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The notes on syntactic issues will certainly be of great value to the student, whether addressing potentially difficult syntax, oddities due to Hebrew interference, or simply noting features of which students with three semesters of Greek under their belt may not be aware. These notes serve to help the student become acquainted with the Septuagint as well as further build their proficiency in *Koine* Greek. However, there are a few issues. First, some notes are too basic even for the student with only three semesters of New Testament Greek. Second, there are a number of erroneous descriptions and claims in the linguistic analysis, even at a basic grammatical level. Third, there are claims made based on misreadings of secondary literature (e.g. Muraoka's lexicon or Conybeare's and Stock's grammar). Fourth, some of the Greek constructions labelled Hebraisms are either difficult to prove as Hebraisms or are, in fact, features of normal Greek idiom. Fifth, there are inconsistencies between the chapters (probably due to different contributors) with regard to what sorts of syntactic features ought to be noted and discussed.

Beyond vocabulary and syntax, there are also notes that discuss text-critical differences between the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint, Septuagint translation technique, and relevant matters of ancient context and history. These notes often provide welcome and interesting insights. The only critique to be made here is that there are not enough of them, particularly of those that deal with text-critical issues and translation technique. There is a unique opportunity in a book like this to begin teaching students *how* to read the Septuagint and what questions to ask when reading, but the book does not capitalize on this. Moreover, due to the different compilers, the appearance and quality of these notes are inconsistent.

Overall, while there are some issues with regard to layout and the content of some notes, I am thankful to Jobs and her team for producing this reader. It draws students into the Septuagint and also challenges them to read more and more widely in *Koine* Greek. If it succeeds in engendering more awareness of the Septuagint in students, generating interest in Septuagint studies, or broadening and deepening New Testament students' exposure to and ability in *Koine* Greek, then it will have made a significant contribution to the field of biblical studies and will retain its value for some time.

Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments in the Museum Collection.

Edited by EMANUEL TOV, KIPP DAVIS, and ROBERT DUKE. Pp. 200. (Publications of Museum of the Bible, 1.) Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2016. ISBN 978 90 04 32148 9 and 32286 8. Hardback €99/\$119; e-book n.p.

IN this much-anticipated first volume of the Brill series publishing the contents of the Museum of the Bible (MOTB) collection, the editors publish thirteen reputed Dead Sea Scrolls fragments containing parts of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus (2), Numbers, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, Micah, Psalms, Daniel, Nehemiah, and 4QInstruction. This volume is an exciting development in the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, simultaneously making public the details of many fragments that were previously known only to a select few and sparking intense controversy.

Emanuel Tov provides a general introduction to the editions and various characteristics of the fragments, concluding that in each case there is insufficient data to group the fragments with any known textual groups. Unfortunately, his discussion of their provenance consists of little more than noting that they were purchased from anonymous private collectors and suggesting that they probably originally came from Qumran or other Judean Desert sites. Ada Yardeni provides palaeographic analysis of each of the fragments within their respective editions, and Kipp Davis summarizes and critically engages with her work, including a comparative palaeographic chart of the fragments that is unfortunately too small to be of use in the printed edition. Bruce Zuckerman *et al.* describe in detail their method for digitally reconstructing lacunae in Dead Sea Scrolls by harvesting and reusing examples of letters and strokes from preserved portions. The preface by Jerry Pattengale and chapters 4 and 5 by Robert Duke and Lisa M. Wolfe respectively lay out the history of the study and publication of these fragments and the collaborative approach of the Scholars Initiative, the framework in which they were published by cooperation between senior scholar-mentors and students.

The controversy surrounding the publication of these fragments is already evident within the volume itself. Some authors seem to imply that these fragments are authentic, ancient Dead Sea Scrolls fragments, but not all on the publication team are convinced. Throughout the book, certain authors/editors repeatedly point out ‘suspicious’ aspects of the fragments that raise serious doubts, all the while avoiding making explicit judgements

about their authenticity. Most prominently, Davis, in his chapter, highlights certain palaeographic anomalies that for him raise suspicions about the authenticity of several of the fragments, including poorly executed scripts, inconsistent and unexpected ductus, missing or unexpected ink traces, distorted letters seemingly written to avoid holes, and lines and strokes that seem unnaturally to follow the contours of the edges of the broken fragments (pp. 20–3). While some of these features could be attributable to non-professional scribal hands, Davis is highly sceptical. He also observes that a problematic ink trace on the Nehemiah fragment closely resembles the superscripted Greek *α* from an annotation in Kittel's third edition of *Biblia Hebraica* (BHK) (27). Davis (and colleagues) has since elaborated on these (notably in Kipp Davis, 'Caves of Dispute: Patterns of Correspondence and Suspicion in the Post-2002 Dead Sea Scrolls' [Kipp Davis, "Caves of Dispute: Patterns of Correspondence and Suspicion in the Post-2002 'Dead Sea Scrolls' Fragments," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 24, no. 2 (2017): 229–270; Kipp Davis et al., "Nine Dubious 'Dead Sea Scrolls' Fragments from the Twenty-First Century", *Dead Sea Discoveries* 24, no. 2 (2017): 189–228.]) and further suspicious features of some MOTB, Schøyen, and Azusa Pacific fragments like the excessive bleeding of ink, ink written on skins after the original surface has flaked off, the unusually high proportion of biblical fragments and those of known compositions, the inability to attribute fragments to already published manuscripts, and unexpected levels of agreement with texts and layouts of previously published editions.

With regard to the MOTB fragments, I find particularly compelling the adoption by the writer of the Micah fragment of the implausible BHK conjecture of יהודה for ישראל in Mic. 1:4, a reading which almost certainly never existed in any ancient Hebrew manuscript (pp. 182–4). The adoption of the BHS conjecture in Dan. 10:19 of וְהַתְּחִיזֶנּוּ for וְחִזְקָא is similarly problematic (pp. 205–6). The combined evidence thus strongly suggests that some or all of the MOTB fragments are modern forgeries, and the important contribution of the MOTB volume is not so much in the publication of authentic, ancient textual content as it is in highlighting a shift in the field of Dead Sea Scrolls studies. It appears that the market has indeed been flooded with modern forgeries in recent years, and Scrolls scholars are becoming increasingly aware and critically investigating the authenticity of purported Dead Sea Scrolls fragments. Some of these modern productions are sufficiently skilled even to mislead experienced scholars, but close evaluation of problematic elements can often convincingly disqualify them. No one today is safe in assuming

the authenticity of a supposed Dead Sea Scrolls fragment, even if it comes from a source commonly considered to be reliable.

The volume belies fears that good biblical scholarship will be censored or compromised for partisan apologetic purposes. The editions are all fairly mundane, and the MOTB has been cooperating with scholars investigating the authenticity of its fragments and openly admitting ongoing doubts, even if the conclusions drawn in the volume remain circumspect. Neither does the volume suffer considerably from the inexperience of some editors. Each of the editions does an admirable job giving a detailed publication of their respective fragments, and they are throughout supported by the expert opinions and editorial reviews of more experienced professionals. As one who has collaborated with the MOTB on the publication of some of its Greek materials, I am deeply appreciative of the pedagogical model of the Scholars Initiative (SI), as many new students and scholars have been introduced and become interested in modern textual scholarship through hands-on experience. My only regret is that some students may have been inadvertently drawn into complicated ethical dilemmas concerning authenticity and provenance without adequate preparation, but the same may perhaps be said of more seasoned scholars as well. Thankfully, I understand that the SI will now be more selective in the choice of materials to be published in line with new, stricter MOTB guidelines on provenance, acquisition, and publication. For this and other developments in MOTB policy, we should all be grateful.

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Jews in a Graeco-Roman Environment. By MARGARET H. WILLIAMS. Pp. xiv + 462. (Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament, 312.) Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013. ISBN 978 3 16 151901 7. €149.

THIS well-produced landmark publication deserves a warm welcome, as a stand-out volume among the collections that have proliferated in Jewish Studies and Ancient History in recent times. They include a good number in the very same area, as Williams herself observes (p. 3). In the face of all these, and of