This is the first major English-language introduction to the earliest manuscripts of the New Testament to appear for over forty years. An essential handbook for scholars and students, it provides a thorough grounding in the study and editing of the New Testament text combined with an emphasis on dramatic current developments in the field. Covering ancient sources in Greek, Syriac, Latin and Coptic, it describes the manuscripts and other ancient textual evidence, and the tools needed to study them; deals with textual criticism and textual editing, describing modern approaches and techniques, with guidance on the use of editions; introduces the witnesses and textual study of each of the main sections of the New Testament, discussing typical variants and their significance.

A companion website with full-colour images provides generous amounts of illustrative material, bringing the subject alive for the reader.

D. C. Parker is Edward Cadbury Professor of Theology in the Department of Theology and Religion and a Director of the Institute for Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing, University of Birmingham. His publications include The Living Text of the Gospels (1997) and Codex Bezae: an Early Christian Manuscript and its Text (1992).
AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
MANUSCRIPTS AND
THEIR TEXTS

D. C. PARKER

University of Birmingham
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The plates accompanying this work are placed separately on a website. This has the advantage that high-quality colour digital images can be made available to the user without the book becoming too expensive. Moreover, the traditional series of largely black-and-white plates is far less successful in revealing either the character or the detail of a manuscript to the reader. The plates may all be viewed at www.cambridge.org/parker.

A ♦ is placed in the text where a plate is provided. I have confined the plates largely to the sections where I describe the development of text formats, namely chapters 1, 5 and 6. The following are the images:

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3. London, British Library, Add. 43725, Codex Sinaiticus (Gregory–Aland 01), Quire 79, Folios 1v and 2r
4. Vercelli, Bibliotheca Capitolare, s.n., Codex Vercellensis, Folios 181r and 196v
5. Florence, Biblioteca Laurenziana Plut. I, Syr. 56, Folio 158v–159r
6. Basel, University Library, AN III.12 (Gregory–Aland 07), Folio 102v
7. St Petersburg, Russian National Library, Gr. 219 (Gregory–Aland 461)
8. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Lat. 9380, Codex Theodulpianus, Prologue to the Gospels
9. London, British Library Burney 18 (Gregory–Aland 480), Folio 66r
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13. J. J. Wetstein, Novum Testamentum Graecum, 1751–2, page 392

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14. A manuscript collation by T. S. Pattie

Chapter 4.7

15. Birmingham, University Library, Mingana Greek 7 (Gregory–Aland 713), Folio 113v–114r

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17. Relationship of manuscripts in the Epistle of James
18. A hypothetical stemma
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20. Provisional stemma of manuscripts in the Catholic Letters

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21. Cambridge University Library, British and Foreign Bible Society MSS, 213, Codex Zacynthius (Gregory–Aland 040)

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35. R. Stephanus’ Greek New Testament, 1550, page 240
36. The Complutensian Polyglot (1514)
38. Irico’s transcription of the Old Latin Gospels Codex Vercellensis, columns 559–62
41. Tischendorf’s *Editio octava*, volume 11, page 264
42. The Münster *Editio critica maior* Part IV, Catholic Letters, Instalment 2, *Letters of Peter*, page 196
43. The IGNTP edition of the papyri of John: A transcription, page 118
44. The IGNTP edition of the papyri of John: The apparatus, page 386
45. The IGNTP edition of the papyri of John: An image, plate 47

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46. Tischendorf’s *Editio octava*, volume 1, pages 303–4

Chapter 7.2

49. Augsburg, University Library, Cod. I.1.4.1 (Gregory–Aland 2814), Folio 88v
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50. Provisional stemma of manuscripts in the Letter of James

Chapter 10.7

51. Birmingham, Mingana Collection, Peckover Gr. 7 (Gregory–Aland 713), Folio 65v–66r
Links to URLs

I have taken the opportunity to use the website for the images to put in the links to the URLs mentioned in the text. These may be accessed at www.cambridge.org/9780521719896, and each one should take the reader straight to the site.
Acknowledgements

An introductory text of this kind, drawing as it does on several centuries of detailed research, is in itself an acknowledgement of debt to generations of scholars. It especially reflects the contribution of contemporaries, whose writings have inspired and whose papers and conversation have stimulated me. Some readers may recognise the influence of such discussion from time to time in what follows.

In particular, what I have written has no doubt been substantially moulded by the twenty years in which I have worked with colleagues in editing the International Greek New Testament Project. We began work on the Gospel of John in 1987, and in that time I have spent many hours, days and weeks in the company of others working on this project. For half of that time (since 1997), we have been working in increasingly close partnership with the Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung, Münster. The challenges of a major project and the expertise of many colleagues leave their traces everywhere.

More recently I have benefited in my own institution from congenial and expanding text-critical surroundings. The Centre for the Editing of Texts in Religion was established in 2000. Its range was expanded in 2005 with the formation of the Institute for Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing. Both staff and students have broadened my horizons and challenged my thinking, as has the execution of our current projects.

A number of these colleagues read this book in draft and offered encouragement, corrections and improvements. The staff of Cambridge University Press have, as ever, been helpful in many ways.

At one stage I even considered dedicating this book to all New Testament textual critics, living and departed. However, I was reminded of a promise made in the days when we read picture books together, that when I wrote one myself I would dedicate it to my children. So this book is for Louise, James, John and Alison.
Abbreviations

This list contains abbreviations, and short titles of works cited in more than one chapter. If a work is cited more than once only within a few pages, the short title is easily understood and is not listed here.

K. Aland, *Die alten Übersetzungen*

K. Aland (ed.), *Die alten Übersetzungen des Neuen Testaments, die Kirchenübersetzte und Lektionare. Der gegenwärtige Stand ihrer Erforschung und ihre Bedeutung für die griechische Textgeschichte* (ANTF 5), Berlin, 1972


Aland and Juckel, *NT in syrischer Überlieferung 1*


Aland and Juckel, *NT in syrischer Überlieferung 2*

List of abbreviations

Hebräerbrief (ANTF 32), Berlin and New York, 2002


Anderson, Family 1 in Matthew (NTTS 32), Leiden and Boston, 2004

ANRW Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt

ANTF Arbeiten zur neutestamentliche Textforschung, Berlin (and New York)

Baarda Festschrift Sayings of Jesus: Canonical and Non-canonical. Essays in Honour of Tjitze Baarda (NovTSuppl 89), Leiden, 1997


BETL Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium, Leuven


Birdsall and Thomson, Biblical and Patristic Studies in Memory of Robert Pierce Casey, Freiburg, 1963


CBL Collectanea Biblica Latina

CBNTS Coniectanea Biblica New Testament Series

List of abbreviations

CLA

Clemons, Index of Syriac Manuscripts
J. T. Clemons, An Index of Syriac Manuscripts Containing the Epistles and the Apocalypse (SD 33), Salt Lake City, 1968

Colwell, ‘Method in Locating a Newly-discovered Manuscript’

Colwell, ‘Origin of Texttypes’

Colwell, Studies in Methodology

CPG

CPL
E. Dekkers, Clavis Patrum Latinorum qua in Corpus Christianorum edendum optimas quaeque scriptorum recensiones a Tertulliano ad Bedam (Corpus Christianorum Series Latina), 3rd edn, rev. A. Gaar, Steenbruge, 1995

CSCO
Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium
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Elliott, A Survey of Manuscripts  

Elliott and Parker, Papyri  

Epp, Collected Essays  

Epp and Fee, Metzger Festschrift  

Epp and Fee, Studies  

ETL  
Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanensis

Fee, Papyrus Bodmer II (P66)  
G. D. Fee, Papyrus Bodmer II (P66): Its Textual Relationships and Scribal Characteristics (SD 34), Salt Lake City, 1968

Festschrift Delobel  

Fischer, Beiträge  
B. Fischer, Beiträge zur Geschichte der lateinischen Bibeltexte (GLB 12), Freiburg, 1986

Fischer, ‘Das Neue Testament in lateinischer Sprache’  

Frede, Altlateinische Paulus-Handschriften G.–A.  
H. J. Frede, Altlateinische Paulus-Handschriften (GLB 4), Freiburg, 1964

Gamble, Books and Readers  
List of abbreviations


Gardthausen, Palaeographie (1979)

Gibson, Bible in the Latin West

GLB Aus der Geschichte der lateinischen Bibel, Freiburg

Gregory, Textkritik

Gryson, Altlateinische Handschriften

Gryson, Philologia Sacra

Gryson, Répertoire général

Harlfinger, Griechische Kodikologie

Horner, Northern Dialect


M. T. Gibson, The Bible in the Latin West (The Medieval Book 1), Notre Dame and London, 1993

C. R. Gregory, Textkritik des Neuen Testaments, 3 vols., Leipzig, 1900–9


D. Harlfinger (ed.), Griechische Kodikologie und Textüberlieferung, Darmstadt, 1980

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<td>HTR</td>
<td>Harvard Theological Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICSBS</td>
<td>Institute of Classical Studies Bulletin Supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGNTP</td>
<td>International Greek New Testament Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBL</td>
<td>Journal of Biblical Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSNT</td>
<td>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JTS</td>
<td><em>Journal of Theological Studies</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenyon, Greek Papyri</td>
<td>F.G. Kenyon, <em>The Palaeography of Greek Papyri</em>, Oxford, 1899</td>
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Kiraz, Comparative Edition of the Syriac Gospels


Kraus and Nicklas, New Testament Manuscripts


Lake, Codex 1

K. Lake, Codex 1 of the Gospels and its Allies (TS 1.7/3), Cambridge, 1902

Lake and New, Six Collations


Liste


Martini, Codex B alla luce del papiro Bodmer XIV

C. M. Martini, Il problema della recensionalità del codice B alla luce del papiro Bodmer XIV (Analecta Biblica 26), Rome, 1966

McGurk, Latin Gospel Books

P. McGurk, Latin Gospel Books from AD 400 to AD 800, Paris, Brussels, Antwerp and Amsterdam, 1961

McKendrick and O’Sullivan


Metzger, Canon of the New Testament


Metzger, Early Versions


Metzger, New Testament Studies


Metzger and Ehrman

List of abbreviations


*Münster Bericht* Bericht der Hermann Kunst Stiftung der Förderung der neutestamentlichen Textforschung, Münster


NovT *Novum Testamentum*

Nov'TSuppl Supplements to Novum Testamentum

NTA Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen

*NT auf Papyrus I* W. Grunewald (ed.) with K. Junack, *Das Neue Testament auf Papyrus, I. Die Katholischen Briefe*, (ANTF 6), Berlin and New York, 1986


*NTS* New Testament Studies

*NTTS* New Testament Tools and Studies

P. (or Pap.) Papyrus (usually of a papyrus collection, e.g. P. Michigan refers to an inventory number in the Michigan papyri


List of abbreviations

Schmid, Andreas von Kaisareia. Einleitung

Schmid, ‘Genealogy by Chance!’

Schmid, Marcion und sein Apostolos

Schmid, Elliott and Parker, Majuscles

Scrivener, Augiensis
F. H. A. Scrivener, *An Exact Transcript of the Codex Augiensis ... to Which Is Added a Full Collation of Fifty Manuscripts*, Cambridge and London, 1859

Scrivener, Plain Introduction

SD
Studies and Documents

Skeat, Collected Biblical Writings
J. K. Elliott (ed.), *The Collected Biblical Writings of T. C. Skeat* (NovTSuppl 113), Leiden and Boston, 2004

SL
Sonderlesart

SNTSMS
Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series

Souter¹
A. Souter (ed.), *Novum Testamentum Graece. Textui a retractatoribus anglis adhibito brevem adnotationem criticam subiecit*, Oxford, 1910

Souter²
A. Souter (ed.), *Novum Testamentum Graece etc.*, 2nd edn, Oxford, 1947

Streeter, The Four Gospels

Studies in Stemmatology, vol. 11

Swanson, Greek Manuscripts

Swete, Introduction

Taylor, Studies in the Early Text

Textus Receptus, Oxford, 1873

Thompson, Introduction

Tischendorf, Editio octava

Tregelles, Account of the Printed Text

TS

TS

TU

Turner, GMAW

Turner, Typology

List of abbreviations

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VC Vigiliae Christianae


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List of abbreviations

Weber, Biblia Sacra


Weren and Koch, Recent Developments


Westcott and Hort


White, Actuum Apostolorum

J. White, Actuum Apostolorum et epistolarum tam catholicarum quam paulinarum, versio Syriaca Philexeniana etc., 2 vols., Oxford, 1803

Wordsworth and White

J. Wordsworth and H. J. White, Novum Testamentum Domini Nostri Iesu Christi Latine secundum editionem Sancti Hieronymi, 3 vols., Oxford, 1889–1954 (for full details, see 3.3.2)

WUNT

Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament

ZNW

Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft

Zuntz, Ancestry


Zuntz, Opuscula Selecta

G. Zuntz, Opuscula Selecta. Classica, Hellenistica, Christiana, Manchester, 1972

Zuntz, Text of the Epistles

and their significance. A companion website with full-colour images provides generous amounts of illustrative material, bringing the subject alive for the reader. ...more. Get A Copy.

Parker avoids confusing his categories, for the most part, and sticks specifically to introducing the major text-critical problems in New Testament studies, and provides invaluable information on exactly how text critical scholarship should be done effectively.