TRANSLATION NEWS

Jerusalem project for a scientific edition of the Hebrew Bible

A monumental project for a complete scientific edition of the Hebrew Bible is being undertaken by 14 top scholars of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Professor Benjamin Mazar, president of the University, announced some time ago.

The scholars will base their new edition on the tenth century Aleppo Codex, probably the most authentic Masoretic text.

The new edition will include all variations contained in the Samaritan texts, the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient Greek, Aramaic, Syriac, Latin, Ethiopic and Arabic biblical translations, as well as biblical quotations in Talmudic, rabbinic and patristic literature and Genizah fragments. (The Genizah fragments are portions of the sacred books which have been preserved in storage places of synagogues in Palestine and elsewhere.)

Dr. Mazar said the first volume, expected to be ready in 1965, will be the Book of Isaiah, in connection with which extensive use will be made of the Isaiah texts found in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Professor Chaim Rabin, chief editor of the project, commenting on this proposed new version of the Bible, explained that it will be distinct from the Biblia Hebraica of the two German theologians, Rudolph Kittel and Paul Kahle, now used by scholars. "The Jerusalem project", he said, "does not aspire to 'correct' or 'reconstruct' the original text, but only to make available all variants without choosing between them. Thus no collision between religion and science is involved."

Veteran translator serves as consultant

Miss Faye Edgerton, member of the Wycliffe Bible Translators, who has already had a major share in the translation of the New Testament into two North American Indian languages, Navajo and Western Apache, has helped translators working on related Athapascan languages in Alaska this summer. Miss Edgerton is 72 years old, but hopes to continue working as long as the Lord gives her strength.

CONTRIBUTORS

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