

told you" (John 14:2), "coals of fire" (Rom. 12:20), "if it is for this life only . . ." (1 Cor. 15:19), "the blood of his own" (Acts 20:28) and a number of other difficult passages (e.g. John 1:3, Acts 7:26, 28, 51, 1 Cor. 7:14, Eph. 1:23, Gal. 6:4, Col. 2:15). In some other places the discussion is far too brief to be of much use to the translator (e.g. John 7:37; Col. 1:15; Heb. 10:20; Jas. 3:4; 1 Pet. 3:21). Some passages where NEB gives alternative readings or renderings are carefully treated, but a number are passed over; thus there is no reference to the reading of the UBS NT at John 17:11.

The author's attitude to translation is rather traditional and does not reflect any linguistic insights. He sometimes describes the NEB renderings as "rather free" (Matt. 3:16) or a "bold paraphrase" (Matt. 5:3), and does not seem happy with a moderate re-structuring, as at Rom. 1:1-7 (the translators "obscure its original shape"). Any important changes between the first and second editions of NEB are noted. Only occasionally does the author venture to dissent, and that rather tentatively, from the NEB rendering, e.g. on 1 Cor. 14:1 (there are *other* gifts . . .), and Acts 13:43 (Gentile worshippers, for *prosēlutai*), while some very questionable NEB renderings are accepted or, at most, a possible alternative is mentioned (e.g. Acts 20:9-10—wrong diagnosis or miracle?). The English of the translation is occasionally criticized, e.g. "fell foul of him" (Mark 6:4), "causes of stumbling" (Luke 17:2). Deliberately ambiguous renderings are praised (e.g. John 1:5 "mastered", Rom. 10:4 "Christ ends the law"). The book would have gained a great deal had the author been conversant with modern translation theory applied to Biblical texts. However the book achieves its own goal admirably and thereby contains much valuable help for the translator, but it has also some important deficiencies from his point of view which prevent it coming anyway near being a translator's handbook for the New Testament.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

BRUCE M. METZGER: *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*.

A Companion Volume to the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament (third edition). United Bible Societies, London and New York, c. 1971, 775 pp., \$3.50, £1.45. A review article will appear in the July 1973 issue of *Technical Papers for the Bible Translator*.

DONALD N. LARSON and WILLIAM A. SMALLEY: *Becoming Bilingual*. A Guide to Language Learning. Practical Anthropology, Box 1041, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840, U.S.A., c. 1972, 426 pp., no price stated. A review will appear in *Practical Papers for the Bible Translator*.

Inför en Ny Bibelöversättning. Riktlinjer och förslag. Utbildningsdepartementet, Stockholm, 1972. 108 pp., no price stated.