CHAPTER THREE

THE DESCRIPTION AND THE RELATIONSHIP
OF MANUSCRIPTS, GRAMMAR, LANGUAGE

3.1. Mss Description

The mss tradition of TD is very rich. Seventy one mss with the text of TD were identified, of which five have a partial text (not due to fallen folios but scribal choice or inability to copy the whole text).\(^1\) This edition is based on an initial full collation of 54 mss and a sample collation of 9 mss. Of these, 19 mss representing each group and sub-group were maintained in the critical apparatus. The choice of these mss was based on several criteria. Firstly, the great number of mss representing each group allowed the advantage of selecting only such mss which had a full and fully legible text, without important lacunae (either due to physical damage or scribal omissions of large text-blocks). Secondly, the mss selected have the least number of obvious individual corruptions/errors. This criterion did not refer to those common group variants which were judged to be errors but which help define mss groups, since all mss within the group contained those. Thirdly, any contaminated mss were excluded. In cases when the above-mentioned criteria were equal for a group of mss, the oldest mss were given preference. In some cases it was reasonable to represent a group or sub-group with a siglum. This allows the reader to have a fuller view on some larger groups whose unitary behavior warranted the use of the sigla.

Part 2 of this Chapter (3.2) provides a detailed analysis of mss relationships and explains the basis of how the sigla were chosen and assigned, as well as further clarifies which ms(s) from each group were maintained in the critical apparatus.

Each TD ms can be assigned to one of the two main families which are denominated as A and B families. The hypothetical archetypus of each family gave rise to all the other text-types representing the entire

\(^1\) Mss with a partial text will be discussed in the last section of this Part of the Chapter.
tradition. From among 71 mss studied 49 belong to the A family (this number includes also those mss which are contaminated by two different A family text-types) and 19 to the B family, 1 is contaminated between an A and a B family text-type, and 2 are excerpts not assigned to any family. Thus, the prevailing majority of extant mss are of A family text-type. Obviously, this could simply be due to the hazards of survival of mss. Yet, it could also be due to the wider circulation of this text-type, especially because mss where TD follows the text of Agaˈangelos—to which it owed its legitimacy—belong to the A family. The oldest extant mss are from the 14th century. Those are F copied in 1307, N9 copied in 1322, and A1 copied in 1341. All three belong to the A family. From the B family the oldest extant mss date to the 15th c. Those are I copied in 1409, B copied in 1498, and J dated to the XV c. without a specific date.

Given the large number of manuscripts I had to settle for a comprise when it came to their description. Only a brief description of those mss which were collated or sample-collated are provided below. In this section I have greatly relied on the respective catalogues of mss collections which I consulted. Providing my own detailed catalogue of 71 mss would take me beyond the limits of this work and beyond any reasonable timeframe for finishing such a project. Those mss which are maintained in the critical apparatus are marked with an asterisk (*) and for those, naturally, various scribal, orthographical or palaeographical features are also provided. These features are only those of TD and not necessarily the other texts included in the ms. Moreover, in the description below, any specifics related to the text (e.g. type of script, number of columns, etc.) are those of TD. Since all mss abbreviate the nomina sacra, such as the words: աստուած, Յիսուս Քրիստոս, Տէր and սուրբ, those are not specifically mentioned in the description of abbreviations employed in individual mss. Only in two cases the word սուրբ (saint) is not always abbreviated and this is mentioned in the description of the relevant mss. The name of the city of Jerusalem is also consistently abbreviated.

Mss are described according to groups and sub-groups. This allows an easy overview of their content which in some cases is revealing as far as the text-transmission process is concerned and provides external evidence for a common descent of a given group, sub-group, etc.

A full list of mss with their date and provenance (when available) is presented in Appendix 3, arranged in four different ways: according to location where they are currently preserved, in alphabetical order, according to group and sub-group affiliation and according to date.