

Introduction to the 3rd edition

"We should always try to clarify and to strengthen our opponent's position as much as possible before criticizing him, if we wish our criticism to be worth while."

Sir Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*

Changes to the 2nd edition:

- **The major addition:** A commentary about all remaining variants (ca. 300) where WH and NA²⁷ disagree, which are not already noted in the main commentary. These are all "minor" variants, where the meaning is (basically) the same. Now all those instances have been added in extra files for each Gospel.

The commentary now covers about 1500 variants on 2200 pages!

- Due to popular request I have changed the rather unusual designation BGT into NA²⁷.
- I have also added a short comment about the rating of each variant unit at the bottom of the discussion to make clear what I mean, e.g. "Rating: 2 (= NA clearly original)".
- I have added for every variant the lacunae of the important MSS.
- I have added a file about the fragmentary uncials, which are not very well known, but deserve to be noted and studied. The following are outstanding: 083, 085 and 0274.
- I have put up a top-5, a top-20 and a top-50 list of variants. Of these I consider the top-20 the most important. I think this is the list on which most would agree.
- The results from Amy Anderson's new book on 1582 in Mt ("The Textual Tradition of the Gospels - Family 1 in Matthew" Brill, 2004) have been worked in.
- The quotations of the Gospel of John by Origen have been incorporated using Ehrman's edition ("The text of the fourth Gospel in the writings of Origen", 1992).
- All readings of 2427 (Mark) have been checked from the digital facsimile.
- The readings of the Gothic version have been added from the Wulfila project.
- The intro section of the Pericope de Adultera file has been completely reworked and enlarged (many early quotations added).

- The first two editions are now also online as zipped archives for reference purposes.
- Numerous minor changes throughout.

Added variants in the main commentary:

Mt 9:4, 19:24c, 20:17b, 20:23a, 22:16, 26:20

Mk 1:4, 12:28, 14:7

Lk 1:76, 17:12, 21:11, 21:24, 23:43

Jo 1:15, 19:38, 21:4, 21:18

Thanks again to all those who sent in comments. These are always very welcome. I would like to say once again that this work is probably quite imperfect. It is very probable that I have overlooked important arguments at certain points. I appreciate all comments and literature references.

Bremen, January 2005

Wieland Willker

"Aland is our new Tischendorf. Now we need a new Hort."

(Robert B. Waltz)