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The Society for Old Testament Study

BOOK LIST

1940

THE SOCIETY FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDY.

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THE following selection of books published during the last year has been made by a Sub-Committee consisting of Miss B. K. Rattey, Professor S. A. Cook, Professor G. R. Driver, Rev. Father C. Lattey, S.J., Mr. H. Loewe, Rev. Preb. W. O. E. Oesterley, Rev. Prin. H. Wheeler Robinson, Prof. T. H. Robinson, and the Rev. Prof. H. H. Rowley.

(Where sterling prices are quoted for foreign books, they may be subject to fluctuations in the exchange.)

ARCHÆOLOGY.

DE LANGTRE, R. *Les Textes de Ras Shamra-Ugarit et leurs apports à l'histoire des Origines israélites.* (Beyart, Bruges. Belgas 5.)

This is a long article from the *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* (Tome XVI, 1939), reprinted as a fascicle in the *Bulletin d'Histoire et d'Exégèse de l'Ancien Testament* (Louvain University). It is a careful and well-documented summary of the question, leading in the main to negative conclusions, i.e., to the rejection of the identifications with Old Testament names, tribes, and places. Dr. de Langtre hopes to continue specializing in the subject.

KENYON, SIR F. *The Bible and Archæology.* (Harrap. 15s.)

A brief survey of the general results of archæological research for the Bible student, with fuller treatment of Biblical MSS. and other literary material brought to light by excavation.

MERCER, S. A. B. *The Tell el-Amarna Tablets.* (Macmillan, Toronto. £4 4s. 0d.)

The first attempt to edit the whole collection in English can be unreservedly recommended to English students. Closely follows Knudtzon, adding the handful of new tablets in their appropriate places; he gives the transliterated cuneiform on the left page and his own English translation on the right, with brief notes at the foot when required. There are useful appendices and glossaries, supplementing those of Knudtzon at the end of the book.

SCHAEFFER, C. F. A. *The Cuneiform Texts of Ras Shamra-Ugarit* (Schweich Lectures, 1936. O.U.P. 18s. 6d.)

Four lectures on the history of Ugarit, the library of cuneiform texts, the cults and the religious texts hitherto unearthed. While there is nothing new here, the author presents a lucid and readable account of his work, which he is careful to relate to other cultures of the period in contact with Ugarit. The translation from his French is admirable, and the numerous illustrations are as well chosen as they are beautifully reproduced.

EDUCATIONAL.

The Old Testament Shortened. (S.P.C.K. 5s.)

In this volume, a companion to that already issued on the New Testament, passages selected from the Old Testament have been arranged, as far as possible, in chronological order. Each of the twelve parts has a short introduction, dealing, not only with the chief literary and historical features of the section, but also with the religious teaching included in it. Features especially to be commended are : extracts from the Book of the Covenant and from Deuteronomy are introduced at suitable points, Ruth and Jonah are placed after Ezra, and passages from the Apocrypha are freely used. There are good maps and numerous illustrations.

SUTCLIFFE, T. M. *The Book of Amos.* (S.P.C.K. Biblical Handbooks, 1s.)

A remarkably fresh and vigorous piece of exposition, scholarly, imaginative, and vivid. The comments are terse and to the point : references to modern parallels are well-chosen and not over-elaborated. The style is simple, points of historical, literary and theological interest are discussed in a way which arrests attention, and the notes on difficult or obscure passages are written lucidly.

EXEGESIS.

DUESBERG, H. *Les Scribes Inspirés.* 2 vols. (Desclée de Brouwer, Paris.)

This massive work, which claims to be an " Introduction aux Livres Sapientaux de la Bible," is much more than what we commonly understand by an Introduction. The first volume is devoted to the Book of Proverbs, but it deals at length with the background of Egyptian and Oriental Wisdom, and with the ideas of *Proverbs*, rather than with the composition of the book. Similarly, the second volume, which deals with Job, Ecclesiastes, Ecclesiasticus and Wisdom, after a valuable chapter on the Old Testament conception of bliss, deals with

the thought and messages of the four books, and only incidentally with questions of authorship, date, and integrity. As a guide to the ideas and to the cultural and spiritual background of the Wisdom Literature, these volumes are invaluable.

FREEHOF, S. B. *The Book of Psalms*. (Union of American Hebrew Congregations.)

The first of a new series of commentaries based on the translation issued by the Jewish Publication Society of America. It contains the text with footnotes, which include a short introduction to each Psalm, followed by explanations of obscure or difficult phrases.

KISSANE, E. J. *The Book of Job*: Translated from a critically revised Hebrew text, with Commentary. (Brown and Nolan, Dublin. 12s. 6d.)

Professor Kissane of Maynooth has brought out a sound and useful commentary on Job. He seems to be prepared for any date between 500 and 200 B.C. The original draft of the book probably did not contain the speeches of Elihu; but they may have been added by the author himself. The strophes may be all of the same length, or the alternate strophes one verse longer or shorter.

LESLIE, E. A. *The Prophets tell their own story*. (Abingdon Press. \$2.00.)

Deals with the eight pre-exilic prophets, putting their story, with a good deal of historical and other material, into autobiographical form. A fresh and original method of treatment, though there is no striking new light thrown on the life and message of any one of the eight.

LINDER, J., S.J. *Commentarius in librum Daniel*. (Lethielleux, Paris. 16s.)

The previous edition of *Daniel* by Father Knabenbauer in the *Cursus S. Scripturae* has here been revised so drastically in order to bring it up to date that for practical purposes the present volume may be reckoned a new book. The historical, linguistic and other issues receive a full and careful treatment which it will be unwise to neglect; the positions taken up, however, are practically the same as before, and may seem rather too rigid even to students of the writer's own communion.

NOWELL-ROSTON, S. *The Challenge of Calamity*. (Lutterworth Press. 7s. 6d.)

A running commentary on the book of Job, often, especially in the latter part, little more than a paraphrase, but at times suggesting illuminating lines of thought, arising out of the text of the book. The tone is more sympathetic towards the friends of Job than that usually adopted by modern students.

OESTERLEY, W. O. E. *The Psalms, translated with text-critical and exegetical notes*. 2 vols. (S.P.C.K. 16s. each volume.)

A general handbook on the Psalms, without rival in English, containing an excellent Introduction, touching every side of recent study of the Psalter, an original translation of the Psalms, with brief textual notes on the emendations adopted, exegetical notes arranged as continuous comments of whole Psalms, and brief summaries of the religious teaching of the Psalms. The standpoint throughout is largely influenced by Gunkel, both in emendation and in interpretation, though with a substantial measure of independence of judgement. The emphasis on the religious quality, use, and teaching of the Psalms is an important feature. Some of the chapters of the Introduction, and the comments on certain of the Psalms, were prepared by T. H. Robinson.

POWER, A. D. *Ecclesiastes, or the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach*. (Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d.)

An unannotated edition of Sirach, which is based on the Authorized Version, but which presents an eclectic text selected from the renderings of various translators. The preparer of this edition modestly minimizes his own part in its preparation, which rests on sound scholarship, and his name does not figure on the title page. He has presented a rendering of great charm, which should further his aim of popularizing the book. A valuable index is appended.

RUDOLPH, W. *Das Buch Ruth*. (Leipzig.)

This work is well worthy of a place in the Sellin Commentary in which it appears; the writer's thoroughness and scholarship are used to the best advantage. He holds that the book is earlier than Deuteronomy, and that it is in the main a trustworthy piece of history.

GENERAL.

Mélanges Syriens offerts à Monsieur René Dussaud. Vol. 1. (Geuthner, Paris.)

A noteworthy volume, splendidly illustrated, in honour of one of the outstanding figures in ancient archæology and epigraphy. Over fifty contributors combine to make it one of the most valuable of recent collective works on the many subjects studied and illuminated by Dussaud, and it is to be regretted that the conditions in which this issue of the *Revue de la Bible* List is produced make it impossible to give any details.

Symbolae ad iura orientis antiqui pertinentes Paulo Koschaker dedicatae.
(Brill, Leiden.)

A volume of twenty-three articles in honour of the sixtieth birthday of the well-known authority on Oriental law, mainly technical, but including some points of general interest.

HISTORY.

MOULD, E. W. K. *Essentials of Bible History.* (Nelson, New York. 15s.)

An attempt to cover the whole period of Bible history in one volume, with frequent reference to the general background and the texts concerned. Written in an easy, simple style, it might form a useful text-book for students at a somewhat elementary stage, subject to occasional correction by a competent teacher.

INTRODUCTION.

(a) TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS.

OESTERLEY, W. O. E. *Readings from the Apocrypha.* (Sheldon Press. 3s. 6d.)

A selection of choice passages, which should be useful in making more widely known some of the literary treasures of the little-read Apocrypha. There is a very brief Introduction, and the translation, while following the Revised Version as far as possible, is not tied to that rendering.

(b) PHILOLOGY.

ROBINSON, T. H. *Paradigms and Exercises in Syriac Grammar.* 2nd ed. (Oxford. 6s.)

In this edition most of the misprints which marred the first have been corrected, and other limited changes have been made. In particular the usages of the Indian Church have been replaced by those more usual in European text-books.

ROSENTHAL, FR. *Die Aramäistische Forschung seit Th. Nöldekes Veröffentlichungen.* (Brill, Leiden.)

Reviews all the new texts that have come to light in the last half century or so, and the grammatical and other work done in every branch of Aramaic. An indispensable work in this field, if only for its bibliographical value.

SARAUW, CHR. *Ueber Akzent und Silbenbildung in den älteren semitischen Sprachen.* (Munksgaard, Copenhagen. Kr. 7.50.)

An interesting, almost a sensational contribution to the subject, including some novel features, e.g., that the common feminine termination *-ah* in Hebrew had no connexion with the normal Semitic *-at*. The book should be read by every student of Hebrew or of any cognate language.

WEINGREEN, J. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. (Oxford. 10s.)

The author's aim is to present the subject in a simpler and easier form than that of Davidson's familiar grammar. It may well prove a benefit to those who have to undertake the study of Hebrew unaided, though Davidson will still probably be most useful in the hands of a competent teacher.

(c) LITERARY CRITICISM.

GAUTIER, L. *Introduction à l'ancien Testament*. 3rd ed. 2 vols. (Payot, Lausanne.)

A reprint of the 1914 edition, with a prefixed "Note Complémentaire" by Antoine Baumgartner and a supplement to the Bibliography, prepared by A. Gampert and W. Goy. The author's positions are in general those current in the critical school when the book was first written.

GOODSPEED, E. J. *The Story of the Apocrypha*. (Chicago University Press. 12s.)

A brief Introduction for the general reader, which may be adapted for study groups. The price seems somewhat high for a book of this size, though its intrinsic value is beyond question.

HUMBERT, P. *Études sur le Récit du Paradis et de la Chute dans la Genèse*. (Neuchâtel.)

A penetrating and exhaustive examination of Genesis 2-3, arguing that, while literary analysis of these chapters is impossible, they rest on two originally distinct myths, a Creation Myth and a Myth of Paradise Lost.

KRAFT, C. F. *The Strophic Structure of Hebrew Poetry as illustrated in the First Book of the Psalter*. (University of Chicago Press. 5s.)

Most of the Psalms exhibit a system of couplets or triads which may be combined into larger units. There are a few variants. The book is well documented.

WELCH, A. C. *The Work of the Chronicler, its Purpose and Date*. (Milford. 7s. 6d.)

A convincing demonstration of a double recension of the Book of Chronicles. The first compiler worked under the influence of Deuteronomy, and his work was annotated by a writer dominated by the Priestly Code who shared his predecessor's interest in the Temple and cultus, but differed from his views on these subjects.

POST-BIBLICAL JUDAISM.

CHAVEL, C. B. *The Book of Divine Commandments*. Vol. I, The Positive Commandments. (Soncino Press. 12s. 6d.)

A translation, with notes, of the first part of Maimonides' great work. The renderings are, for the most part, accurate, though at times errors have crept in,

Hebrew Union College Annual. Vol. XIV. (Cincinnati. \$3.00.)

A collection of articles on widely differing subjects, which well maintains the standard attained in previous years.

RELIGION AND THEOLOGY.

CEUPPENS (O.P.), P. F. *Theologia Biblica*: Volumen I, *De Deo Uno*; Volumen II, *De Sanctissima Trinitate*. (Collegio Angelico, Rome. 5s. each volume.)

Takes the scholastic treatises in order, and expounds the chief Biblical texts bearing on them. While New Testament passages naturally take up more space than the Old, there is a fairly full treatment of several Old Testament points.

JAMES, F. *Personalities of the Old Testament*. (Scribners. 12s. 6d.)

A "popular" book of the best kind, following normal critical lines, but expanding the result into a series of living studies, which together constitute both an introduction to the Old Testament and a study of its religious contents (except for the Psalms). There is a copious bibliography and the book is well indexed.

MANSON, T. W. (ed.). *A Companion to the Bible*. (T. and T. Clark. 12s. 6d.)

The book as to which the Society was asked to make suggestions and to nominate an Editor. The Committee which did this can congratulate themselves on the excellence of the result. A score of topical articles by well-known writers covers the whole general field of Old and New Testament study. Even the expert will find it a useful and up-to-date review, whilst the ordinary student will find it invaluable.

PILCHER, C. V. *The Hereafter in Jewish and Christian Thought, with special reference to the Doctrine of Resurrection*. (Moorhouse Lectures.) (S.P.C.K. 7s. 6d.)

Whilst this book makes no original contribution—it covers far too wide a field to do this—it is a useful survey, sufficiently well documented to make it an acceptable approach to the subject. The generalizations are sober and well-balanced in judgment and the writer is evidently familiar with most of the data he reviews.

ROBINSON, H. W. *Suffering, Human and Divine*. (S.C.M. 6s.)

Perhaps the best book of its size ever written on this subject. While the writer, naturally, is concerned with a much wider field than the Old Testament, his discussion of the problem as it is presented in that section of the Bible demands the attention of every Old Testament student.