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Review of New World Bible Translation Committee's *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures*

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The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures. Translated by the New World Bible Translation Committee. Brooklyn, N. Y.: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (International Bible Students Assn.), 1969 Pp. 1, 165. \$2.00.

An original Greek text for two dollars is something of a miracle, and it should not surprise us that it took a world-wide group of Bible students to pull it off. This is no ordinary interlinear: the integrity of the text is preserved, and the English which appears below it is simply the basic meaning of the Greek word. Thus the interlinear feature of this book is no translation at all. A text with instant vocabulary more correctly describes it. A translation in smooth English appears in a slim column at the right-hand margin of the pages. One line from an ordinary interlinear (Hart and Osborn's *Vergil*) contrasted with a selection from the present text will make the advantages of the latter immediately apparent:

HART AND OSBORN

Cano, arma que virum qui, profugus fato, primus venit
I sing arms and the hero who driven by fate, first has come

COMMITTEE

In the beginning the Word	Ἐν ἀρχῇ ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος
was, and the Word was with	in beginning was the Word, and the Word
God, and the Word was a	ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος
god.	was toward the God, and god was the word.

The mixmastered Latin of the normal interlinear is anathema to any classicist, and probably hinders the student user more than it helps him. But since this book short-cuts the mechanical and distracting lexicon-thumbing while presenting an unretouched text, I think it is a legitimate and highly useful aid toward the mastery of koine (and classical) Greek. After examining a copy, I equipped several interested second-year Greek students with it as an auxiliary text. No assignments were made in it: the students, combining their wish to learn Greek with a natural interest in the original of the New Testament, dipped into it on their own. They read the Greek (I strongly recommended reading it aloud), picked up the English more or less subliminally, and ended up improving their Greek. After learning the proper pronunciations, a motivated student could probably learn koine Greek from this source alone.

The text is based on that of Brooke F. Westcott and Fenton J. A. Hort (1881, repr.), but the translation by the anonymous committee is thoroughly up-to-date and consistently accurate. Where both the *King James* and the *Revised Standard*, for instance, have "wise men" for the Greek *magoi* (e.g., *Matt.* 2:1, 2:7, 2:16), the *Kingdom Interlinear* has "astrologers," a more correct and informative rendition. The book has been very carefully compiled and printed.

In sum, when a Witness comes to the door, the classicist, Greek student, or Bible student alike would do well to bring him in and place an order. Or you can order direct from Brooklyn (117 Adams St. The ZIP is 11201).

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