

view a number of vistas that are generally unfamiliar to persons, even historians, other than the specialists in the specific areas.

The Jesuits (chap. 5) are, of course, well known because of their immediate impact and high visibility in the sixteenth century; their continuing expansion and influence in subsequent centuries, including their early missionary outreach in the western hemisphere; and their global activity today in education and other outreach enterprises. The Theatines, too, though always rather small in membership, have received fair attention even in general Reformation histories, since they were the earliest reforming order and had as their main founders Gaetano Thiene and Gian Pietro Carafa, members of the Oratory of Divine Love in Rome. Carafa, when he later became Pope Paul IV, endeavored to have the Jesuit constitutions revised so as to more closely resemble Theatine practice.

The names of some of the other orders noted in the chapter titles may also be familiar to readers of this review, but there are undoubtedly some whose history and outreach are little known. This volume not only puts all of these orders in historical context, but in various chapters refers to branches or related groups whose names do not appear in the chapter titles. As one example, we may note that DeMolen, in his chapter on the Barnabites (the "Clerics Regular of St. Paul") also gives attention to two related groups: the "Angelic Sisters of St. Paul" (79-82) and the "Married Couples of St. Paul" (82-83).

A significant feature of *Religious Orders of the Catholic Reformation* is the incorporation of a helpful and usually quite detailed bibliographical essay for each chapter. The extensive endnotes appearing at the close of the individual chapters further enhance the usefulness of the volume, especially in the cases where specific primary sources are cited. The book concludes with a listing of the contributors and some of their main academic achievements (279-280), and a comprehensive index (281-290). Lacking is a bibliography of the writings of John C. Olin, but Roger Wines in the "Dedication" (vii-x) refers to Olin's major published works as well as tracing Olin's scholarly career.

This volume, which is certainly a worthy tribute to Olin, is a competent guide to both the historical data and bibliographical resources in the field it covers. Moreover, it is eminently readable, well written and well edited.

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Easley, Kendell H. *User-Friendly Greek: A Common Sense Approach to the Greek New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1994. viii + 167 pp. \$14.99.

Easley has designed this work to assist those with one year of NT Greek who would like to use their Greek in sermon preparation or teaching, but do not. It is designed for persons "interested in the practical benefits of knowing and using Greek." The book consists of six chapters, each with an accompanying "Now Let's Apply!" exercise, all of which are built on the Greek texts of Matt 4:1-11 and Phil 1:3-11. The book includes an Answer Key (133-147), an Appendix with a "Summary of Verb Tense," "Summary of Mood Syntax," and "Summary of the Genitive" (148-155) (which the reviewer considers of dubious merit) and a Glossary and Subject Index (155-167).

The six chapters are "From Words to Paragraphs," "The Greek Paragraph," "The Sense of Greek Tense," "Sanity About Moods," "Genitive Case Forms" (which also treats ablatives) and "Patterns in the Text." With the exception of the Introduction and chapter one, each chapter gives a bibliography of useful works, "For Further Reading," listing page numbers within the works that deal with the topic of the chapter.

Throughout all chapters, each form is illustrated with at least two examples drawn from the Greek Testament printed with an accompanying English translation. The work continually reminds the reader that meaning resides at the paragraphic level, not with individual words or sentences.

The "Now Let's Apply" sections provide the student with opportunity to practice the concepts presented within the chapter on actual passages from the Greek Testament. For example in the second chapter, after reviewing syntactical matters, the first assignment is to identify the sentences in the various paragraphs of the reading as introductory, developmental, or summary. The assignment then allows opportunity to practice recognizing the role of prepositions, relative pronouns, coordinating conjunctions, and subordinating conjunctions as structural markers within and between sentences.

The third chapter, "The Sense of Greek Tense," continues its focus on preaching, advising readers not only that "most aorists are not worth mentioning from the pulpit," but also that the perfect tense has "more theological and sermonic value than any other." Whether or not one agrees with the homiletical assessments, the descriptions of the historical present and the literary aorist seem especially clear. This chapter is of sufficient value that teachers of Greek II may wish to use this as a supplementary text on the usage of tenses. Additionally, the section on genitives would be helpful to some students, as would the descriptions and examples of conditional sentences.

The third and fourth chapters are sufficiently condensed that I doubt most will work through them within the hour Easley suggests in the Introduction (1) as an appropriate amount of time.

After the initial study of the book is finished, my expectation is that it will continue to serve those who follow Easley's advice and "[l]earn to keep the book next to [their] Greek Testament in [their] study or office." It would certainly serve as a convenient reference manual.

Editorially, I noted the following typographical problems: "opatives" (48), "infintive" (49), and "in a bewildering of number of ways" (99). Other editorial problems seem related to font glitches: "The present tense ordinarily suggests 41 some idea of continuous action" (41). "The Greek perfect is sometimes formed by using the present of εἶμι accompanied by a perfect participle" (47), etc.

I like this book. I like Easley's modest aims, and his candor about those aims: "This work will not teach you everything you should know about Greek." It is a practical, common-sense approach to using one's Greek New Testament in sermon preparation. Easley's work will not stand alone. It assumes, even encourages the student to review a Greek grammar or enchiridion for paradigms. Easley encourages reading the English text as well as the Greek text in the early chapters especially. I hope every minister I ever have will have carefully read Easley's book, and although I teach Greek, I fervently hope that my minister notes the many

times Easley says there is no need to refer to this or that Greek construction in the sermon. But even more fervently, I hope that s/he will not refer to Greek grammatical and syntactical structures with any degree of frequency, certainly not so often as Easley's book allows! Easley is eminently practical, interested in a working knowledge of Greek, rather than in preparing students for graduate study. Most of us who preach exegetical sermons would benefit from working through this little book. His work really is a common-sense approach and it seems he has followed Nancy's sage advice and kept the cookies on the lowest shelf.

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Ehrman, Bart D. and Michael W. Holmes. *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research*. Studies and Documents Series, no. 46. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. xiv + 401 pp. \$39.99.

This collection of 22 essays by as many authors is presented in honor of Bruce M. Metzger, the most highly recognized American textual critic in the history of the discipline. This volume 46 in the Studies and Documents series, founded by Kirsopp and Silva and now edited by E. J. Epp, focuses on important advances made in textual criticism during the past fifty years. Bart D. Ehrman is associate professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, chair of the Society of Biblical Literature's New Testament Textual Criticism Section, editor of *New Testament in the Greek Fathers* series, and coeditor of the series *New Testament Tools and Studies*. Michael W. Holmes is Professor of Biblical Studies and Early Christianity at Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota, North American editor for the International Greek New Testament Project, and coauthor of *The Text of the Fourth Gospel in the Writings of Origen*, Vol. 1 (1992).

Each article is written to present an authoritative general outlook of the *status quaestionis* by an international group of scholars in the field. The topics considered in this book include: Greek manuscripts, the early versions, patristic citations, studies of scribal habits, approaches to manuscript classification, the use of computers for textual criticism, recent apparatuses and critical editions, and the use of textual data for early Christian social history.

In Part I, the individual articles discuss the various kinds of Greek manuscripts (papyri, majuscules, minuscules, and lectionaries). In the first article, E. J. Epp discusses the papyrus MSS of the NT, which because of their antiquity occupy first place in the list of witnesses to the NT text. In chapter 2, Parker examines the majuscule manuscripts of the NT. Chapters 3 and 4 present the use of the Greek minuscule and lectionary manuscripts of the New Testament. "The minuscule script arose during the seventh century C.E. out of the majuscule cursive. This new form of writing involved a small script in which adjacent letters were joined together so as not only to save space and expensive writing materials but also to facilitate the writing process itself" (43). According to Aland and Wachtel, the newly recovered literary style dominated from the early ninth century until far into the tenth. However, the scanty sources do not allow us to determine how this change of script occurred or how it was carried out. "What we can say for certain is that the MS tradition of ancient Greek authors always runs