April 1974

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

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Winter, Thomas Nelson, "Review of New World Bible Translation Committee's *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures*" (1974). Faculty Publications, Classics and Religious Studies Department. 27.

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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
In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.

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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