

**AMERICAN GREEK TESTAMENTS:
A CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT
AS PUBLISHED IN AMERICA**

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American Greek Testaments: A Critical Bibliography of the Greek New Testament as Published in America by Isaac H. Hall

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BY

ISAAC H. HALL A. M. LL. B. PH. D.

WITH TWO FACSIMILE ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE.

THE present work, as the reader will perceive, is but one branch, and an indirect outcome, of long research in a more comprehensive field of study. But, that branch once taken up, it has been explored with all possible thoroughness; and wherever the present investigation has found its limit, an attempt is made to indicate the twigs upon which fruit may still be hanging out of reach.

Bibliographic work, according to all experience, is never perfect. Diligence along the lines of regular information and of systematic search is ever supplemented by the knowledge that comes only by chance. The antiquarian bookstore, the street stall, or the rag-dealer's stock, will now and then reveal a series of facts to which the librarians, the publishers, or the bibliophiles, could give no clue. Fortune is said proverbially to favor the collector and the bibliographer; but the latter knows that she distributes her favors, and bestows all upon none. He must be content with doing his best; and, after exhausting the obvious sources of information, and following up the obscurer clues, he must be willing to put his results into permanent form without waiting too long for mere wind-falls.

The original groundwork of the following pages is a paper on The Greek New Testament as Published in America, presented to the American Philological Association at its meeting in Cambridge in 1882, and published in their transactions for that year. The wide distribution of that essay opened many new sources of information hitherto inaccessible or undiscovered, furnishing data for the addition of many items, besides a few corrections. It brought the author into communication with persons whom he had supposed to be no longer living, and thus rescued not a few facts from irrecoverable uncertainty or speedy oblivion. The quantity of information thus gained—adding well nigh a hundred to the num-

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ber of books enumerated, and putting a different aspect upon sundry historical matters—together with the flattering reception which that paper met with on both sides of the Atlantic, seemed to make the way clear for a more complete presentation of the subject.

In the former publication, the author depended almost entirely upon his personal inspection of books, and his single-handed research; and these are still the basis of by far the greater portion of the following statements. But in completing the present work, he has many to thank for information kindly communicated, often at the expense of no little trouble and research. Help has been furnished unsparingly, and even with enthusiasm. To mention all to whom the author is indebted, either for positive additions of fact, or for aid in sifting contradictory testimony and ascertaining the truth about matters heretofore in dispute or doubt, is out of the question here; but the author's thanks to each are none the less sincere and particular. The publishers, the librarians, and the scholars, have responded with cheerful readiness to requests which sometimes even bordered on the unreasonable. It would be unjust, however, to omit special mention of the unusual kindness and efficiency of Dr. Ezra Abbot, of Cambridge, and Dr. Benjamin B. Warfield, of Allegheny, the former for supplying difficult and elusive items of divers sorts, and the latter in pointing out more than a score of issues of the Greek New Testament that were omitted in the former publication. To a few librarians letters of inquiry have been posted, from whom no reply has come. But more than two of these pages would be occupied with a list of those whose kind responses to the writer's inquiries have been more free, more full, and more painstaking, than he had dared to ask.

Personal verification, however, where possible, has never been neglected, whatever may have been the source or the means of new information; and no pains have been spared to secure accuracy. If any slip or omission is discovered, the author will be grateful to any-one who shall make it known to him.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1883.

THE
GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

AS

PUBLISHED IN AMERICA.

I. PRELIMINARY.

ASIDE from the bibliophile's passion or the collector's mania, there are sundry sound reasons for an inquiry into the history and character of the Greek New Testament as published in America. Most of these reasons are those developed by the inquiry itself, and centre themselves in the varieties of text thus disclosed; varieties existing not only in the critical editions, but in the adored *textus receptus* itself—before the critical editions had much circulation, or, as to most of them, an existence. The critic, no less than the bibliographer, has an interest in the investigation.

Secondary, but still a fact and noteworthy, is the revelation thus made of the industry and enthusiasm of the earlier American editors; who, to a greater extent than is commonly suspected, exercised an independent judgment and skill. Although their pioneer work would not fill the wants of to-day, it has been rather too meanly judged by their successors, and deserves at least an honorable record.

The ground, moreover, is almost unbroken. In O'Callaghan's American Bibles,¹ only sixteen editions of the Greek Testament are described or enumerated; a mere fraction of the number then existing; not to mention those issued in the twenty-three years that have since elapsed—nearly all of them prolific, except the four years of war.

¹ A List of Editions of the Holy Scriptures and Parts thereof, printed in America previous to 1860. By E. B. O'Callaghan. Albany, 1861.

In the last two centuries, though theological books abounded, it was an almost unheard of thing to see a quotation from the Greek Testament—at least, in Greek type—in an American book. Nor were the English citations always made from our Common Version. The lawyers were apt to follow Coke's example, or to cite at second hand from him and others, who quoted the Vulgate Latin and supplied an original rendering therefrom. The clergymen had not altogether ceased to use or to quote the Genevan Bible, the version which came over to New England with the early settlers, and which still is often to be seen preserved for its associations and its ancient family record.¹ To this day certain theological books are printed in this country with their Scripture citations from an English version earlier than our Common one. An every-day example of this is the edition of Luther's Commentary on Galatians commonly circulated among the Presbyterians. This translation (it is a revision as well) antedates our Common Version, and still keeps its Scripture citations unchanged.

Of course the Greek Testament was in the land, in numbers abundant for the times. I have no data, even approximate, to form a judgment as to the particular editions which were most common; but in the theological libraries and in private collections I have seen evidence of their great variety.² For many years, too, I have known it as a fact that the rarer and more highly prized editions used to be regularly sought by certain second-hand dealers for exportation to Europe; where, until recently, such old treasures readily brought a higher price than here. To judge from such facts as are apparent, the earlier immigrants chiefly brought editions produced in

¹ Most of these immigrant copies were printed just at the close of the sixteenth century, and contain as their New Testament portion that "Englished by L. Tomson," from the Latin of Theodore Beza.

² Of the 114 editions known to have been printed in the 16th century, I know of at least 60 in America (39 in my own library). About the same number were printed in the 17th century, and of these I know where to find more than 70 in America (39 in my own library). The proportions are much larger for the 18th and 19th centuries. I have made no special search for ancient editions possessed in this country; but I know that nearly, if not quite, all the important historical editions are to be found here; most of them more frequently than would be expected.

Antwerp, Leyden, Geneva, and Lyons, with a sprinkling from presses along the Rhine, and some of Paris make; but just before and after the American Revolution, more copies came from England and Scotland. However, but few editions were produced in England before the settlement of Massachusetts, I can find traces of but two¹ printed before 1620.

¹ These were Vautroller's (H. Stephens's text), London, 1587, 16mo; and another of the same text, *Regia Typographia*, London, 1592, 16mo. The London Beza of 1565, mentioned by Scrivener (*Plain Introd. to N. T. Crit.*, ed. 1874, p. 390, note 1; also, his *N. T. Gr.*, ed. 1873, p. viii.) is doubtless a mistake, which is only made worse by its reiteration with fresh errors, in the 3d ed. of his *Plain Introd.* (1883), p. 440, note 2. The readings which Scrivener gives in the earlier edd. of his *N. T. Gr.* as those of "Bezae 1565" are not those of a genuine Beza. A like remark applies to his "Result of a Collation in the Apocalypse of Beza 1565 with St. and Elz." in his *Plain Introduction*, ed. of 1861, p. 311. He must have used a book which presented very nearly the text of *Henry Stephens*.