

addition to confidence in writing, progressively more freedom in communicating with the people” (57). Scholars continue to seek ways to help determine the order in which Paul’s letters were written, but Stirewalt’s study does not advance matters in this area. Neither is his argument convincing that 2 Corinthians consists of several letters which have been combined since he has “found no example of a letter of recommendation [outside of the New Testament] included in or attached to another letter” (78, n. 30).

This study contains a wealth of information in both the text and the footnotes from recent studies of Greco-Roman letters, and the thirteen-page appendix includes excerpts of Greco-Roman letters to which Stirewalt refers in his text. The fifteen-page bibliography will lead the reader to other important books and articles, as well as showing how much study has gone on in this area within the past few decades.

The implications of this study for translation are for the most part indirect, with the following exception. Comparison with a letter by the Roman Emperor Claudius to the people of Alexandria (no. 16 in the appendix) leads Stirewalt to the conclusion that the words *peri de* in both this letter and in 1 Corinthians introduce itemized replies to reports from written documents. This observation supports such renderings as “Now, to deal with the matters you wrote about” (TEV) in 1 Cor 7.1 (similarly 7.25; 8.1; 12.1; and 16.1).

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Taylor, Bernard A., John A. L. Lee, Peter R. Burton, and Richard E. Whitaker, eds. *Biblical Greek Language and Lexicography: Essays in Honor of Frederick W. Danker*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004. xxii + 266 pp. \$36.00 US. ISBN 0-8028-2216-9.

This *Festschrift* in honor of Prof Frederick W. Danker is a book worth reading. It includes eighteen essays from scholars working in the field of Greek lexicography. Some of the essays discuss directly the art of dictionary-making; some essays discuss lexicography less directly. Some essays are rather general; some are highly technical. Whereas many *Festschriften* tend to be more or less heterogeneous, in this one the various essays complement each other nicely.

The dust jacket of the book describes Prof Danker in the following bold way: “Frederick W. Danker is deservedly recognized as one of today’s foremost Greek lexicographers. Unique among contemporary biblical scholars, Danker has lived to see the publication of two major Greek dictionaries that he himself edited. While he was part of the editorial team that produced the second edition of *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, he alone thoroughly revised the entire dictionary to produce the 3rd edition, popularly known as BDAG.” Danker is one of the most notable NT scholars who has made a permanent contribution to the lexicography of NT Greek. The *Festschrift* honors the career and the person of this grand teacher of NT lexicography.

There are, I think, important lessons to be learned from the book, lessons that every serious translator of the NT needs to learn. It would be best to start from John A. L. Lee’s essay, “The Present State of Lexicography of Ancient Greek” (66-74). Prof Lee not only introduces the best available dictionaries, but also lists several challenges that these dictionaries set in front of any user of them. The

challenges can be grouped under four headings: a) use of glosses rather than definitions when it comes to the meaning of words, b) dependence on earlier dictionaries, c) dependence on modern translations of ancient sources, and d) the uncontrolled manner of noting existing discussion on meanings.

In this book several scholars behind common dictionaries write about their dictionaries. Especially the essay by Danker himself, “Lexical Evolution and Linguistic Hazard” (1-31), is very useful. In the essay, Danker discusses several challenges that a lexicographer has to tackle. Every lexicon or dictionary has a history and it is of great help if users can have access to this history. Danker’s essay sheds helpful light on the history of BDGA, the modern standard of NT Greek.

The same helpfulness can be sensed when reading Barclay Newman’s essay on his own concise dictionary. For translators using the tools available in Paratext, this article should be a must. Here we can read in plain words how Newman composed his dictionary, what are its sources, its strengths, and its limitations. Without such information, users cannot approach the dictionary in a proper way.

Septuagint lexicography is represented by Takamitsu Muraoka, Erik Eynikel, Katrin Hauspie, and Bernard Taylor. These names stand behind three modern Greek-English dictionaries of the Septuagint. Paratext now includes one of them, the dictionary by Johan Lust, Eynikel, and Hauspie. It is clear the LEH dictionary is now the standard even though one could perhaps argue that Muraoka’s dictionary, published in 1993, is as useful as LEH. The dictionary by Taylor, *The Analytical Lexicon to the Septuagint: A Complete Parsing Guide*, might not be as widely known as the two others.

It is unfortunate that one cannot hear the voice of the editors of the latest version of the legendary Liddell-Scott dictionary, LSJ. In her article, “The LXX Quotations in the LSJ Supplements of 1968 and 1996” (108-25), Hauspie discusses in detail the well-known problem that LSJ deals with the Septuagint words in a special way, giving them special meanings coming from the Hebrew.

Several essays discuss tools that lexicographers use. William A. Johnson discusses the use of electronic tools, among others the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae and the Duke Data Bank of Documentary Papyri. Richard E. Whitaker concentrates on concordances, discussing their strengths and weaknesses. Rykle Borger discusses the textual basis of NT Greek dictionaries. Borger, who is very well known through his works in cuneiform texts, holds the view that a committee using majority vote is not an ideal setting for serious textual critical decisions. Since Borger has written the essay partly as an expression of his personal conflict with Kurt Aland, the actual point is in risk of not being heard.

Randall Buth, Trevor Evans, and Stanley Porter discuss the hot topic of aspect in Greek. Cameron Boyd-Taylor discusses the linguistic registry in a Hallidayan sense and its usefulness in Septuagint lexicography. James Voelz writes on the proper way to handle what he calls an “event word.” By an event word, he means a noun or an adjective which is verbal in its nature, an example of an event word being *diakonía*. Finally, the book includes two reviews of BDAG, a brief biography of Danker, a selected bibliography of Danker, a list of dictionaries preceding BDAG, and several indexes.