

= Novum Instrumentum omne =

Novum Instrumentum omne was the first published New Testament in Greek (1516) . It was prepared by Desiderius Erasmus (1469 ? 1536) and printed by Johann Froben (1460 ? 1527) of Basel . Although the first printed Greek New Testament was the Complutensian Polyglot (1514) , it was the second to be published (1522) . Erasmus used several Greek manuscripts housed in Basel , but some a few verses in Revelation he translated from the Latin Vulgate .

Five editions of Novum Instrumentum omne were published , though its title was changed to Novum Testamentum omne with the second edition , and the name continued . Erasmus issued editions in 1516 , 1519 , 1522 , 1527 , and 1536 . Notable amongst these are the second edition (1519) , used by Martin Luther for his translation of the New Testament into German , the so @-@ called " September Testament , " and the third edition (1522) , which was used by Tyndale for the first English New Testament (1526) and later by translators of the Geneva Bible and the King James Version . With the third edition , the Comma Johanneum was included . The Erasmus edition was the basis for the majority of modern translations of New Testament in the 16 ? 19th centuries .

= = First edition = =

In 1512 Erasmus had been in negotiation with Badius Ascensius of Paris to publish the Vulgate of Jerome and a new edition of Adagia . It did not happen , and Erasmus did not continue contacts with Badius . At that time Erasmus did not think about a Greek New Testament . It is uncertain when Erasmus decided to prepare his edition of the Greek New Testament , but on a visit to Basel in August 1514 he contacted Johann Froben . Many scholars believe that Froben had heard about the forthcoming Spanish Polyglot Bible , and tried to overtake the project of Alcalá (e.g. S. P. Tregelles) . Some scholars doubt this motivation of Froben (e.g. Bruce Metzger) , because there is no evidence to support it . Most likely he included the Greek text to prove the superiority of his Latin version .

The next meeting took the place in April 1515 at the University of Cambridge . As a result , in July 1515 Erasmus came to Basel and started his work . Johannes Oecolampadius served as his editorial assistant and Hebrew consultant . Erasmus did not take any Greek manuscripts to Basel , hoping to find some there . He borrowed some manuscripts from the Dominican Library at the Basel . He used seven manuscripts , they were identified :

Manuscripts 1eap and 1rK Erasmus borrowed from Johannes Reuchlin . The rest of the manuscripts he borrowed from Dominicans . It is significant that he did not use the Codex Basilensis , which was held at the Basel University Library , and was available for him . Erasmus had three manuscripts of the Gospels and Acts , four manuscripts of the Pauline epistles , but only one manuscript with the Book of Revelation . In every book of the New Testament he compared three or four manuscripts , except the last book , Book of Revelation . Unfortunately , this manuscript was not complete , it lacked the final leaf , which contained the last six verses of the book . Instead of delaying the publication , on account of the search for another manuscript , he decided to translate the missing verses from the Latin Vulgate into Greek . He used a corrupted manuscript of Vulgate with textual variant libro vitae (book of life) instead ligno vitae (tree of life) in Rev 22 : 19 . Even in other parts of the Book of Revelation and other books of the New Testament Erasmus occasionally introduced self @-@ created Greek text material taken from the Vulgate . F. H. A. Scrivener remarked , that in Rev 17 : 4 he created a new Greek word : ??????????? (instead ?? ?????????) . There is no such word in Greek language as ??????????? . In Rev 17 : 8 he used ?????? ?????? (and yet is) instead of ??? ????????? (and shall come) . In Acts 9 : 6 the question that Paul asks at the time of his conversion on the Damascus road , ?????? ?? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ?? ?????? ????????? (" And he trembling and astonished said , Lord , what will you have me to do ? ") was incorporated from the Vulgate .

The printing began on 2 October 1515 , and in very short time was finished (1 March 1516) . It was produced in great hurry , with typographical errors , and was unusually titled :

Novum Instrumentum omne , diligenter ab Erasmo Rot . Recognitum et Emendatum , non solum ad

Graecam veritatem verum etiam ad multorum utiusq ; linguae codicum eorumq ; veterum simul et emendatorum fidem , postremo ad probatissimorum autorum citationem , emendationem et interpretationem , praecipue , Origenis , Chrysostomi , Cyrilli , Vulgarij , Hieronymi , Cypriani , Ambrosij , Hilaryj , Augustini , una cum Annotationibus , quae lectorem doceant , quid qua ratione mutatum sit .

This title , especially words : Novum Instrumentum ... Recognitum et Emendatum , means New Testament ... Revised and Improved . This title must refer to the Latin text of Vulgate , not to any Greek text , because at that time there was not a printed edition of the Greek New Testament in circulation . In his dedication to Pope Leo X , Erasmus says :

I perceived that that teaching which is our salvation was to be had in a much purer and more lively form if sought at the fountain @-@ head and drawn from the actual sources than from pools and runnels . And so I have revised the whole New Testament (as they call it) against the standard of the Greek original ... I have added annotations of my own , in order in the first place to show the reader what changes I have made , and why ; second , to disentangle and explain anything that may be complicated , ambiguous , or obscure .

It was a bilingual edition , the Greek text was in a left column , Latin in a right column , and it is clear , the Greek text was not the first target of this edition , it was the Latin text of Vulgate .

= = Second edition = =

The reception of the first edition was mixed , but within three years a second was made . The second edition used the more familiar term Testamentum instead of Instrumentum . In the second edition (1519) Erasmus also used Minuscule 3 (entire NT except Revelation ; 12th century) . The text was changed in about 400 places , with most ? though not all ? of the typographical errors corrected . Some new error readings were added to the text . In this edition the text of Jerome 's Vulgate Erasmus replaced by his own more elegant translation . The Latin translation had a good reception . After this edition , Erasmus was involved in many polemics and controversies . Particularly objectionable were the annotations from the universities of Cambridge and Oxford .

López de Zúñiga , known as Stunica , one of the editors of Ximenes Complutensian Polyglot , reproached Erasmus that his text lacked part of the 1 John 5 : 7 @-@ 8 (Comma Johanneum) . Erasmus replied that he had not found it in any Greek manuscript . Stunica answered that Latin manuscripts are more reliable than Greek . In 1520 Edward Lee accused Erasmus of encouraging Arianism . Erasmus replied that he had not found any Greek manuscript that contained these words , he answered that this was a case not of omission , but simply of non @-@ addition . He showed that even some Latin manuscripts did not contain these words .

Another attack was made in 1521 by Paulus Bombasius , the prefect of the Vatican Library , because in Greek text Erasmus departed from the common readings of the Vulgate . He informed Erasmus that in the Vatican Library is held an extremely ancient copy of the Scriptures (i.e. Codex Vaticanus) . He sent two extracts from this manuscript containing 1 John 4 : 1 @-@ 3 and 1 John 5 : 7 @-@ 11 (it did not include Comma) .

The second edition became the basis for Luther 's German translation .

= = Third edition = =

With the third edition of Erasmus 's Greek text (1522) the Comma Johanneum was included . An often repeated story is that Erasmus included it , because he felt bound by a promise to include it if a manuscript was found that contained it . When a single 16th @-@ century Greek manuscript subsequently had been found to contain it (Codex Montfortianus) , Erasmus included it , though he expressed doubt as to the authenticity of the passage in his Annotations . Henk Jan de Jonge , a specialist in Erasmian studies , stated that there are no explicit evidence that supports this frequently made assertion concerning a specific promise made by Erasmus . The real reason to include the Comma by Erasmus , was his care for his good name and for the success of his Novum Testamentum .

In this edition Erasmus , after using Codex Montfortianus , misprinted ????? for ?? ??? in Apocalypse 2 : 13 .

The third edition differed in 118 places from the second .

Oecolampadius and Gerbelius , Erasmus ' subeditors , insisted that he introduce more readings from the minuscule 1 in the third edition . But according to Erasmus the text of this codex was altered from the Latin manuscripts , and had a secondary value .

This edition was used by William Tyndale for the first English New Testament (1526) , by Robert Estienne as a base for his editions of the Greek New Testament from 1546 and 1549 , and by the translators of Geneva Bible and King James Version .

= = Fourth edition = =

Shortly after the publication of his third edition , Erasmus had seen the Complutensian Polyglot , and used its text for improvement of his own text . In the Book of Revelation he altered his fourth edition (1527) in about 90 passages on the basis of the Complutensian text . Unfortunately Erasmus had forgotten what places of the Apocalypse he translated from Latin and he did not correct all of them . Except in the Revelation , the fourth edition differed only in about 20 places from his third (according to Mill about 10 places) . The fourth edition was printed in three parallel columns , they contain the Greek , Erasmus ' own Latin version , and the Vulgate .

In November 1533 , before the appearance of the fifth edition , Sepúlveda sent Erasmus a description of the ancient Vatican manuscript , informing him that it differed from the text which he had edited in favour of the Vulgate in 365 places . We do not know anything about these 365 readings except for one . Erasmus in Adnotationes to Acts 27 : 16 wrote that according to the Codex from the Library Pontifici (i.e. Codex Vaticanus) name of the island is ????? (Cauda) , not ????? (Clauda) as in his Novum Testamentum (Tamet si quidam admonent in codice Graeco pontificiae bibliothecae scriptum haberi , ????? , id est , cauda) . In another letter sent to Erasmus in 1534 Sepúlveda informed him , that Greek manuscripts were altered from the Vulgate .

= = Final edition = =

The fifth edition of Erasmus , published in 1535 , the year before his death , discarded the Vulgate . According to Mill the fifth edition differed only in four places from the fourth .

Editions four and five were not so important as the third edition in the history of the Text of the New Testament .

Popular demand for Greek New Testaments led to a flurry of further authorized and unauthorized editions in the early sixteenth century ; almost all of which were based on Erasmus 's work and incorporated his particular readings , although typically also making a number of minor changes of their own . Tregelles gives Acts 13 : 33 as an example of the places in which commonly received text did not follow Erasmian text (?? ?? ????? ?? ????? ? ?? ?? ????? ?? ???????) .