

A History of New Testament Lexicography. By John A. L. Lee. Studies in Biblical Greek 8. New York: Peter Lang, 2003, xiv + 414 pp., \$39.95.

The present work is Volume 8 in the Studies in Biblical Greek series edited by D. A. Carson. The author, John A. L. Lee, recently retired from the University of Sydney, Australia, where he taught classical and *koine* Greek for thirty years in the classics department. He is currently working with G. H. R. Horsley on *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament with Documentary Parallels*, which is designed to update and replace Moulton and Milligan's *Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*.

The present volume is laid out in two parts: (1) historical survey; and (2) case studies on individual Greek words. The first three chapters chronicle the three leading characteristics of the NT lexicographical tradition: reliance on predecessors, employment of the gloss method, and dependence on versions. Lee demonstrates how lexicographers in their choice of glosses frequently drew on the rendering of a given word in current translations and shows the chain of development from the KJV to Tyndale, from Tyndale to Luther, and from Luther *via* Erasmus to the Vulgate. He also points to the limitations of the gloss method and advocates a definition approach instead.

Chapter 4 traces the origins of NT lexicography back to Volume 5 of the Complutensian Polyglot published in 1522. Chapter 5 surveys the history of NT lexicography from the publication of Georg Pasor's dictionary in 1619 (which is largely dependent on Stephanus's concordance published in 1572) to that of Johann Friedrich Schleusner in 1792. Pasor essentially followed the gloss method and utilized an arrangement by roots rather than listing words in alphabetical order. Schleusner's work gathered up the efforts of his predecessors and synthesized their results. Chapter 6, "The Cheshire Cat," documents the lack of a "native" English tradition of Greek lexicography in Latin or English.

Chapter 7, "A New Century," discusses nineteenth-century efforts to replace Schleusner in Germany (Wahl, Bretschneider, Wilke) and England (Robinson, Bloomfield, Thayer). The following chapter surveys the works by Preuschen (1910) and Bauer (1928), all the way to BDAG (2000), and lays out some of the NT lexicographical challenges ahead. Chapter 9 documents that Bauer's 1928 revision of Preuschen in large part simply retained Preuschen's meanings, including subcategories, with minimal adjustments, and in addition provided other

information from previous lexicons that Preuschen had stripped. Hence even BDAG (2000) is but the last in a series of works with a long, checkered pedigree that should now give way to new efforts.

Chapter 10, “The Breakthrough,” lauds the Greek-English lexicon by Louw and Nida as a epochal event in the history of NT lexicography owing to its utilization, not so much of semantic domains, but of a definition method. Nevertheless, Lee points out that even Louw and Nida’s work is not entirely original. Significant sources include Newman (1971) and BAG (1957). Also, Louw and Nida by and large did not consider extrabiblical references. Chapter 11, finally, lays out the way ahead: a compilation of an electronic database (an ongoing task to be accomplished as a cooperative effort) and the employment of a definition rather than gloss method.

This history of the discipline is followed in part two by case studies of individual NT words: *agapētos*, *akroatērian*, *anatassō*, *gunaikarion*, *dexiolabos*, *dianuō*, *eidea*, *exis*, *kratos*, *oikonomia*, *plēn*, *sunagō*. The volume concludes with a summary list of NT lexicons; a chronological list of NT lexicons; works not included as lexicons; a location list of older lexicons; a general bibliography; and several appendixes and indexes.

This is a book that had to be written. The author is highly competent and writes with both expertise and a passion for the subject. The overall “feel” of the work is not unlike Neill and Wright’s *Interpretation of the New Testament* or the two volumes on NT interpretation by Baird. Lee’s judgments are judicious throughout. His survey of the history of NT lexicography is a treasure trove replete with interesting material, and his vision for the future of the discipline ought to help set the agenda for future work on the subject. The lists at the end of the book are of considerable valuable for further research. The work is meticulously edited and exemplary in its attention to detail.

While Lee’s *History of New Testament Lexicography* is designed primarily for fellow specialists in the field, the volume is also suited as one of the course texts in the history of biblical interpretation. It comes highly recommended as a book that is both substantive and yet a joy to read. In case this has not yet become sufficiently clear during the course of this review, I love this book! It is hoped that Lee’s work succeeds in encouraging those working in the discipline to make a fresh start rather than building on old foundations. The new wine of NT lexicography, too, it appears, must be poured into new wineskins.

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