

is that it shows how extended readings could have come into being and offers the author's own unique interpretation.

In terms of commentaries, the translator of Song of Songs is certainly well-served, but I am confronted with the task of selecting the best. If my choice were restricted to just two, I would opt for Murphy for its thorough but direct discussions, and for Fox for its insight and inspiration.

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Note: Brenner cites the following as useful commentaries. These were unavailable to me at the time of writing this survey:

R. Gordis. *The Song of Songs and Lamentations* New York: Ktav, 1977.

C. D. Ginsberg. (1857, 1861). *The Song of Songs and Coheleth*. S. H. Blan, New York: Ktav, 1970.

Review Symposium of GNT⁴

The Greek New Testament. Fourth Revised Edition edited by Barbara Aland, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, and Bruce M. Metzger in cooperation with the Institute for New Testament Textual Research, Münster/Westphalia. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft/United Bible Societies 1993. xiii 61* +918 pages, no price stated.

The appearance of the Fourth Revised Edition of the United Bible Societies *Greek New Testament* in 1993 marks the culmination of a project that began in the mid-1950s. From the outset, the Bible Societies were aware of a need for an edition of the Greek New Testament that provided adequate help on textual matters for the growing list of Bible translations undertaken throughout the world. In 1955, an international and interconfessional team of editors was appointed to prepare a new edition which would include a critical apparatus that was restricted primarily to variant readings significant for translators with an indication of the relative degree of certainty for each variant. The rating system was designed as a help to translators who are aware of text-critical issues, but may not have been in a position to make sophisticated judgments, and could benefit from knowing the Editorial Committee's opinion on the relative certainty of each textual variant. As an additional benefit to translators, a punctuation apparatus was included to provide information on sentence-level structure in both published Greek New Testament texts and major Bible translations. The first edition of the UBS Greek New Testament, published in 1966, included a discussion of a number of textual variants which had little or no effect on translation. At the time, this was nevertheless a valuable resource, since the thoroughly revised apparatus of the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 26th Edition, would not be published for another 13 years. The Second Edition of the UBS Greek New Testament, published in 1968, contained only a few, although significant, textual changes. The Third Edition (1975) provided a more thorough revision of the Greek text, while the Third (Corrected) Edition, published in 1983, adjusted the punctuation

to conform more nearly to the punctuation found in Nestle-Aland²⁶, although there were no changes made in the Greek text itself.

After decades of use by those engaged in Bible translation, it was decided that the Fourth Edition should incorporate changes in the apparatus to enhance its usefulness for translators. About 15 translations in several major languages were carefully checked to see where these translators made text-critical decisions that affected their translation. The Editorial Committee then carefully reviewed both the existing items in the apparatus and the additional items that could be useful to translators to determine which items could be removed from the textual apparatus and which should be added. As a result, nearly 300 items were deleted from the apparatus and about the same number of other items were added. It was also felt that the punctuation apparatus of the first three editions, while useful, was inadequate because it did not take into account discourse segmentation above the clause and sentence level. An entirely new "Segmentation Apparatus" was prepared and has now been published in the Fourth Revised Edition.

Two distinguished scholars who are knowledgeable in both New Testament textual criticism and Bible translation have reviewed this new edition of the Greek New Testament. The contributors to this symposium review have been asked to focus primarily on their evaluation of the new edition in relation to its stated purpose of providing a reliable Greek New Testament text for translators. Other reviews will undoubtedly focus on the text-critical scholarship on which this new edition is based. Our reviewers offer to the readers of this journal their perspectives on the usefulness of the GNT⁴ to Bible translators.

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The publication of the fourth edition of the United Bible Societies' *Greek New Testament* is an event of greater significance than might appear at first blush. It is true that the text itself remains unchanged, so users who seldom glance at the bottom of the page may think there is little to be gained from purchasing this new edition. In fact, however, the distinctive value of this volume as opposed to the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* lies precisely in its unique presentation of textual evidence and in the comparative data it provides regarding alternative punctuation. Because the textual and punctuation (the latter now called "discourse segmentation") apparatuses have been carefully reworked, what we have now is a thoroughly refurbished work.

Discourse Segmentation. For interpreters in general, and for translators in particular, explicit help regarding the identification of syntactical units can be most valuable. Editors of the Greek New Testament must make numerous choices when punctuating and formatting the text, and users must not assume that those decisions represent the only possible way of segmenting the material. The fourth edition of UBS GNT, by