APPENDIX

TEXT CRITICAL NOTES ON MT ISAIAH 23 ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BIBLIA HEbraICA QUINTA

This Appendix is meant to provide an example of the critical apparatus as this will be part of the new edition, Biblia Hebraica Quinta (BHQ) which is now in preparation and will be the successor to the present Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS). The work of this project is being done on the initiative of the United Bible Societies and is sponsored by one of its members, the German Bible Society. An editorial committee was formed in 1990. Since then rules were discussed and formulated for the work to be done, and editors were invited to join the project and to prepare individual books, together with the members of the Editorial Committee.

In line with BHK3, BHS and also HUB, the new edition will not be a critical edition in the strict sense of the word (by offering a reconstruction of the original text), but it will be a diplomatic edition. One particular Tiberian MS, namely codex L, will be printed as a base text, including its Masora, together with a critical apparatus. It is to be noted that the new edition will contain a short introduction to each book, or group of books (e.g. Twelve Prophets) for the purpose of characterizing the various witnesses for that book. Further, the edition will be accompanied by a one-volume commentary; its purpose is, inter alia, to supply necessary information and arguments that cannot be clearly and compactly signaled in the apparatus; to give the arguments in cases where another reading is preferred; to report and engage other discussion of the case.

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2 The members of this committee are: Y. Goldman, A. van der Kooij, G.J. Norton, S. Pisano, A. Schenker, J. de Waard, R.D. Weis.

3 The Masora will be printed according to the MS, i.e. the Mm (Masora magna) at the top of the page, and the Mp (Masora parva) in the margin. A translation of the Mm will be given in the commentary section.

Since the edition cannot present, in its printed version, all the potential text critical cases, a selection has to be made by each book editor. Cases for inclusion in the apparatus should be selected from a list generated from three sources:

(a) the collation with L of the following sources:
   - three major Tiberian manuscripts in the case of the Torah and two major Tiberian manuscripts in the case of the Prophets and Writings (among them codex A);
   - all available pre-Tiberian Hebrew textual witnesses;
   - all ancient versions that give evidence of independent knowledge of a Hebrew text.

(b) the collation of major editions and translations of the Hebrew text to identify cases given wide notice therein.

(c) a review of the principal modern commentaries for a given book to identify textual cases given wide attention therein.

In order to provide as much uniformity in the project as possible rules of inclusion (and exclusion) of cases have been established. The most important ones are:

- All cases stemming from consonantal variants in the Tiberian witnesses, other than plene/defective, are to be included;
- All cases stemming from corrections of obvious errors in L are to be included;
- All cases stemming from variants found in the witnesses from Qumran, Masada and Murabba’at, where the variant is not purely orthographic, are to be included;
- All cases stemming from consonantal variants found in the Samaritan Pentateuch; where the variant is not purely orthographic, or linguistic in character, are to be included.

The basic principles for inclusion are, first of all, that one of the variants of a case must be text-critically significant, that is, the variant arguably witnesses a Hebrew text that differs from the lemma (including the aspect of vocalization); secondly, a case must also be potentially of significance for translation and/or interpretation, and thirdly, even when these first two criteria do not indicate inclusion, a case is to be included when it has received extensive discussion, e.g. in commentaries.

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5 The edition is meant to be a editio critica minor.
6 See Guidelines for Contributors, p. 17.
7 See Guidelines for Contributors, pp. 17-20.