

HOW WAS THAT?

Translators should always be conscious of how their translations will sound when read aloud. But even when the translation work has been checked carefully, funny results are still possible when they are read carelessly.

The church was full. An enthusiastic young man offered to read the first lesson. 1 Kings 13 was written on the piece of paper handed to him. He ran his eye quickly over the chapter.

Later as he read aloud he wondered at the sound of subdued laughter as he read:

“He said, ‘Saddle **me** the ass.’ So they saddled **him** the ass.”

He was not aware that he had made an ass of himself.

How different it would have been if he had read:

“‘**Saddle me the ass.**’ So they **saddled him** the ass.”

(From “For reading out loud” by Clifford Warne.)

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What does “*etc*” mean?

Recently one of the Editors of TBT wrote to the author of an article, asking him to explain something in the article which did not seem to be very clear. The following reply was received:

P.9, section 2.6.2, line 5. “Etc” means: His own involvement (witnessed, reported), his estimation of the trustworthiness (true, certain, uncertain, lie, joke), his own feelings (happy, sad, ironic), appeals to the listener (bad?? good?? unexpected??), in short: the speaker’s personal relationship to what he says, and his relationship to the hearer.

Now why didn’t he say that in the first place?!

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This one is for translators who know a little bit of Greek. It was sent in by a reader.

In the October 1982 issue of TBT, Dr. Barclay Newman explained about the copying of manuscript: “One scribe would read a manuscript aloud to several others, and they would write down what he said . . . But occasionally a scribe would misunderstand what was read to him.”

One day as the scribe was reading the text of Acts, chapter 13, he came to verse 9. He read, “Then Saul . . .”

The Corrector interrupted: “Let’s call him Paul.”

The scribe replied, “O.K.” Then he resumed reading, “Paul . . .”

The copyists had never heard the American expression “O.K.” and did not recognize it. So they wrote down what they heard in Greek. What they wrote was, “Saulos de *ho kai* Paulos . . .”

And that is how we have the Greek text at the beginning of Acts 13.9 as it is today!