The policy for handling *hoi Ioudaioi* "the Jews" (and related forms) is the following: where this term is understood to refer to "the ethnic people of whom Jesus was one and among whom he lived his life," no change is made from the way RSV has handled it, but wherever this term functions "almost as a code word for religious leaders who misunderstand the true identity of Christ," it is rendered "religious authorities," "authorities," or "leaders" so as to minimize anything that could be perceived as a warrant for anti-Semitism in the Gospel of John.

Users of this volume will need to be fully aware and content that the trade-off for reduced androcentrism is this kind of odd depronouned English in which all referent pronouns are gone.

DAVID BURKE

Swetnam, James: **An Introduction to the Study of New Testament Greek** (Subsidia Biblica 16/I-II). Rome: Pontificio Istituto Biblico 1992. Vol. 1, xxxiii + 453 pp; vol 2, xix + 307 pp, $48.00.

The last few years have seen a flood of new course books on New Testament Greek, including Beetham (1992), Black (1992), Macnair (1993), Morrice (1993), Mounce (1993)—to mention only those on my shelf. One's first thoughts on seeing yet another are: "Does it have anything fresh to offer?"

In the case of Swetnam's massive two-volume work, I think we may answer with an emphatic "Yes". Its most striking features are its scale, its thoroughness and its accuracy. The whole of NT morphology is tackled, along with major aspects of syntax. All vocabulary occurring more than 12 times in the Greek NT is included (contrast Wenham, who includes most words found more than 30 times, but very few words which occur less than 20 times). Full paradigms are given for many nouns and verbs often omitted in other courses. Instead of being relegated to an appendix, the rules for accentuation are presented progressively, systematically and accurately.

Swetnam makes use of both deductive and inductive methods. A typical lesson first clearly outlines the chosen features of Greek grammar. Next, vocabulary is given, with some helpful definitions. Swetnam does not subscribe to the fallacious "one word—one meaning" method of teaching, but gives some imaginative alternative renderings. This is followed by 10-20 sentences for translation from Greek into English, and a smaller number for translation from English into Greek. Real NT Greek is used as much as possible, and NT references are given for every sentence, showing sources for phraseology. The student is then directed to specific verses of Mark to check against the vocabulary and grammar so far given. The whole of Mk 1–6 is worked through twice in this way; then the rest of Mark's Gospel, and finally the whole of John's. These reading passages are carefully coordinated with the grammar, and so much detail is given that by the time the reader reaches John only minimal vocabulary need be provided.

All this material is contained in vol 1. The 2nd volume gives a key to the exercises, directions for reading practice (Swetnam rightly appreciates the value of repetition and reading aloud), etymological comments on English words derived from the Greek (as an aid to vocabulary memorization); and further exercises aimed at improving the student's facility in handling Greek. Instructions are also given for systematic revision of grammar. A reference section gives lists of words by categories (e.g. adjectives and nouns of different types; adverbs of place and time;

principal parts of "difficult" verbs, and paradigms). The work is completed by 5 indexes.

The order in which material is tackled is unusual: after a succinct discussion of the alphabet, Swetnam begins with the verb "to be", running rapidly through the present and imperfect indicative, the infinitive, imperative, subjunctive, optative and participle (lessons 2-8). Concurrently, the student is introduced to adjectives, second and first declension nouns, use of the cases, Greek punctuation, demonstrative pronouns, personal and reflexive pronouns, and the accusative and infinitive construction. All this in 7 lessons! Then follow the present and imperfect indicative active of *luō*, and the third declension (lesson 12), the present subjunctive and optative (in full), present infinitive and participle of *luō* together with *tis* (lessons 11-16), the aorist and perfect active (all moods). The middle voice is thoroughly covered in lessons 26-35 (along with comparatives of adjectives, irregular adjectives, and verbs with consonant stems), and the passive in lessons 37-40. Next come "strong" aorists, deponent verbs, contract verbs, and *-mi* verbs (given in full). The morphology section is completed in lesson 67 by a short section on transcribing Greek into the roman alphabet. Lessons 68-81 cover syntax. The remaining lessons (82-100) are readings from the Gospel of John.

So much for a general description and some "plusses". What about "minusses"? There are a few misprints (a small number, considering the length of the text), and occasional unidiomatic sentences for translation. In common with many other course books, the author says virtually nothing about semitic influence on NT Greek usage. In the early chapters the sentences for translation are not always very close to the cited NT parallels; in the first part of the book I think most students would find working through the prescribed verses of Mark heavy going, containing as they do much unfamiliar morphology and vocabulary. More seriously, the very thoroughness of this work is bound to prove a problem for all but the most able students. One wonders whether, for the average student, some of the detail would not be better postponed until it is met in the course of exegetical study.

On the other hand, anyone who wants to have the kind of thorough, active knowledge of Greek once common among those trained in the Classics, will benefit immensely from this book. I believe it could prove a most useful help to Bible translators, especially to those who have already completed a more simplified course.

RUTH B. EDWARDS

Patzia, Arthur G.: **The Making of the New Testament: Origin, Collection, Text and Canon.** Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press 1995. 205 pp, $14.95. ISBN 0 8308 1859 6.

Patzia, who teaches New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary in Northern California, has written a volume that is intended for the non-specialist and that should be most useful for this intended audience. He summarizes the main lines of NT scholarship, looking in Part I at the literary world of the early church. Parts II-IV look at how the Gospels, Paul's letters and the remaining NT writings were written and collected. Part V examines the criteria of canonicity, and Parts VI and VII focus on the copying and transmission of NT manuscripts.

This is not a study of the NT text itself or its meaning. As the subtitle indicates, this is a study of the origin, transmission, and collection of the NT writings, written