

= A Plain Introduction to the Criticism of the New Testament =

A Plain Introduction to the Criticism of the New Testament : For the Use of Biblical Students is one of the books of Frederick Henry Ambrose Scrivener (1813 ? 1891) , biblical scholar and textual critic . In this book Scrivener listed over 3 @, @ 000 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament , as well as manuscripts of early versions . It was used by Gregory for further work .

The book was published in four editions . The first edition , published in 1861 , contained 506 pages . The second edition (1874) was expanded into 626 pages ; the third into 751 pages ; and the fourth into 874 pages . Two first editions were issued in one volume ; in the third edition the material was divided into two volumes , with an increased number of chapters in each . The first volume was edited in 1883 , the second in 1887 . The fourth edition was also issued in two volumes (1894) . The fourth edition of the book was reprinted in 2005 by Elibron Classics .

= = First Edition = =

The text of the first edition was divided into nine chapters and three Indices were added at the end (pp. 465 ? 490) . All plates were placed at the end of book (after Indices) . The main part of the work are descriptions of the manuscripts . Scrivener concentrated his attention on the most important manuscripts (especially five larger uncial codices) . The later cursive manuscripts were too numerous to be minutely described as per the uncials . Scrivener described them with all possible brevity , dwelling only on a few which presented points of special interest and used a system of certain abbreviations . Lists of this abbreviations was included just before the Catalogue of cursive manuscripts . Examples of abbreviations , include :

Act . ? MS. of Acts and Catholic epistles

Am . ? the Ammonian Sections

Eus . ? the Eusebian Canons

Eus. t . ? a table of the Eusebian Canons

Carp . ? Epistula ad Carpianum

??? . ? the numbers of the ???????? majora stand in the margin

??? . t . ? the tables of the ???????? are prefixed to each book

???? . ? the ?????? are given at the head or foot of the page

lect . ? the book is adapted for Church @-@ reading by notices of the proper lessons , feasts etc. in the margin , or above , or below

men . ? a menology , calendar of Saints ' Days , is found at the beginning or end of the book

syn . ? Synaxarion , a calendar of the daily lessons throughout the year is given

mut . ? the copy described is mutilated

pict . ? the copy is illuminated with pictures

prol . ? contains prolegomena before the several books

In every next edition of the Plain Introduction this system of abbreviations was expanded (e.g. ???? . , Argent . , etc .) . At the end of lists the manuscripts are described more shortly , in two columns , only numbers of the manuscripts , with the corresponding number of other system of catalogization (Scholz) :

In the preface to the first edition , the editor announced :

The following pages are chiefly designed for the use of those who have no previous knowledge of the Textual Criticism of the New Testament ; but since the Author has endeavoured to embody in them the results of very recent investigations , he hopes that they may prove of service to more advanced students . He asks the reader 's indulgence for the annexed list of Addenda et Corrigenda , both by reason of the peculiar character of his work , and the remoteness of West Cornwall from Public Libraries . He might easily have suppressed the greater part of them , but that he has honestly tried to be accurate , and sees no cause to be ashamed of what Person has well called " the common lot of authorship . " He has only to add that he has not consciously borrowed from other writers without due acknowledgement , and to return his best thanks to the Rev. H. O. Coxe for important aid in the Bodleian , and to Henry Bradshaw Esq . , Fellow of King 's College , for valuable

instruction respecting manuscripts in the University Library at Cambridge .
Falmouth , September , 1861 .

= = Second edition = =

In 1873 Dean Burgon in The Guardian published several articles with some suggestions , corrections , and encouragement for preparing the second edition of Plain Introduction . Burgon gave a photograph of the Codex Basilensis for the sake of the next edition (the facsimile from the first edition was a poor quality) .

The second edition was published in 1874 . The number of chapters was still the same , but they were expanded (especially chapter II and IX) . Many corrections to the third section of the second chapter were made after suggestions of : H. Bradshaw , Hort , Vansittart , Kelly , and Burgon . In preface to the first edition , the editor announced :

The first edition of this work , published in 1861 , was received so favourably that the author has felt bound to bestow his utmost care upon a minute and thorough revision of his book , in the hope of bringing up the information it contains to the existing state of knowledge . In this endeavour he has been assisted as well by Canon Lightfoot , to whom he is indebted for that section of the third chapter which treats of Egyptian versions of the New Testament (pp. 319 @-@ 357) , as also by much unsought for and most welcome help , especially on the part of those scholars who are named in p . 164 , note . Without wishing to speak harshly of writers who are not very scrupulous in such matters , he has always thought it became him to borrow from no quarter without making a full and frank avowal of the fact . The author will be much rejoiced if this new edition shall be judged not less worthy than its predecessor to become a text book in Universities and Theological Colleges .

S. Gerrans , August , 1861 .

= = Third edition = =

In August , 1874 , Ezra Abbot sent to Scrivener a letter : the rough draught of which covered forty odd pages , devoted to the correction of apparent errors and a statement of overlooked facts in the first edition of the Plain Introduction . The letter came too late to be used in preparing the body of the second edition of Scrivener 's work . Abbot 's studies largely argumented the number of suggestions , particularly in those portions of the book devoted to describing the extant manuscripts . They were accumulated in great part to the older and well @-@ known authorities - such as Griesbach , Matthaei , Scholz (particularly his work Biblisch @-@ kritische Reise , Leipzig 1823) , Bianchini , Montfaucon , Silvestre , Bandini , Laubecius , and Zaeagni . Part of suggestions were a result of Abbott 's studies of recent edited Catalogues of the ancient Greek Manuscripts held in the British Museum , Bodleian Library , Oxford Catalogues , Kitchin 's Catalogue of the manuscripts in the Library of Christ Church College (Oxrofd , 1867) . Abbott added numerous references to facsimile editions .

In 1885 J. Rendel Harris , together with Abbot , prepared the similar work as the first unpublished work of Abbot , nine years earlier . It was published under the title : Notes on Scriveners ' " Plain introduction to the criticism of the New Testament , " 3rd edition , in which they proposed corrections . Example of corrections :

Page XII . On " p . 69 @.@ note " , line 2 , for " 360 " read " 1160 " .

Page XIII . On " p . 141 , line 28 " , line 2 , for " Vol . II . , Part I. " read " Part I , Vol . II . " . At end. add " after p . 492 . "

Page XIV . On " Y " , line 8 , for " XXIII , 23 " read " XXIII , 5 " ; line 9 , for " II , 21 @-@ IV . 1 ; 15 @-@ v. 1 " read simply " II . 21 @-@ v.I " - since Dr. Gregory discovered two additional leaves ; see the Prolegomena , to Tischendorf , p . 440 .

On " p . 162 , line 24 " , line 2 , for " Vol . II . , Pt . I. " read " Pt . I. Vol . II . "

The third edition was issued into two volumes , with an increase of chapters in each (XIV + XII) .

The third edition was prepared under great disadvantage . Scrivener after adding 125 pages to his book had an attack of paralysis , as result his work was not wholly conducted upon the same high

level as his previous publications . The framework of the second edition was originally adopted ; and the new additional material was only added to the almost unchanged material .

= = Fourth edition = =

The fourth and the last edition of Plain Introduction was prepared and edited posthumously by Edward Miller (1825 ? 1901) . The book was edited by George Bell & Sons . It contains 15 plates with the texts of 40 manuscripts in facsimile (the 1st edition had 12 plates with 36 manuscripts) . Some facsimiles were replaced . Instead of 2 @, @ 094 manuscripts , as recorded in the third edition under six classes , no less than 3 @, @ 791 were recorded in this edition , an increase of 236 beyond the 3 @, @ 555 of Gregory , without counting the numerous vacant places which had been filled inp .

Most of the accounts of ancient versions were rewritten by distinguished scholars , who were leaders in their several departments . The early part of Volume I was enriched from the admirable book on ? Greek and Latin Palaeography ? , by Edward Maunde Thompson . Many corrections suggested by eminent scholars were introduced in different places throughout the book . H. J. White rewrote the chapter on Latin versions . G. H. Gwilliam , editor of the Peshitta , helped to improve the passages on the Peshitta and the Curetonian Version . H. Deane made an additions to the treatment of the Harkleian Version . A. C. Headlam made a revision of the long chapter on the Egyptian versions ; F. C. Conybeare , rewrote the sections on the Armenian and Georgian versions ; Margoliouth rewrote the sections on the Arabic and Ethiopic versions ; J. M. Bebb rewrote the section on the Slavonic version ; James W. Bright rewrote the section on the Anglo @-@ Saxon Version .

= = Contents of the 4th edition = =

= = = Volume I = = =

Chapter I , pages 1 ? 20 ? Preliminary considerations

Chapter II , pages 21 ? 55 ? General character of the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament (materials for writing , style of writings , abbreviations) .

Chapter III , pages 56 ? 89 ? Divisions of the text , and other particulars (Ammoniam Sections , Eusebian Canons , Euthalian chapters , subscriptions , marginal markings , Synaxarion , Menologion)

Chapter IV , pages 90 ? 130 ? The larger uncial manuscripts of the Greek Testament (Sinaiticus , Alexandrinus , Vaticanus , Ephraemi and Bezae)

Chapter V , pages 131 @-@ 168 ? Uncial manuscripts of the Gospels

Chapter VI , pages 169 @-@ 188 ? Uncial manuscripts of the Acts and Catholic epistles , of St. Paul ? s epistles , and of the Apocalypse

Chapter VII , pages 189 @-@ 240 ? Cursive manuscripts of the Gospels . Part I. 1 @-@ 449

Chapter VIII , pages 241 @-@ 271 ? Cursive manuscripts of the Gospels . Part II . 450 @-@ 774

Chapter IX , pages 272 @-@ 283 ? Cursive manuscripts of the Gospels . Part III . 775 @-@ 1321

Chapter X , pages 284 @-@ 306 ? Cursive manuscripts of the Acts and Catholic epistles , 1 @-@ 420

Chapter XI , pages 307 @-@ 319 ? Cursive manuscripts of St. Paul ? s epistles , 1 @-@ 491

Chapter XII , pages 320 @-@ 326 ? Cursive manuscripts of the Apocalypse , 1 @-@ 184

Chapter XIII , pages 327 @-@ 367 ? Evangelistaries , or Manuscript Service @-@ Books of the Gospels , 1 @-@ 963

Chapter XIV , pages 368 @-@ 376 ? Lectionaries containing the Apostolos or Praxapostolos , 1 @-@ 288

= = = Volume II = = =

Chapter I , pages 1 ? 5 ? Ancient Versions

Chapter II , pages 6 ? 40 ? Syriac Versions (Peshitta , Curetonian , Harklean , Palestinian)

Chapter III , pages 41 ? 90 ? Latin Versions (Old Latin , Vulgate)

Chapter IV , pages 91 ? 144 ? Egyptian or Coptic Versions (Bohairic , Sahidic , Fayyumic , Akhmimim)

Chapter V , pages 145 @-@ 166 ? The Other Versions of the New Testament (Gothic , Armenian , Georgian , Ethiopian , Arabic)

Chapter VI , pages 167 @-@ 174 ? Quotations from the Fathers

Chapter VII , pages 175 @-@ 243 ? Early Printed Editions , Critical Editions (Complutensian Polyglote , Novum Instrumentum omne , Editio Regia)

Chapter VIII , pages 244 @-@ 256 ? Textual Canons

Chapter IX , pages 257 @-@ 273 ? History of the Text

Chapter X , pages 274 @-@ 311 ? Recent Views of Comparative Criticism

Chapter XI , pages 312 @-@ 320 ? Character of the Dialect of the Greek Testament

Chapter XII , pages 321 @-@ 413 ? Application of Principles to Select Passages

= = Reception = =

Edward Miller , the editor of the 4th edition , in 1886 estimated the 3rd edition :

The labour spent by Dr. Scrivener upon Textual Criticism is well known from his admirable Introduction to the Science , a handbook which leaves hardly anything , if anything , to be desired .

Eberhard Nestle , editor of Novum Testamentum Graece , wrote in 1901 :

Scrivener have rendered great service in the way of collating manuscripts , (...) as well as Gregory in Germany has also catalogued them .