

J. K. Elliott, *A Bibliography of Greek New Testament Manuscripts*, Novum Testamentum Supplement 160; Leiden: Brill, 2015. Pp. XLIII + 408. Hardback ISBN 978-90-04-28923-9, Ebook ISBN 978-90-04-28968-0. Hardback €120.00, Ebook €117.

- [1] Since its first edition in 1989 J. Keith Elliott's *Bibliography* has become an indispensable standard reference tool for everybody interested in New Testament textual criticism and in manuscripts with text from the New Testament. Elliott's primary goal to provide bibliographical data for every relevant manuscript turned out to be a major *desideratum*, and scholars and students alike have become familiar with and happy about the handy publication of references. According to the progress of work on manuscripts the *Bibliography* had to be updated in 2000 and supplemented by three publications in *Novum Testamentum*. Thus, it had been time to update the *Bibliography* again and to take into account that digital humanities offer quite some help for the bibliographer nowadays so that Elliott can state himself in the acknowledgements (p. vii): "This third expanded and revised printed edition is linked to the online bibliographical resources of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Lausanne to be found under its logo BiBIL. Some 3,600 Greek New Testament manuscripts have merited an entry here."
- [2] The third edition follows the pattern users of earlier editions are used to: a list of abbreviations is provided so that bibliographical references for every manuscript can be given in their short form. In his introduction Elliott explains the reference system and how to use this tool with very helpful asides on the development and growth of the current numeration system of New Testament manuscripts and major publications. Then follows the bibliography itself dividing manuscripts into papyri, majuscules, minuscules, and lectionaries, a division that has become standard.
- [3] It takes no wonder that the length of bibliographical data differs from item to item, because some obviously received more interested and provided more controversies than others (e.g., P45 on pp. 25–27 compared to P19 on p. 19 with only five references). The individual entries lay open what Elliott is consequently after: he is not interested in supplying *every* mention of a certain manuscript in a publication but specializes on studies explicitly dedicated to that manuscript and/or catalogues; and this keeps the collection of data so handy, thorough, and helpful at the same time.
- [4] Especially in the majuscules section it becomes evident that the lower the manuscript number (e.g., 05 D = Codex Bezae) the more likely it is that scholars write about them. Of course, this might also have to do with the individual history of research of each of these majuscules, the interest they received from its discovery on, and their assumed importance for textual criticism or other relevant disciplines. However, there are not publications for every New Testament manuscript available or, in other words, not every manuscript has been treated so far (e.g., 1308, 2925), especially in respect of some of the lectionaries.
- [5] All in all, Elliott deals with papyri up to number 127, majuscules to 0323, minuscules to 2926, and lectionaries to 12463.
- [6] The appendix offers relevant titles for studying potential text types of the New Testament (e.g., Byzantine, Western), lists "primers of textual criticism," library catalogues, and publications in which "[b]ibliographical material on textual criticism in general as well as on individual manuscripts may be found" (p. 404).

Readers also find tools for studying manuscripts palaeographically and a selection of Internet resources.

- [7] The section of “Unregistered Manuscripts” (p. 408) remains blank in this edition of the *Bibliography*, because earlier entries there either have received a Gregory number and thus are listed among the other manuscripts or “did not qualify for a Gregory number, for example if the witness is an amulet.”
- [8] Still the issue of the relevance of amulets and manuscripts with noncontinuous or multiple texts for the study of the New Testament remains to be solved one day. However, it is not the task to be fulfilled in a splendid and very useful publication like the third edition of the *Bibliography*.

*Thomas J. Kraus*  
*University of Zürich*

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