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Bezae Codex Cantabrigiensis

Codex Bezae is one of the great treasures of Cambridge University Library, to which it was presented in 1581 by the French Protestant theologian Theodore Beza (1519–1605). Containing most of the four Gospels, and Acts, and written during the fifth century, the codex is one of the most important witnesses to the formation of the Gospels. Its origins are unclear, but it was held in the monastery of St Irenaeus at Lyon for many centuries before coming into Beza’s hands during the French Wars of Religion: by giving it to Cambridge, he probably intended to ensure its safety and survival. This edition by Frederick Scrivener (1813–91), making an important manuscript accessible, was published in 1864. After a lengthy introduction to the text and its history, Scrivener provides the parallel Greek and Latin texts of the work, indicating missing sections, abbreviations, lineation and foliation, with editorial notes and alternative readings.

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# Bezae Codex Cantabrigiensis

*Being an Exact Copy, in Ordinary Type, of the  
Celebrated Uncial Graeco-Latin Manuscript  
of the Four Gospels and Acts of the Apostles*

EDITED BY FREDERICK H. SCRIVENER



Cambridge University Press  
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Edited by Frederick Henry Ambrose Scrivener  
Frontmatter  
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AND ACTS OF THE APOSTLES,  
WRITTEN EARLY IN THE SIXTH CENTURY, AND PRESENTED TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE BY THEODORE BEZA, A.D. 1581.  
EDITED WITH  
A CRITICAL INTRODUCTION, ANNOTATIONS, AND FACSIMILES  
BY  
FREDERICK H. SCRIVENER, M.A.  
LECTOR OF S. GERMAN'S, CORNWALL.  
Cambridge :  
DEIGHTON, BELL, AND CO.  
LONDON : BELL AND DALDY.  
1864



S. GERMANUS, June 1, 1864.

F. H. SCRIVENER.

Your obliged and dutiful servant,

I am, my Lord,

My Lord, may it please Him whose Providence has called you to your high office to prosper therein all that your hand findeth to do: may His blessing especially rest on your godly endeavour to restore to our dear Cambridge her ancient glory of being the school and home of true divinity, by persuading her most promising sons to consecrate their fresh strength to the ministry of Christ's Church in England, at this time of no common need.

When I first projected a new Edition of Codex Bezae, you were so good as to recommend my design to the Syndics of the Cambridge Press as one worthy of aid from the funds at their disposal; you have encouraged me throughout my task with kind interest and ready sympathy: yet I am so deeply conscious of the faults of this Volume that I should be ashamed to inscribe it to your Lordship had I not unsparingly devoted to it time and pains and the best faculties of my mind. My work, indeed, has proved far harder than I expected, but its diligent prosecution has brought with it such real delight that I cannot part from the companion of many laborious hours without some loving regret, not unmingled (I would trust) with reverent thankfulness that life and heart have been vouchsafed to me to make one poor contribution more to the critical study of Holy Scripture.

My Lord,

EDWARD HAROLD, LORD BISHOP OF ELY.

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND

“Inclytae modisque omnibus celebratissimae ACADEMIAE CANTABRIGIENSIS Gratiam et pacem a Deo patre ac Domino nostro Jesu Christo.

“Quatuor Evangeliorum et Actorum Apostolicorum graeco latino exemplar ex S. Irenaei caenobio “descriptum, neque ita ut oportuit habitum, sicut ex paginis quibusdā diverso characterē insertis, et indocti “cujuspiam graeci Calogeri<sup>1</sup> barbaris adscriptis alicubi notis apparet. Vestrae potissimum academiae, ut inter “et patres, in cuius sacratio tantum hoc venerandae, nisi forte fallor, vetustatis monumentum colloceatur. “Etsi verò nulli melius quam vos ipsi, quae sit huius exemplari fides habenda, estimarim, hac de re tamen “vos admonendos duxi, tantam a me in lucem praesertim Evangelio repertam esse inter hunc codicem et “caeteros quattuor veteres discrepantiam, ut vitandae quorundam offensionī, asserendum potius quam “publicandum existimem. In hac tamen non sententiarum sed vocum diversitate, nihil profecto compertī [ex “*eras*.] unde suspicari poterim a veteribus illis haereticis fuisse depravatam. Imo multa mihi videor “deprehendisse magna observatione digna: quaedam etiam sic a recepta scriptura discrepantia, ut tamen “cum veterum quorūdā et Graecorum et Latinorum patrum scriptis consentiant: non pauca denique, quibus “vetusta latina editio corroboretur: quae omnia pro ingenii mei modulo inter se comparata, et cum Syra et “Arabica editione collata, in majores meas annotationes a me nuper emendatas et brevi, Deo favente, “producturas congesti. Sed age, res haec tota vestri, sicuti par est, iudicii esto. Tantum a vobis peto, Reverendi “Domini et patres, ut hoc quaecūque summae in vestram amplitudinem observationiae meae [vestr...*eras*.] “veluti monumentum, ab homine vestri studiosissimo profectum, aequi bonique consultiis. “D. Iesus servator noster, et universe vobis omnibus, et privatim singulis, totique adeo Christianissimae “Anglorum genti magis ac magis pro bonitate singulari sua benedicat.

“GENEVAE. VIII Idus Dec. anno Domini MD LXXXI.

“Vestrae totius inclitae academiae dignitati addictissimus  
THEODORUS BEZA.”

“Ornatissimo viro et in omni literarum genere excellentissimo THEODORO BEZAE primario pastori Genevensi.

“Accepimus literas tuas (Ornatissime Beza) plenas humanitatis, tresque praeterea libros academicae “librariae consecratos, quorum duo quinque Mosi volumina hebraice scripta complectuntur, multis doctis- “simorum hominum commentariis illustrata, tertius vero manuscriptus quatuor evangelistas graeco latino- “continet cum actis apostolorum. In quibus omnibus facile existimari potest quam honorifice de Academia “Cantabrigiensi sentias quamque vehementer cupias sempiternum apud nos nominis ac memoriae tuae “monumentum conservari. Gaudemus hercle (Gravissime Beza) sic esse res nostras ut a te tristi ac directo “Theologo sic<sup>2</sup> laudissimis verbis efferrantur, sed quod illud in votis habeam ut aliquo collato beneficio de “Academia nostra bene mereare, id vero serio triumphamus.

“Quamquam (si vere loqui volumus) insignes lucubrationes tuae theologiae, quae quotidie vigent apud “nos, et in omnium ore ac sermone volitant tales sunt tamque divinis rebus accommodatae<sup>3</sup> ut vel eo tantum “nomine nunquam tibi satis debere posse videamur. Nam hoc scito post unitae scripturae sacratissimam “cognitionem, nullos unquam ex omni memoria temporum scriptores exstisse quos memorabili viro Johanni “Calvino tibi quae praeferramus, ut vel hac sola beneficentia contentus majorem gratificandi modum non “desideres. Sed quoniam nullum finem statuis bonitati tuae, nec tibi satisfactis dum illa tua scripta ad nos “perveniant quae cum ceteris quoque gentibus communicata sunt nisi quorundam etiam librorum privatam “accessionem adjungas: publicis tuis scriptis pro communibus sunt nisi quorundam etiam privata eademque “germana dona literatissimi viri multo artius amplectemur<sup>4</sup>. Nam si magorum hominum liberalitatem qui “nos possessionibus locupletant in summa laude ponamus, quo tandem studio prosequemur eos, qui “curant ut omni salutarī literatura abundemus<sup>5</sup>. Ac licet hanc animi tui gratitiam propensionem quam “simillimo munere remunerare difficile sit: quantum tamen amore et industria perficere possimus, emitemur “ut intelligas te nobis esse charissimum, nihilque hoc tuo postremo beneficio gratius unquam accidisse.

“Deus opt. max. fidelissimi ministerii tui uberrimum fructum concedat teque ipsum post multos exant- “latos labores immortalī gloria coronet.

“CANTABRIGIAE, 15<sup>o</sup> Cal. Junii, anno dñi 1582.

“Salutis et dignitatis tuae cupidissimi  
“PROCANCELLARIUS et  
“reliquus SENATUS Cantabrigiensis.”

<sup>1</sup> “Calogeri. Monachi, praesertim senio et aetate venerandi (καλογήρως).” Ducas *Glossar. ad Script. Med. Latine*.  
<sup>2</sup> sic (cum erased in MS.)  
<sup>3</sup> accommodatae (apptissimae erased in MS.)  
<sup>4</sup> amplectemur (amplectuntur erased in MS.)  
<sup>5</sup> at abundemus a full stop in the MS. It should be a (i)