

Brubacher

I recently received an email from Matthew Brubacher, who is evidently trying to determine the actual MSS that could have been used in producing the TR (since Beza). He questioned me about my statement of the evidence at three points, in the apparatus that accompanies my Greek Text (f³⁵): Acts 10:6, Ephesians 3:9 and Hebrews 12:20. At Acts 10:6 I show [5%] for the TR's 'who will tell you what you ought to do'. At Ephesians 3:9 I show [10%] for the TR's 'fellowship'. At Hebrews 12:20 I show [4%] for the TR's 'or thrust through with a dart'. He asked me for the GA numbers of specific MSS.

Now then, fifteen years ago, when I was preparing the apparatus, there simply were no late Byzantine MSS available on the internet, zero. I was limited to extrapolating from Tischendorf, von Soden, Scrivener and Swanson (only for Acts). However, neither Tischendorf nor von Soden cared about really 'late' MSS, and since Swanson used Codex B as his base text, he most certainly had no interest in such MSS. It follows that I was limited to Scrivener. However, there is a trap built into his statement of the results of his collations, and I was not aware of that trap. So I simply told Brubacher that I had extrapolated from Scrivener at those points.

After checking Scrivener, Brubacher graciously shared with me the results of his research. After listing all the MSS that he had collated, Scrivener, at any given variant set, simply listed the MSS that did not agree with the TR that he used as his base text, leaving the reader to assume that the MSS not mentioned did agree with the TR. That was what I did. However, Brubacher discovered that MSS not mentioned included any that simply did not exist for that variant set. That was the trap (I do not recall ever seeing that information in Scrivener).

At Acts 10:6, the two MSS that Scrivener did not list, that we now know as GA 643 and 356, simply do not contain that part of the book, so my 5% becomes 0%. At Ephesians 3:9, of the four MSS that Scrivener did not list, GA 642 and 480 and Lectionary 185 do not contain that part of the book, so my 10% probably becomes 1% (Brubacher says GA 2817 supports the TR). At Hebrews 12:20, of the two MSS that Scrivener did not list, GA 356 and Lectionary 185 do not contain that part of the book, but there are extenuating circumstances, so my 4% becomes 1% (Brubacher says GA 2815 supports the TR).

I do not foresee a fourth edition for my Greek Text, but I am sending you this information so you can make the corrections in your own copy. It is by sharing the results of any research that we do that our collective understanding of the history of the transmission of the NT Text will be sharpened. I have thanked Brubacher personally, but I here say a public "Thank you" to him.