BOOKS RECEIVED

Wilson, Gerald Henry: *The Editing of the Hebrew Psalter.* (SBL Dissertation Series 76). xiv + 278 pp., cloth $17.25, paper $11.50 (SBL members, cloth $11.50, paper $7.75). ISBN 0 89130 728 1.

Jeppesen, Knud and Benedikt Otzen (ed.): *The Productions of Time. Tradition History in Old Testament Scholarship.* Sheffield, UK: The Almond Press 1984. 169 pp., cloth £15.95, $24.95; paper £6.95, $10.95. ISBN 0 907459 36 6 (hardback), 0 907459 37 4 (paperback).

Hollander, H. W., and E. W. Tuinstra (ed.): *Bijbel Vertalen, Liefhebberij of wetenschap?* Haarlem: Netherlands Bible Society, and Brussels: Belgian Bible Society 1985. 115 pp., no price stated. ISBN 90 6126 909 1.

Gunnemark, Erik, in collaboration with Donald Kenrick: *A Geolinguistic Handbook.* Published by the authors, available at £12 + £2 postage from Gunnemark, Valåsgatan 42C, S-41659 Gothenburg, Sweden, or 61 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 2 EG, U.K. This is a revised edition, in handier format, of a book mentioned in our July 1984 issue.

NOTES

In addition to *Notes on Translation,* the Translation Department of the Summer Institute of Linguistics publishes "at least twice a year" a series entitled *Selected Technical Articles Related to Translation* (START). Issue no. 12, dated October 1984, was mainly concerned with New Testament textual problems, and includes three articles by Anthony Pope. "The Harder Reading Principle in Textual Criticism — some limitations" responds to Eugene A. Nida's article "The 'Harder Reading' in Textual Criticism: an Application of the Second Law of Thermodynamics", published in TBT vol. 32, no. 1 (January 1981). With special reference to Mark 1.2; 3.29; 6.22 and 9.29, Pope argues that some readings are too hard to be possible, and that it is not always clear which is the harder reading. On "The Longer Ending of Mark", Pope concludes that "the internal evidence is conclusively against the Longer Ending", and suggests how translators may handle it. Pope's third article analyzes "Some Motion Verbs in Mark". John Ellington discusses "Textual Problems in the New Testament" with reference to the four degrees of certainty distinguished in the UBS Greek New Testament; recognizing that at times, an inferior reading may *appear* to be preferred for translational reasons; and facing the problem of a Christian community which prefers a familiar but inferior text. Robert E. Smith writes on "The Unmarked Order of Pronominal Objects and Indirect Objects". START is not, as its acronym may suggest, a journal for beginners; but it may be warmly recommended to serious students of the original biblical text. Each issue costs $1.25 ($1.00 on a standing order basis) and may be obtained from SIL's Dallas Center Book Store, 7500 West Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, Texas 75236, USA.

The seventh (November 1985) printing of the *Eight Translation New Testament* (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., no price stated) is still

using the 1971 edition of the TEV New Testament, and has not replaced the *Jerusalem Bible* by the *New Jerusalem Bible* (1985). It does, however, add a "Guide to the Ancient Manuscripts" by Philip W. Comfort, comprising 30 (unnumbered) pages. This concisely explains the development of New Testament textual criticism since publication of the King James Version, concluding with a recommendation of the 26th edition of Nestle-Aland. There follows a list of "primary manuscripts" (five papyri and six uncials) which form the basis for comments on selected textual problems. Additional manuscripts are used for particular books, and the reader is referred for fuller information to B. M. Metzger's *Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament.*

Readers of The Bible Translator will be interested in an article by Professor Roger L. Omanson entitled "Translations: Text and Interpretation", published in *The Evangelical Quarterly* [EQ], vol. LVII, no. 3 (July 1985), 195-210. The article is in part a response to an earlier contribution by Dr A. G. Newell, an editorial adviser to EQ, complaining among other things that some modern versions reflect the translators' own interpretations, and thus introduce "an element of doubt into the minds of weaker brethren". Omanson argues, with reference to J. C. Margot's *Traduire sans trahir* and to UBS translator's handbooks, that good translation is impossible except on the basis of responsible exegetical decisions, and that it is part of the translator's task to resolve ambiguities (better called obscurities) not intended by the author. NEB is commended for its generous use of footnotes giving alternative readings and alternative renderings; by contrast, NIV "gives a false sense of security to the reader" by failing to indicate places where uncertainty exists. The author concludes: "The Christian faith . . . is not threatened by the awareness that ambiguities exist regarding the text and translation of Scripture. Such an awareness may force us to be sure that our faith is in our Lord and not in the book which witnesses to him" (210). EQ is obtainable from The Paternoster Press in Exeter, England and Birmingham, Alabama, price £7.80 or $17.55 per year.

An international colloquium on the theme "Bible and Computer" was held at Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium on 2-4 September 1985. Among the 26 papers presented were those by E. Talstra of Amsterdam on "An hierarchically structured data base of Biblical Hebrew Texts", R. Wonneberger of Hamburg entitled "Überlegungen zu einer Neuausgabe der Biblia Stuttgartensia", J. P. Louw of Pretoria on "The Problem of 'meaning' in dictionaries", and C. T. Fahner of Otterlo on "Between text and translation: computerized coding of the Greek N.T. text with respect to translation purposes". Copies of the Colloquium report can be obtained from: Secrétariat du Colloque Bible et Informatique, Abbaye de Maredsous, 5198 Denée, Belgium. The price will be 1500 Belgian francs, or about US$27.00. P.E.