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***The Greek and Hebrew Bible: Collected Essays on the Septuagint***

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Everyone working on the Septuagint should welcome this collection of essays by one of the leading scholars in the field, because some of them were difficult to obtain. Moreover, a kind of introduction into the present state of LXX studies is now available, that clearly shows the various questions which are raised by the Greek translation of the Tanach and its revisions and the different ways on which they have to be answered.

The collection is subdivided into six sections:

I. General Studies: The Rabbinic Tradition concerning the “Alterations” Inserted into the Greek Translation of the Torah and Their Relation to the Original Text of the Septuagint (p. 1-20); The Fifth Fascicle of Margolis’ *The Book of Joshua in Greek* (p. 21-30); A Computerized Database for Septuagint Research (p. 31-51); Glosses, Interpolations, and Other Types of Scribal Additions in the Text of the Hebrew Bible (p. 53-74); *Eine Tora für den König Talmai* (p. 75-82).

II. Lexicography: Three Dimensions of Words in the Septuagint (p. 85-94); Some Thoughts on a Lexicon of the Septuagint (p. 95-108); “Greek Words and Hebrew Meanings” (p. 109-128).

III. Translation Technique and Exegesis: Compound Words in the Septuagint Representing Two or More Hebrew Words (p. 131-152); Midrash-Type Exegesis in the Septuagint of Joshua (p. 153-163); Loan-words, Homophony, and Transliterations in the Septuagint (p. 165-182); The Impact of the Septuagint Translation of the Torah on the Translation of the Other Books (p. 183-194); The Representation of the Causative Aspects of the Hiph`il in the Septuagint (p. 195-202); Did the Septuagint Translators Always Understand Their Hebrew Text? (p. 203-218); Computer-Assisted Study of the Criteria for Assessing the

Literalness of Translation Units in the Septuagint (p. 219-237); The Nature and Study of the Translation Technique of the Septuagint (p. 239-246); Renderings of Combinations of the Infinitive Absolute and Finite Verbs in the Septuagint—Their Nature and Distribution (p. 247-256); Theologically Motivated Exegesis Embedded in the Septuagint (p. 257-269).

IV. The Septuagint and the Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible: The Textual Affiliations of 4QSam<sup>a</sup> (p. 273-283); The Contribution of the Qumran Scrolls to the Understanding of the Septuagint (p. 285-300); Interchanges of Consonants between the Masoretic Text and the Vorlage of the Septuagint (p. 301-311).

V. The Septuagint and the Literary Criticism of the Hebrew Bible: Exegetical Notes on the Hebrew Vorlage of the Septuagint of Jeremiah (p. 315-331); The Composition of 1 Samuel 16-18 in Light of the Septuagint (p. 333-362); The Literary History of the Book of Jeremiah in Light of Its Textual History (p. 363-384); The Growth of the Book of Joshua in Light of the Evidence of the Septuagint (p. 385-396); Recensional Differences between the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint of Ezekiel (p. 397-410); Some Sequence Differences between the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint and Their Ramifications for Literary Criticism (p. 411-418); Recensional Differences between the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint of Proverbs (p. 419-431); Different Editions of the Song of Hannah and of Its Narrative Framework (p. 433-455).

VI. Revisions of the Septuagint: Pap. Giessen 13, 19, 22, 26: A Revision of the Septuagint? (p. 459-475); Lucian and Proto-Lucian—Toward a New Solution of the Problem (p. 477-488); The Methodology of Textual Criticism in Jewish Greek Scriptures, with Special Attention to the Problems in Samuel-Kings—The State of the Question (p. 489-499); Transliterations of Hebrew Words in the Greek Versions—A Further Characteristic of the kaige-Th Revision? (p. 501-512); Une inscription grecque d'origine samaritaine trouvee a Thessalonique (p. 513-517); The Relation between the Greek Versions of Baruch and Daniel (p. 519-526); The Textual History of the Song of Deborah in the A Text of the Septuagint (p. 527-534); The “Lucianic” Text of the Canonical and Apocryphal Sections of Esther: A Rewritten Biblical Book (p. 535-548); The Septuagint Additions (“Miscellanies”) in 1 Kings 2 (3 Reigns 2) (p. 549-570).

The impressive volume is carefully edited, the essays have been updated and standardized in respect of the bibliographical references. Even more important is the fact that the studies have been partly reworked, but unfortunately there are no comments on the alterations, expansions and shortenings. Although it is useful to have the authors current view of the problems at hand, it would have been interesting to learn on what point, how and why his evaluations have changed.

As an example may serve the article “Midrash-Type Exegesis in the Septuagint of Joshua” (pp. 153-163). Here the comment on Josh 5:3 has been shortened and

reformulated. This leads *inter alia* to the consequence that now the footnotes have a new numbering. Because also the page references of the original publications are not printed, it is unnecessarily difficult to verify a reference to the original source of an article in the new collection. Although the findings from Qumran have given new insights also into the text history of the book of Joshua, no mention is made of them in this article. In the study “The Growth of the Book of Joshua in Light of the Evidence of the Septuagint” (pp. 385-396) only one new footnote (no. 23, p. 396) points to this problem, although the author has treated the problem in his new edition of “The Text-Critical Use of the Septuagint,” 1997, pp. 245-249. Unfortunately, there is not even a reference to this book in the updated article in question, nor hints to other articles on this subject. Hence it is the reviewers impression that the way in which the re-edition of the articles has happened is not very helpful for the readers. Moreover, it is a pity that in a book of about 600 pages no space has been reserved for an index of scripture passages or subjects, which could have improved the usability of the volume considerably.

Questions can also be raised concerning the selection of the essays. While some of the reprinted studies have originally been published in well available journals like *Biblica*, *ZAW*, *Revue Biblique* or *Vetus Testamentum*, a very fine study on the problem of the theology of the Septuagint which has been published in German is missing in this collection (Die Septuaginta in ihrem theologischen und traditionsgeschichtlichen Verhältnis zur hebräischen Bibel, in: *Mitte der Schrift? Ein jüdisch-christliches Gespräch*. Texte des Berner Symposions vom 6.-12. Januar 1985, Hg. M. Klopfenstein u.a. Judaica et Christiana Bd. 11, Bern/Frankfurt/New York/Paris 1987, pp. 237-265). It would have been an improvement of the volume and an important contribution to a topical discussion (cf. J. Joosten, Une théologie de la Septante? *RThPh* pp. 132, 200, 31-46) if this essay had been translated into English. The in this volume republished essay “Theologically Motivated Exegesis Embedded in the Septuagint” (pp. 257-269), on which the German article obviously is based, is very much shorter and less clear in respect of methodology.

Beside these questions one has to honour the breadth and quality of these articles, which demonstrate that their author is very well-versed in all the subjects in the field of Septuagint studies, not only in some as most other scholars are. Most important for those readers, who are not specially interested in the Septuagint, are the essays in section V. Here E. Tov convincingly shows that the LXX is not only one of the most important witnesses for the task of textual criticism, but that its value for biblical exegesis can also be seen in the information it adds to the understanding of the literary development of individual books. The borders between textual and literary criticism are slowly fading, but still there are enough commentaries and essays brought to the press which are unimpressed by these new insights, which separate readings to establish a kind of *Urtext* that never existed. In the light of these results—cf. the articles on Judges or Jeremiah—also the project of a critical-synthetical edition of the Hebrew Bible should be questioned. Thus one could only hope that in spite of its high price this impressive volume leads to better

insights in the complexity of the development and transmission of the biblical text and that in the future it stimulates compareable studies.