

Introduction to the 6th edition

This new edition features for the first time a section called "*Paleographical Problems in manuscripts of the Gospels*". For some time I wanted to include images into the commentary. But I didn't want to blow up the commentary files, so I decided to create extra files for this discussion and put only a pointer into the commentary.

In the new folder are e.g. difficult to read passages, corrections, or problematic reconstructions of fragmentary material. Some cases are comparatively simple, others difficult, some even, at present, unsolvable. Everything is based on images that I have found on the internet or have acquired myself.

So far, 64 cases are covered. The final sentence in many cases is "This should be checked at the original again." So, if you have access to any of these manuscripts, please check them out.

Note that this is the first edition of this section! All ideas, improvements and corrections are very welcome!

Other changes in the new edition:

- Added the latest P.Oxy. Papyri for the Gospel of John (P119-P122).
- Went through the IGNTP transcriptions of the Gospel of John, both the majuscules and the Byzantine text and checked everything (list of discrepancies between NA, T&T, IGNTP available on request). Checked especially the readings of 029 and 083. Note that 0141 is included in the Byzantine edition of IGNTP only. 0141 has good text in John, I have included it throughout.
- Checked the Gospel of John against the new online edition of the *Vetus Latina Iohannes* from Birmingham. (Since several of the Old Latin witnesses have no letter designation, I have used their numbers in a smaller font, to avoid confusion with Greek witnesses. Example: D, Θ, 397, 597, 892, pc¹⁹, b, d, e, j, r¹, 33. In case of possible confusion I have added additionally "OLat" in front of it.)
- Added/started a discussion of the Diatessaron evidence for the PA.
- Added the Latin evidence for the PA in a Swanson style and added a discussion of the Latin text type.
- Finally Royse's long awaited major tome "*Scribal Habits*" appeared (1051 pages!). This is a very serious work. He is the new king of minutiae! His dedication to detail is incredible. Note how many things he checked on microfilm. I went through his work twice and incorporated the many very interesting observations into the commentary. Often the footnotes turned out to be more important than the main text. For my purposes at least I would have preferred a different layout: Ordering the material by chapter and verse.

- Added some readings of the interesting Arabic MS published in NovT: Sinai Ar. Parchment 8+28. It was among the new finds from 1975. See NovT 50(2008)28-57.
- Checked all Vienna manuscripts as published in S. Porter's new edition "*New Testament Greek Papyri and Parchments: New Editions*" 2008. The texts are very carefully transcribed, with a welcome conservative attitude. All noteworthy details are noted. Comparable to the recent IGNTP editions.
- Compared the Clement quotations against the dissertation by Carl. P. Cosaert "The text of the gospels in Clement of Alexandria" SBL 2008.
- Extended the file on the Markan Endings considerably based on the stimulating material provided by Jim Snapp.
- Checked all readings of Δ/037 from the new, online color images.
- Added the latest literature as far as I became aware of it. Please inform me about any references that might be interesting.
- As always numerous minor and some major changes throughout.
- Word 2007: With this edition I started working with Office 2007, which produced some strange formatting quirks. If you come across anything strange, please let me know!

Ten years ago in 1998 I started working on this commentary. The first edition went online in 2003. Thanks to all who supported me with their knowledge and time. Some names in no particular order:

Klaus Wachtel, Klaus Witte and Gerd Mink from Muenster, Maurice Robinson, Dan Wallace, David Parker, Amy Anderson, Mark Goodacre, Peter Head, Michael Holmes, William L. Petersen (†), Ulrich Schmid, Bill Warren, Pete Williams, Richard Budelberger, Bruce Prior and Timothy A. E. Brown.

Thank you for the support!

Added variants in the main commentary:

Mt 28:19a

Lk 9:50a, 11:34b

Jo 7:52a, 8:3a, 8:9a, 13:33

Please contribute!

Comments, thoughts, literature ...

Bremen, January 2009

Wieland Willker