If Wright's synthetic view of Paul is correct, then part of the contextual knowledge that is necessary for understanding Paul's informative intention will have to do with contemporary debates over election and monotheism within first century Judaism and Christianity.

Translators will also want to consult Wright's work on those passages mentioned above, for example, on such phrases as *peri hamartias* in Rom 8.3. With recent translations divided between those that see the phrase as a reference to the concept of sin (e.g., "to deal with sin" NRSV) and those that see it as a reference to the ritual of a sin offering ("to be a sacrifice for our sin" CEV), Wright's analysis of the Septuagintal background to the phrase *peri hamartias* will provide welcome new data for the translator, and strengthening the hand of those who see the phrase as a bit of shorthand for "sin offering."

BOB HODGSON

King, Philip J.: **Jeremiah: An Archaeological Companion.** Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press 1993. xxv + 204 pp. $27.00. ISBN 0-664-21920-9.

Books written for students of the Bible often are either too technical, and therefore, too difficult for some translators to use, or they are too superficial and therefore of no value to most translators. This book by King avoids both extremes, as does King's *Amos, Hosea, Micah—An Archaeological Commentary* (1988), a book of similar style and organization devoted to those three eighth-century prophets.

Though not an exegetical commentary, this relatively slim volume on Jeremiah contains an amazing amount of information for understanding the text of Jeremiah. Scripture quotations are from NRSV, but even here King shows his sensitivity to the non-specialist as he often provides explanatory information within brackets in the NRSV text. His own commentary consistently explains the meanings of technical terms, and a three-page glossary explains other frequently occurring technical terms such as "apocalyptic," "bulla," "ossuary," and "stratigraphy." He has provided maps, charts, photos, and illustrations on almost every other page, and his easy-reading style should make this book accessible to translators who speak English as a second language.

The clear focus of this book is on the latest archaeological information that is relevant for better understanding Jeremiah. But this wealth of information on a variety of topics has a wider application to the Old Testament than just the book of Jeremiah, and more than simply archaeological data is included.

The chapters are the following: (1) "Jeremiah: The Prophet and the Book," which looks at Jeremiah's life and ministry and the message and nature of the book; (2) "Historical Background," which is an excellent historical/political survey of the period covered by the book of Jeremiah; (3) "Geographical Setting," which takes the nations of chapters 46-51 one by one and identifies locations and gives pertinent information, often useful for translators; (4) "Edom and Judah," which surveys the Edomite cities located in both Jordan and Israel, discusses difficulties in identifying the correct location of some cities and provides archaeological information; (5) "Cities of Judah," which centers on Jerusalem, Lachish, and Azekah; (6) "Inscriptions and Literacy," which explains the kinds of writing materials used and discusses some of the recent discoveries; (7) "Worship and Architecture;" (8) "Funerary Customs and Mourning;" (9) "Agriculture," with especially useful

discussions of various plants and foods; and (10) "Crafts," including an interesting five-page discussion of metallurgy in the OT world.

Brief notes, bibliography, and indexes of subjects, names, and authors conclude the book. Don't let the title mislead you. The focus is on Jeremiah, but packed into these pages is a mini-course in Old Testament studies, with numerous insights directly relevant to translators.

ROGER L. OMANSON

BRIEFLY NOTED

Textual scholarship, an introduction by D.C.Greetham (New York/London: Garland 1992, 559 pp, $56.00) provides a comprehensive survey of "textuality," that is, conceptual and mechanical aspects of the generation of a "text." Translators can benefit from a knowledge of book production, typography and the limitations as well as the opportunities they present. Greetham also discusses general aspects of textual criticism and editing. A handy, yet thorough, guide for translators.

Textuality of the Medieval Bible, especially in relation to its function in Church and academy, is analyzed by Margaret T. Gibson in *The Bible in the Latin west* ("The Medieval Book, 1", Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame 1993, 112 pp, including 28 plates, $26.95). The codicology of texts, beyond the mechanics of assembling a manuscript book, affected canonical issues as well as the reception and use of the Bible.

The book of Daniel, an annotated bibliography, compiled by Henry O. Thompson (New York/London: Garland 1993, 588 pp, $84.00) launches a new series, "Books of the Bible." The scope of coverage is representative and comprehensive for English and major European language publications of the last fifty years, and selective for earlier works. Many entries are annotated. This volume lists over 1800 items, arranged in alphabetical order by author, with a thorough Subject Index.

H.P.S.

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No. 170/171 (1994) of the United Bible Societies *Bulletin* (156 pp), is devoted entirely to Current Trends in Scripture Translation. It is obtainable from the UBS World Service Center, Reading Bridge House, Reading RG1 8PJ, U.K.

Dr. Jocelyn Murray, editorial assistant of *The Bible Translator* since April 1978, and of *Technical Papers* since January 1987, has retired. We are grateful for her seventeen years of effective and devoted service. Her successor is Ms Rosario Yu, UBS Translation Administrative Officer based in Hong Kong.