



"Who is this guy? Where does he get the nerve? And who is he calling a dummy?"
— Anonymous World-Renowned Text Critic.

**ABOUT
ONE DOZEN**
COLLATING FOR
DUMMIES BOOKS
IN PRINT

COLLATING FOR DUMMIES

**Four
Illustrations!**

A Reference for the Rest of Us!

by Tony Chartrand-Burke
Ph.D. Candidate, The Centre for the
Study of Religion, University of
Toronto



A Compact Introduction to a Neglected Area of New Testament Research

Learn From the Mistakes of a Novice -- We Did it All Wrong So Now You Won't Have To

Find, Receive Copies of and Edit Unpublished Manuscripts of Non-Canonical and Patristic Texts


**TCE
BOOKS**
ONTARIO

Introduction

As New Testament scholars we pride ourselves on our abilities to read the texts of our discipline. We hunt for unnoticed parallels, tease meaning out of obscure phrases, count up word use, exegete, eisegete and variously twist the text to suit our purposes. Yet few of us stop to think of how it is that we came to have these texts. That task, it seems, is someone else's job. We *work*, but we don't often get our hands dirty.

Collating for Dummies is designed to introduce you to the world of manuscript editing. It deals not so much with the process of deciding between variant readings but with the more fundamental tasks of finding manuscripts, comparing (or *collating*) them, and presenting them in a readable critical edition for others to use. Manuscript editing is a thankless, tireless, even sometimes *tiresome*, pursuit but it has its rewarding aspects. For one, it allows you to work closely with literary artifacts, each of which has its own special character. You also finish the project with a tangible piece of work which has undeniable utility.

Why Bother with Manuscripts?

Much of New Testament scholarship is heavily reliant on critical editions, so much so that we tend to use these editions without much thought to their creation or their reliability. The primary critical edition for the New Testament Apocrypha is that of TISCHENDORF, now a century-and-a-quarter old. At the time, TISCHENDORF'S edition was praised for its scientific approach to the evidence. But there have been many advances in codicology and paleography since his day, and many new manuscripts have been found. Take these examples: TISCHENDORF'S *Protevangelium of James* was based on 15 late MSS, we now know of more than 160; his edition of *Pseudo-Matthew*, based on four late MSS and representing a long version which includes material from the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas (InThom)*, has recently been supplanted by the radically shortened version prepared by GIJSEL from over 250 MSS. As for *InThom*, TISCHENDORF'S text was based on four MSS, two of which are fragmentary; there are now 14 known *InThom* MSS, one of which predates TISCHENDORF'S base MS by five centuries. Clearly TISCHENDORF'S work is now terribly outdated, yet many commentators and translators of non-canonical Christian texts continue to appeal to it. New findings must be incorporated into our body of knowledge on these texts. Perhaps you will join this endeavour.

Another reason to learn more about manuscript editing is to ensure the accuracy of the critical editions. Scholars make errors, and if no-one takes the time to verify their findings, these errors can be carried on into later scholarship. Of course, the errors may be slight, particularly in TISCHENDORF'S case, but they could be potentially important for future exegesis.

Getting Started

You begin your work assuming that the critical edition that you are using is reliable and up-to-date. But how do you know this is truly the case? Well, if you have read a sufficient amount of scholarship on the text you will find that other scholars have mentioned having seen other MSS of the text. From this information, it is relatively simple to see an MS for yourself, or obtain a copy (see *How to Get Manuscripts* below).

But your search does not stop here. What if the scholarship is silent about unedited MSS? Or what if, being the thorough scholar that you are, you want to make sure that there aren't other MSS lying somewhere unnoticed? Don't worry, there are several resources available to you in your search:

- ✓ The Bollandists, a group of Jesuits who study the saints, publish the periodical *Analecta Bollandiana* (the 100th issue of which features an index in which you can look up an apostle by name to find information from past issues of the periodical), and a collection of monographs, the *Subsidia Hagiographica*. Included in this series are the catalog overviews by HALKIN and FROS. In these books you can look up the name of a saint you are researching and find references to texts, editions, versions, and manuscripts (both edited and unedited). The Bollandists also can be contacted via the internet at <http://www.kbr.be/~soboll>.
- ✓ Write to the *Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes*, Attention Paul Géhin, Section Grecque, 52, rue de Cardinal Lemoine, 75005 Paris, France.
- ✓ GEERARD's catalog overview is similar to HALKIN's books but it focuses on the New Testament Apocrypha rather than Hagiographa.
- ✓ Another index, put together in part by Robert SINKEWICZ at Toronto's Institute of Medieval Studies, provides MS catalog information for numerous writings of antiquity.
- ✓ A final option in your quest, reserved only for the persistent, is to conduct your own comprehensive search of catalogs. It is a time-consuming and painstaking enterprise with little expectation of finding anything that previous scholars may have missed. The library at the aforementioned Institute of Medieval Studies is an excellent place to begin your search.



Consider ahead of time the possible titles under which your text could be listed (the catalog editor's lack of knowledge on the text may be the reason why no-one else has come across it).

Manuscript Catalogs

Catalogs have been mentioned above already, but now that you know the names of the MSS you seek, these now can be used more extensively. A typical MS designation will provide all the information you need to obtain more information on the material you seek: its present location, and its library holding number. For example: *Paris Bib. Nat. 349* refers to MS number 349 at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. To find catalogs of the Bibliothèque Nationale's holdings consult the work of RICHARD and its update by OLIVIER. These texts list printed catalogs by location (there can be a number of catalogs per library, each listing the MS you seek).



Catalog entries are of mixed forms and quality. Some give full codicological details (condition, type of paper, marginalia), some give the bare essentials (date, MS format). Some catalog editors performed their task quickly or slavishly, omitting texts within MSS, wrongly assessing their dates, or making errors in pagination. So the catalogs must be used with caution. If you visit a library they have their own internal catalogues which are more detailed and may contain new finds. You will need to know the most current catalog listing of your MS if you wish to obtain a copy of it for yourself (the holder of the MS may ask for a listing).

How To Get Manuscripts

Finding the location of your MS is only a small part of the collating process – now you have to see it. You can actually go and see the MS in person, but, unless you live on the doorstep of the library or monastery at which it is held, the cost of doing so may be prohibitive. Only through such contact, however, can the MS be fully evaluated. Whether or not personal contact is possible, you will need to obtain your own copy. This can come in many forms, each with its advantages and disadvantages:

- ✓ Microfilm: the best option by far (aside from seeing the MS in person). This affords you a look at the entire MS (so you can compensate for catalogue errors). Copy quality is the highest but so too is the price: \$50-300.
- ✓ Photographs: the quality is excellent and, should you want only copies of the relevant MS pages, much less expensive than microfilm. Price: \$25-50 (depending on the size of the text).
- ✓ Paper: photocopy from microfilm, this is the least expensive option but terrible in quality. Price: 50 cents per page.



Clearly, microfilm is the best option here, despite the cost. But you may not have to carry this burden alone. Check with your department or Graduate Studies umbrella for funding opportunities.

Copies of MSS can be obtained by several means:

- ✓ Personal Communication. Find the address of the library and send a request for the MSS. They will often send the MS along with a bill or a request for prepayment with a price list.
- ✓ Interlibrary Loan. A no-nonsense approach: they do the legwork, including currency exchanges. Just hope that your ILL department has had some experience in doing this kind of work before.
- ✓ You may find that a central organization is responsible for filming the MS holdings of several libraries/monasteries (e.g. the Library of Congress, the Institute of Patristic Studies in Thessaloniki). This makes obtaining copies of multiple MSS easier. Diligent catalogue research should make these connections apparent (the Library of Congress, for example, have published listings of their microfilm holdings) but sometimes you can be at a loss as to where you can get a copy of the materials you seek.



Turnaround time, from the placing of the order to receiving the material, can vary from as little as a month to six months or longer. It is best to order all of your MSS as early as possible to ensure that they are available to you once you begin your editing work in earnest.

It's Collating Time

Now that you have your MS what do you do with it? The first-time editor, upon seeing the manuscript, may be surprised at how difficult it is to read. We are accustomed to the fine, computer-generated fonts of the editions, not to the idiosyncrasies of penmanship. In time, however, your abilities to decipher the raw text of the MS will mature.

Codicology

But before you even begin to read the MS you must struggle with its codicology. François BOVON lists several aspects of the MS which must be examined upon first sitting down with the material (some of these can only be considered if you can see the MS in person; with luck, your catalogue editor will have done much of this work for you).

- ✓ Size and support of the MS (type of paper and watermarks).
- ✓ External structure (look at page numbers and loose leaves to determine if anything is missing, and how much).
- ✓ The written text (its format may be peculiar to a certain time or place).
- ✓ Decorations (which may also determine time and place of origin).
- ✓ Check its contents (against the catalogs and against the index in the MS, if present).
- ✓ Colophon, dates, marginal notes and marks of property (you can cross-reference the name of the scribe in VOGEL AND GARDTHAUSEN).

Many of these points of examination may seem unimportant for reading the text but it will become clear why these are necessary when we discuss relationships between MSS.

Organizing Your Witnesses

Once these introductory procedures are completed, we can finally turn to reading our MS. Collating essentially involves comparing – one MS against another. To do that effectively we must collect all of the information in a useful format for editing. One way of doing this is to take one MS as your base, copy it out one line to a page, and insert the corresponding readings in the other MSS below it. You can decide which MS to use as the base – it can be what you feel may be the best witness, it can be the longest MS. You may also wish to use different coloured ink for each MS to keep them clearly separate and avoid misreadings. This method has limited utility – it is time-consuming, and can really only be done for a small number of MSS.

Long hours of collating manuscript variations can make you appear tired and disheveled.



If you are dealing with a larger number of MSS, it will be necessary to reduce the number of useful witnesses. This can be done by grouping your witnesses into families (this is where MS relationships becomes important). For texts that have widely different readings, or clearly different *recensions*, the family groupings will be quickly apparent. From there you can determine the best MS within the family. Entire families can even be eliminated if it is determined that they are late and secondary.

Errors of Transmission



How do you determine which MS is the best representative of a family? You look for errors that indicate whether one MS is a copy of another. The types of errors in manuscript transmission are plentiful:

Involuntary variants:

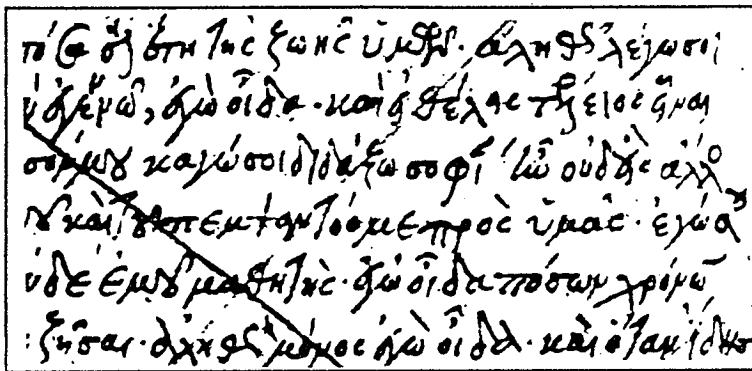
- ✓ Additions (*dittography* i.e. the repetition by mistake of a letter, syllable, word or group of words or even a part of a sentence).
- ✓ Omissions (*haplography*: writing only once letters, syllables or words which should have

6 Collating for Dummies

been repeated; *homoioteleuton*: the confusing of words, lines or parts of sentences which have the same ending resulting in the copyist skipping a part).

- ✓ Confusion of letters (most errors are due to *itacism* i.e. certain diphthongs like η ε ι υ οι can be pronounced like an iota and are then replaced by ι; also exchanges between ε and αι, ε and η, ο and ω; also consonants τ and θ, π and β, κ and χ, κσ and πσ with ζ and ψ; also forms of the capitals Ε and Σ, Ο and Θ, Γ and Τ).
- ✓ Misspellings through spoonerisms (e.g. βαλων for λαβων), assimilation (the ending of a word becomes the same as a word nearby), and simplification of consonant clusters (e.g. εκλαξεν for εκλαγξεν).
- ✓ Confusion of words (due to no space between words, or abbreviations).

Detail from the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas* in *Vienna Cod. hist. Gr 91*. This scribe uses abbreviations heavily.



Intentional variants:

- ✓ Corrections of spelling, grammar and style.
- ✓ Corrections for the sake of harmony or conformity.
- ✓ Agreement with Biblical quotations in the NT and the text of the OT (LXX).
- ✓ Exegetical corrections, interpolations, deletions, doctrinal corrections.

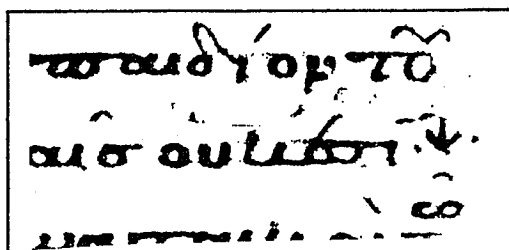
If the same errors occur in two (or more) MS, they must be related to one another. The MS with the fewer common errors is the ancestor of the group. Finding variants which carry over from one family to another will help in placing your witnesses in a stemma

Deciphering the Text



Hand-written MSS are difficult to read. Not only do you have to deal with the causes of some of the errors noted above (*itacism*, abbreviations) but also poor handwriting, atrocious spelling, *lacunae* (damage to the MS), and holes (paper damage prior to writing which, on microfilm or other copies from MS, can lead to misreadings or confusion). Here are some hints to cope with the frustrations of deciphering the text.

In this MS, a hole at the end of line two reveals a character from a later page.



- ✓ If you are lucky, a printed edition of your text already exists that can be consulted and used as a rosetta stone for deciphering new MSS (particularly in cases of itacism, abbreviations, and letter combinations). For difficult readings unique to your MSS consult METZGER, VAN GRONINGEN, or GARDTHAUSEN for helpful charts on abbreviations and letter combinations.
- ✓ Note the abbreviations and letter combinations used by each particular scribe wherever they occur so that you can create a “profile” of the copyist. Such diligence will be rewarded when you come across words that cannot be deciphered with appeal to METZGER, etc.
- ✓ A little knowledge of modern Greek pronunciation will help in correcting puzzling misspellings. For example, δ and θ are both pronounced as “th,” υ, η, ει, and οι as “e” as in “these,” β is pronounced as “v,” etc.
- ✓ Readers new to *scriptio continua*, unable to determine where one word ends and another begins, may be consoled by the fact that the practice follows certain rules. For example: native words can terminate only in a vowel (or diphthong) or in one of three consonants (ν, ρ and ζ). See METZGER for more information.
- ✓ Letter combinations in *miniscule* (lower-case) MSS also follow set rules: most letters may be connected on both sides, but some only on one (ζ ι υ ξ ο ρ φ ω may be joined only to the preceding letter, ε η κ σ only with the following).

Some examples of abbreviations and letter combinations common in miniscule MSS (from METZGER p. 27, 30).

ς	αι	//	εισι	αι	α	θς	θ	θς	θ
...	αυ	~	ειναι	αυ	α	...	α	...	α
↪	αυτι	...	ης	αυ	α	...	α	...	α
↪	απα	ςς	και	αυ	α	...	α	...	α
✓	ας	...	οις	αυ	α	...	α	...	α
ι ι	δε	...	ου	αυ	α	...	α	...	α
...	ειν	δ	οτι	αυ	α	...	α	...	α
Abbreviations				Combinations					

Presenting Your Text

Now that you have determined your base text and organized your secondary MSS, it is time to work on the presentation for publication. Two rules of thumb should be noted here: choose a format that you like (look at other critical editions, taking from them whatever formatting techniques that you find appealing), and make your apparatus as clear as possible. If you wish to follow a strict set of criteria in presenting your text consult, in particular, the guides prepared by Sources Chrétiennes and IRIGOIN.

Coming Out Into the Light

There is no guarantee that seeing your critical text in print will be sufficient reward for all of the hours spent at the microfilm reader, the money spent seeing and obtaining your MSS, the damage to your vision, etc. But the scholarly world will have benefited from your sacrifice. Your career may also receive a boost: you will know your text better than anyone else on the planet and, like it or not, you will be forever considered an expert on the text. You will also have gathered experience with skills that can be used for other texts, even Biblical texts – for sure, you'll never look at Nestle-Aland's text and critical apparatus the same way. Intrigued? Then get to work.

Resources

Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina et Mediae Aetatis. Ed. Socii Bollandiani. *Subsidia Hagiographica*, 6. Brussels: Société des Bollandists, 1949.

Bibliotheca Hagiographica Orientalis. Ed. Socii Bollandiani. *Subsidia Hagiographica*, 10. 1910; rpt., Brussels: Société des Bollandists, 1970.

BOVON, François. "Editing the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles." In *The Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles*. Ed. François Bovon et al. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1999, 1-35.

Directives pour la préparation des manuscrits. Sources Chrétiennes. Paris: Éditions du Cerf, 1971.

FROS, Henryk. *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina et Mediae Aetatis*. *Subsidia Hagiographica*, 70. Brussels: Société des Bollandists, 1986.

GARDTHAUSEN, Viktor. *Griechische Palaeographie*. 2nd ed. 2 vols. 1911-13; rpt., Leipzig: Zentralantiquariat der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, 1978.

GEERARD, Mavriti. *Clavis Apocryphorum Novi Testamenti*. Turnhout: Brepols, 1992.

GIJSEL, Jan. *Libri de Navitate Mariae: Vol I. Pseudo-Matthaei Evangelium Textus et Commentarius*. Corpus Christianorum Series Apocryphorum, 9. Brepols: Turnhout, 1997.

GREETHAM, D.C. *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1992.

HALKIN, François.

Bibliotheca Hagiographica Graeca. 3rd. ed. *Subsidia Hagiographica*, 8a. Brussels: Société des Bollandists, 1957.

HALKIN, François.

Bibliotheca Hagiographica Graeca: Auctarium. Subsidia Hagiographica, 47. Brussels: Société des Bollandists, 1969.

Novum Auctarium Bibliothecae Hagiographicae Graecae. Subsidia Hagiographica, 65. Brussels: Société des Bollandists, 1984.

IRIGOIN, Jean. *Règles et recommandations pour les éditions critiques (Série grecque)*. Collection des Universités de France. Paris: Belles Lettres, 1972.

METZGER, Bruce M. *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Greek Palaeography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.

OLIVIER, Jean-Marie. *Répertoire des bibliothèques et des catalogues de manuscrits grecs de Marcel Richard*. Corpus Christianorum. Turnhout: Brepols, 1995.

RICHARD, Marcel. *Répertoire des bibliothèques et des catalogues de manuscrits grecs*. 2nd. ed. Paris: Centre national de la recherche scientifique, 1958.

SINKEWICZ, Robert E.

Manuscript Listings for the Authors of Classical and Late Antiquity. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 1990.

Manuscript Listings for the Authors of the Patristic and Byzantine Periods. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 1992.

THOMPSON, Edward Maude. *An Introduction to Greek and Latin Paleography*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1912.

TISCHENDORF, Constantin von. *Evangelia Apocrypha*. 2nd. ed. Leipzig: Arenaris and Mendelsohn, 1876.

VAGANAY, Leon. *An Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism*. 2nd rev. ed. by Christian-Bernard Amphoux. Trans. Jenny Heimerdinger. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

VAN GRONINGEN, B.A. *A Short Manual of Greek Palaeography*. 3rd. rev. ed. Leiden: A.W. Sijthoff, 1967.

VOGEL, Marie and Victor GARDTHAUSEN, *Die griechischen Schreiber des Mittelalters und der Renaissance*. 1908; rpt., Hildesheim: Olms, 1966.

WEST, Martin L. *Textual Criticism and Editorial Technique*. Stuttgart: B.G. Teubner, 1973.