BOOK REVIEWS


The first edition of this handlist of all registered Greek New Testament manuscripts was issued in 1963 and it inaugurated what has become a prestige series of tools and studies running now to some 24 volumes. The Liste contains details about each manuscript's contents, date, writing material, surviving number of pages, number of columns, number of lines per page, size, and current location with library number. Inevitably, details such as these were often subject to inaccurate or incomplete reporting on the part of the custodians of the manuscripts. Not surprisingly, a good number of addenda and corrigenda were soon noted. Those were published alongside a collection of essays and studies in ANTF 3 in 1969. Also, again not surprisingly, additional manuscripts were coming to light: these were duly reported in ANTF 3 and, later, in several issues of the Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung in Münster's bi-annual Berichte. Because the registration of the vast numbers of manuscripts—some 5,000—is a shifting scene with some manuscripts, previously known, reported lost, others previously thought to be lost reemerging, and others being sold or transferred to different collections, the Institut has tried to keep track of these comings and goings as well as checking and cross-checking on the precise contents and details of the manuscripts. There has therefore been a continuing updating of the Liste in the Institut.

It was always envisaged that the revised master-list in Münster would be published as a new edition of the Liste, partly because the original was out of date, and partly because the occasional additions that were announced represented only a part of all changes required, but also because the Bericht is not a publication freely available. The revised issue has been awaited for a long time. In one sense, of course, there is never an ideal time to publish such a catalogue—it is always going to need updating even before printing. But the recent hesitation to rush into publication was wise while anticipating news of manuscripts from several collections, especially in Eastern Europe. Although some information is still wanted on 1304, 1307, 1308 among others, this reissue contains a good deal of recently confirmed news especially from Russian, Bulgarian, and Albanian libraries, as we shall see below.

The second edition is introduced by Kurt Aland in a Preface dated very shortly before his death. As the author of the first volume in the ANTF series and as its guiding light for over 30 years, Professor Kurt Aland has a fitting tribute in the Publication of Liste².

So, what has happened in the 30 years since Liste¹? First, the new edition runs to 507 pages compared with 431 in 1963. This increase in the number of pages is, of course, caused by an increase in the number of manuscripts now registered.

One remarkable increase is directly attributable to events in Eastern Europe. Only 9 MSS. in the earlier list were in Sofia. That figure is now 86! Tirana has yielded several more MSS. There are also more MSS. from Greece, as well as manuscripts now in Japan, South Africa, Puerto Rico and Malta. Some MSS. previously up for sale are now in institutions.

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The papyri run to P\(^{99}\) (previously P\(^{96}\))—the 1992 Bericht reached P\(^{97}\), NA\(^{27}\) included P\(^{98}\); the uncial increases from 0250 to 0306—0285-0296 were allocated to the (still) unpublished Sinai find of 1976 (NA\(^{27}\) knew MSS. to 0301, the 1992 Bericht to 0300); cursives from 2646 to 2856 (the 1992 Bericht reached 2813); the lectionaries from l 1997 to l 2403 (the 1992 Bericht reached l 2353). ll 2285-2304 have been allocated to the 1976 St. Catherine’s find. Not all the numbers in the list of cursives are new MSS.: 2814-2834 are renumberings of cursives with suffixes a, b, c, etc. or which represent a part of the NT such as 1r. Such old numbers have now been replaced, and, although they are still found in the apparatus to NA\(^{27}\), the intention is that these confusing sigla disappear. The same is true for the lectionaries where l 2306-l 2321 and l 2324-l 2352 are new numbers for those that previously appeared in the Liste with suffixed letters.

One must not, of course, assume that the highest number automatically tells us how many MSS. exist in each of the four categories into which NT MSS. are (somewhat perversely) divided. The continuing work on MSS., which this new Liste reflects, has resulted in several MSS., originally registered as separate, being seen as belonging to another MS. This means that some numbers are redundant. For the papyri P\(^{99}\) and P\(^{95}\) are from the same MS. The same is true of P\(^{94}\) and P\(^{97}\). (The linking of P\(^{91}\) and P\(^{94}\) suggested in some Münster publications is here only queried.) Other links are under discussion, but, at the moment we have 97 papyri. In the new edition the papyri are now given the same columns of information (lines, size etc.) as for the other divisions of MSS.

For the uncial much combining of fragments has occurred. 029 covers four uncials previously registered under separate numbers; 070 is now the number of the “Stammhandschrift” which has swallowed up 10 previously separate witnesses. Excluding 0152 (talisman) and 0153 (ostraca) but including D\(^{abs1}\) and 2 there are 270 uncials (0121b and 092b have been subsumed under other numbers). 055 has been allowed to remain despite the judgement of H. Bachmann in the 1982 Münster Bericht p. 69f. that it is “nicht als Texthandschrift zu zählen, da nur verkürzte Text-Lemma.” 0205, previously thought to be lost, is in fact in Cambridge where it has been for several decades: following Peppermüller’s hunch in ANTF 3 that this bilingual is part of l 1575 together with 0129 and l 1576 the number is not now accepted as a majuscule, but I do wonder if this strange bilingual, containing Titus and Philemon, really fits as part of a lectionary.

Further work on the cursives has reduced the overall total by about 110 (although the eight Abschriften—of 9, 30, 205, 1160, 1909, 1929, 1983, 2036—need to be added). Sometimes two MSS. are recognised as parts of one, but several numbers (about 26) are deleted because further study of the MS. has revealed it does not merit inclusion. Sometimes footnotes tell us the reason for the removal of the MS. from the list (such as if it is in modern Greek, or only a commentary, or contains one passage only) but with 2072, 2116, 2481 and others all we have is the entry square-bracketed. Three numbers are “frei” (1151, 1825, 2171), never having been allocated to an identifiable Greek MS. Some cursives whose eligibility was at one time questioned (1419, 1507, for example) are safely included.

As far as the lectionaries are concerned, about 93 numbers have been removed. In some cases (ll 1581-9) the number was unassigned (“frei”), but, generally, two separate MSS. have now been reunited. Many of these reunions have resulted from work on fragments in the St. Petersburg libraries. Other numbers have been removed because recent investigation has revealed that the MS. does not qualify for inclusion—although, unlike the MSS. square-bracketed in the list of cursives, those so marked for deletion in the list of lectionaries are no longer furnished with any details other than their number. l 355 is said on p. 240 to be 0302 but on p. 44 it is 0303. The latter fits the library classmark.