hermeneutics and 1 Thessalonians
 ANGUS PADDISON
 978 0521 84983 8
134. Greco-Roman Culture and the Galilee of Jesus
 MARK A. CHANCEY
 978 0521 84647 9
135. Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
 SUZANNE WATTS HENDERSON
 978 0521 85906 6
136. The Judaean Poor and the Fourth Gospel
 TIMOTHY J. M. LING
 978 0521 85722 2
137. Paul, The Stoics, and the Body of Christ
 MICHELLE V. LEE
 978 0521 86454 1
138. The Bridegroom Messiah and the People of God
 JOCELYN McWHIRTER
 978 0521 86425 1
139. The Torn Veil
 DANIEL M. GURTNER
 978 0521 87064 1
140. Discerning the Spirits
 ANDRÉ MUNZINGER
 978 0521 87594 3
141. The Sheep of the Fold
 EDWARD W. KLINK III
 978 0521 87582 0
142. The Psalms of Lament in Mark’s Passion
 STEPHEN P. AHERNE-KROLL
 978 0521 88191 3
143. Cosmology and Eschatology in Hebrews
 KENNEDY L. SCHENCK
 978 0 521 88323 8
144. The Speeches of Outsiders in Acts
 OSVALDO PADILLA
 978 0 521 89981 9

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
Reassessment of the Evidence

Patricia Walters

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts

A Reassessment of the Evidence

PATRICIA WALTERS



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence
 Patricia Walters
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521509749

© Patricia Walters 2008

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without
 the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2008

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Walters, Patricia, 1947–

The assumed authorial unity of Luke and Acts : a reassessment of the evidence / Patricia Walters.

p. cm. – (Society for New Testament studies monograph series ; 145)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-50974-9 (hardback)

1. Bible. N.T. Luke – Criticism, interpretation, etc. 2. Bible. N.T.

Acts – Criticism, interpretation, etc. I. Title. II. Series.

BS2589.W35 2008

226.4'066 – dc22 2008034149

ISBN 978-0-521-50974-9 hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
 accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to
 in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such
 websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	??
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	??
1 Background and methodology	1
State of the question	3
External evidence for single authorship	8
Internal evidence for single authorship	10
Stylistic evidence	11
Theological-thematic evidence	21
Challenges to the single authorship hypothesis	24
Challenge by Albert C. Clark (1933)	26
Rebuttal by Wilfred L. Knox (1942)	27
Category 1: Particle and preposition use: τε; μέν; σύν/μετά+genitive; and the case of ἀνὴρ and ἄνθρωπος	27
Category 2: Lexical differences between Acts and the four gospels	29
Category 3: The ἐγένετο argument	30
Category 4: Singular features of Acts	31
Assessment of Clark's challenge and Knox's rebuttal	32
Challenge by A. W. Argyle (1974)	33
Rebuttal by B. E. Beck (1977)	33
Assessment of Argyle's challenge and Beck's rebuttal	35
Why re-examine the single authorship hypothesis?	35
Methodology and precedents	36
Stage One: Select data appropriate for analysis of authorial style	36

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence
 Patricia Walters
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii *Contents*

Stage Two: Recover prose compositional conventions from antiquity	37
Stage Three: Analyze stylometrically the seams and summaries in light of the prose compositional conventions of antiquity	38
Stylometry defined	38
Precedents for the authorship analysis methodology	39
Concluding considerations	41
2 Authorial data: seams and summaries	43
Historical roots of “seam” and “summary” in Markan studies	44
Relevance to Luke and Acts research and resultant problems	48
Criterion of majority consensus	51
Definition of seam and summary functionality	53
Seam	53
Summary	54
Collected set of seams and summaries in Luke	54
The opening of sections; prefaces	55
Closing of sections; conclusions	55
Summaries of Jesus’ ministry and influence	56
Independent composition in introductory or concluding material	65
Collected set of seams and summaries in Acts	74
Summaries that demonstrate the clearest parallelism	79
Summaries that frame narrative panels	80
Summaries that display complicated parallelism	81
Summaries from causal participial constructions	82
Toward an authorship analysis	88
3 Authorial criteria: Greek prose compositional conventions	90
Prose composition in antiquity	94
Early critics of prose composition	96
Aristotle	96
Pseudo-Demetrius	97
Dionysius of Halicarnassus	98
Pseudo-Longinus	102
Euphonic elements in prose composition	103
Hiatus	104
Hiatus in Luke and Acts	107

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence
 Patricia Walters
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>	<i>ix</i>
Dissonance	109
Dissonance in Luke and Acts	110
Rhythmic elements in prose composition	110
Rhythm patterns in Luke and Acts	124
Structural elements in prose composition	126
Structural elements in Luke and Acts	134
4 Authorial unity: analysis results and probabilities	137
Raw data derived from the seams and summaries in Luke and Acts	138
Pre-analysis assumptions	139
Explaining differences: three possibilities	140
Explanation 1: Same author-editor but different genres or styles	141
Different genres	142
Differences in style but not necessarily in genre	145
Explanation 2: Same author-editor but different dates of composition	147
Explanation 3: Different author-editors?	149
Euphony analysis	149
Hiatus	150
The chi-square contingency table test explained	153
Details of the chi-square contingency table test	155
Observed count	157
Expected count	157
Chi-square contribution	158
Chi-square statistic for hiatus	160
Dissonance	160
Chi-square statistic for dissonance	164
Prose rhythm analysis	165
Prose rhythm problematics	167
Sequences of long syllables	170
“Non-long” sequences	172
“Long” sequences	173
Chi-square statistic for sequences of long syllables	173
Sentence structure analysis	175
Sentence structure problematics	176
Final syntactic element	179
Chi-square statistic for ending syntactic element	181
Clause and sentence segues	183

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence
 Patricia Walters
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

<i>x</i>	<i>Contents</i>	
	Chi-square statistic for clause and sentence segues	185
	Interpreting the differences: Is there a “big picture”?	186
	Euphony and prose rhythm	187
	Ending syntactic element, and clause and sentence segues	188
5	Final considerations and future directions	190
	Final considerations	190
	Implications of different authorship	191
	The dating of Acts	192
	“Luke-Acts,” an afterthought?	193
	Resolution of conundra	194
	Future directions	195
	Concluding reflection	196
	<i>Appendix</i>	197
	<i>Bibliography</i>	211
	<i>Index of Biblical and Other Ancient Sources</i>	224
	<i>Index of Modern Authors and Subjects</i>	234

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence
 Patricia Walters
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

FIGURES

1.1 Luke and Acts texts analyzed by Nigel Turner	<i>page</i> 20
1.2 Clark's tabulations for the three types of ἐγένετο construction	30
2.1 Cadbury's list of seams and summaries in Luke	57
2.2 Bultmann's list of introductory and transitional passages	60
2.3 Bultmann's list of introduction, transition, and concluding formulations in Luke	61
2.4 Fitzmyer's list of introductory and concluding authorial composition, summaries, and refrains in Luke	66
2.5 Bovon's list of editorial transitions, allusions to Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, summaries, and frame passages in Luke	68
2.6 Co's list of summaries in Luke	70
2.7 Sterling's list of summaries in Luke	71
2.8 Dibelius' list of summaries, independent sentences, and bridge passages in Acts	77
2.9 Cadbury's list of summaries in Acts	82
2.10 Benoit's list of summaries, notes, and a suture in Acts	84
2.11 Conzelmann's list of summaries, redactional links, and a connective in Acts	85
2.12 Fitzmyer's list of summaries and sutures in Acts	86
3.1 Hiatus examples in Luke and Acts	107
3.2 Hiatus conventions	108
3.3 Dissonance conventions and examples in Luke and Acts	111
3.4 Two-syllable rhythms	117
3.5 Three-syllable rhythms	117
3.6 Two possible rhythm sequences for Acts 5:14	125
3.7 Prose rhythm conventions	126
3.8 Sentence structure conventions	135
4.1 Breakdown of SSD	139
4.2 Examples of hiatus in the Luke and Acts SSD	151

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence
 Patricia Walters
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii *Figures*

4.3	Examples of hiatus following or preceding a seam or summary	152
4.4	Hiatus in the Luke and Acts SSD	153
4.5	Hiatus patterns in vertical bar graph format [white = Luke; shaded = Acts]	154
4.6	Calculating the chi-square output for hiatus	156
4.7	Null hypothesis testing chart	159
4.8	Chi-square output for hiatus	160
4.9	Examples and raw data totals of dissonance from the Luke and Acts SSD	162
4.10	Six-category table of dissonant combinations	163
4.11	Horizontal bar graph of dissonant combinations [white = Luke; shaded = Acts]	164
4.12	Chi-square output for dissonant sound combinations	165
4.13	Syllable quantities in Lk 7:11	167
4.14	Possible rhythm sequences of Lk 7:11a	168
4.15	Possible rhythm sequences of Lk 7:11b	168
4.16	Number of long syllables in “long” and “non-long” sequences	172
4.17	Long syllables as a percentage of “long” and “non-long” sequences [white = Luke; shaded = Acts]	174
4.18	Chi-square for no. of long syllables in “long” and “non-long” sequences	175
4.19	Genitives absolute in Luke and Acts SSD	179
4.20	Ending syntactic element	180
4.21	Vertical bar graph: ending syntactic element [white = Luke; shaded = Acts]	181
4.22	Chi-square output for ending syntactic elements	182
4.23	Post-positive particle vs. paratactic καί	184
4.24	Vertical bar graph of post-positive particle use vs. paratactic καί [white = Luke; shaded = Acts]	185
4.25	Chi-square output for post-positive particle and paratactic καί	186
4.26	Recapitulation of <i>P</i> -Values	186

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
Reassessment of the Evidence
Patricia Walters
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Originating in a dissertation, awarded a PhD at Loyola University Chicago in May 2005, this book has been a total labor of love. The argument that evidence for the authorial unity of Luke and Acts ought to be reassessed and, if necessary, challenged has intrigued me since my early days in graduate school. Without the guidance and inspiration of those at Loyola, however, this book would not have come to fruition. Hence, it is with the most sincere gratitude and admiration that I wish to thank my dissertation director, Thomas H. Tobin, S. J., who steadfastly and patiently guided me through the process. Dr. James Keenan provided a classical studies perspective and inspired me to find precedents for my methodological approach. With inimitable conscientious guidance and support, Dr. Wendy Cotter, C. S. J. showed me how to reach beyond myself to produce not only a cogent argument but also, I hope, a worthy one. These three and Dr. Martin Buntinas of Loyola's Department of Mathematics and Statistics, who generously helped on the statistical sections, as well as many other fine scholars in Loyola's Department of Theology, formed the intellectual soil from which my ideas grew and developed.

This book is dedicated to my mother, Cleora Susan Wadsworth Walters, and *in memoriam* to my father, Robert Earl Walters. My parents taught me to pursue goals with diligence and loyalty, all the while allowing me to follow my own muses. Also, my five sisters have cheered me along the way more than they know. Finally, on the road of self-discovery, the trudge to Happy Destiny, many trusted friends have provided more spiritual, mental, and emotional sustenance than can ever be returned or acknowledged.

My thanks are also due to Dr. Katharina Brett and all the staff at Cambridge University Press who have so kindly helped me organize, revise, and finish this manuscript.

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence
 Patricia Walters
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

The abbreviations for ancient writers and their works have been taken from Simon Hornblower and Antony Spawforth (eds.), *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3rd edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), pp. xxix–liv.

AB	Anchor Bible
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
<i>AJP</i>	<i>The American Journal of Philology</i>
BASPSup	Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists: Supplement
BENT	Beiträge zur Einleitung in das Neue Testament
BETL	Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>CBR</i>	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>
<i>CP</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
ET	English translation
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses</i>
EusSup	Eus Supplementa
<i>EvQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>FN</i>	<i>Filologia Neotestamentaria</i>
<i>HSCP</i>	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HTS	Harvard Theological Studies
<i>ITQ</i>	<i>Irish Theological Quarterly</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JCACSup	Journal of the Classical Association of Canada Supplementary
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-50974-9 - The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts: A
 Reassessment of the Evidence

Patricia Walters

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Abbreviations

xv

<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LEC	Library of Early Christianity
LXX	Septuagint
<i>NT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NTOA	Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue Biblique</i>
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBEC	Studies in the Bible and Early Christianity
SBS	Sources for Biblical Study
SNTA	Studiorum Novi Testamenti Auxilia
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SPIB	Scripta Pontificii Instituti Biblici
SSD	Seam and summary data
<i>TAPA</i>	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>
<i>TCR</i>	<i>The Classical Review</i>
<i>TL</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>TLG</i>	<i>Thesaurus Linguae Graecae</i>
<i>TPAPA</i>	<i>Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association</i>
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>ZTK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>