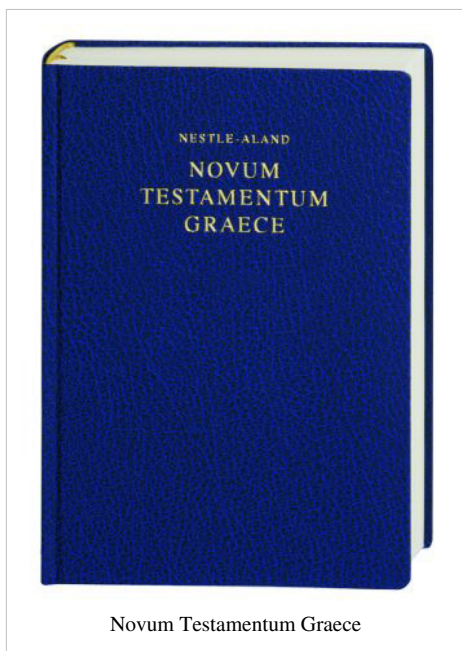





Novum Testamentum Graece



Part of a series on
The Bible

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v t e ^[1]

Novum Testamentum Graece is the Latin name of an original Greek-language version of the New Testament. The first printed edition was the Complutensian Polyglot Bible by Cardinal Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros, printed in 1514, but not published until 1520. The first published edition of the Greek New Testament was produced by Erasmus in 1516.

Today the designation *Novum Testamentum Graece* normally refers to the **Nestle-Aland** editions, named after the scholars who led the critical editing work. The text, edited by the Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung (*Institute for New Testament Textual Research*) is currently in its 28th edition, abbreviated NA28. The Nestle-Aland text is the primary source for most contemporary New Testament translations, although most are translations of the earlier text that was available at the time of translation. The Nestle-Aland text is also the standard for academic work in New Testament studies.

The title *Novum Testamentum Graece* can also be applied to the United Bible Societies (UBS) edition which contains the same base text (the latest UBS 4th ed contains the text from the NA27). The primary difference between the Nestle-Aland and UBS editions is that the latter is aimed at translators and so the apparatus focus on variants that are important for the meaning whereas the former is aimed at textual critics and other scholars and so includes the relevant variants for that purpose.

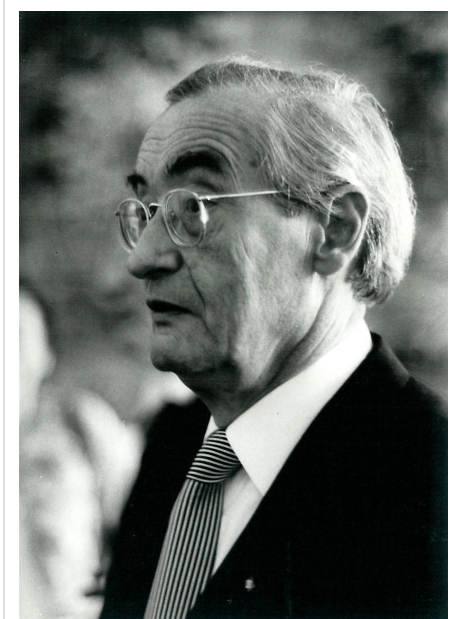
Methodology

The Greek text as presented is what biblical scholars refer to as the "critical text". The critical text is an eclectic text compiled by a committee that examines a large number of manuscripts in order to determine which reading is most likely to be closest to the original. They use a number of factors to help determine probable readings, such as the date of the witness (earlier is usually better), the geographical distribution of a reading, and the likelihood of accidental or intentional corruptions. In the book, a large number of textual variants, or differences between manuscripts, are noted in the critical apparatus—the extensive footnotes that distinguish the *Novum Testamentum Graece* from other Greek New Testaments.

Most scholars view uncial text as the most accurate; however, a few authors (such as New Testament scholar Maurice A. Robinson^[2] and linguist Wilbur Pickering^[3]), Arthur Farstad and Zane C. Hodges claim that the minuscule texts (the Byzantine text-type) more accurately reflect the "autographs" or original texts than an eclectic text like NA27 that relies heavily on manuscripts of the Alexandrian text-type. This view has been criticized by Gordon Fee^[4] and Bruce Metzger^[5] among others. Since the majority of old manuscripts in existence are minuscules, they are often referred to as the Majority Text. It is worth noting, though, that the Majority Text as a whole is classified by the editors of the NA27 (of whom Metzger is one) as a "consistently cited witness of the first



Eberhard Nestle



Kurt Aland

order," meaning that whenever the text presented differs from the majority text this is recorded in the apparatus along with the alternate reading.^[6] Other consistently cited references include the full corpus of papyri manuscripts available to the authors as well as a wide range of other manuscripts including a selection of both minuscules and uncials.

The *Novum Testamentum Graece* apparatus summarizes the evidence (from manuscripts and versions) for, and sometimes against, a selection of the most important variants for the study of the text of the New Testament. While eschewing completeness (in the range of variants and in the citation of witnesses), this edition does provide informed readers with a basis by which they can judge for themselves which readings more accurately reflect the originals. The Greek text of the 27th edition is the same as that of the 4th edition of the United Bible Societies *The Greek New Testament* (abbreviated UBS4) although there are a few differences between them in paragraphing, capitalization, punctuation and spelling.^[7] The critical apparatus is different in the two editions; the UBS4 edition is prepared for the use of translators, and includes fewer textual variants, but adds extra material helpful for translators.

Editions

History

The first edition published by Eberhard Nestle in 1898 combined the readings of the editions of Tischendorf, Westcott and Hort and Weymouth, placing the majority reading of these in the text and the third reading in the apparatus. In 1901, he replaced the Weymouth New Testament with Bernhard Weiss's text. In later editions, Nestle began noting the attestation of certain important manuscripts in his apparatus.

Eberhard's son Erwin Nestle took over after his father's death and issued the 13th edition in 1927. This edition introduced a separate critical apparatus and began to abandon the majority reading principle. In apparatus only a few minuscule were included.^[8]

Kurt Aland became the associate editor of the 21st edition in 1952. At Erwin Nestle's request, he reviewed and expanded the critical apparatus, adding many more manuscripts. This eventually led to the 25th edition of 1963. The most important Papyri and newly discovered Uncials, as 0189, a few Minuscules (33, 614, 2814), occasionally also lectionaries were taken into account.^[9]

The great manuscript discoveries of the 20th century had also made a revision of the text necessary and, with Nestle's permission, Aland set out to revise the text of *Novum Testamentum Graece*. Aland submitted his work on NA to the editorial committee of the United Bible Societies *Greek New Testament* (of which he was also a member) and it became the basic text of their third edition (UBS3) in 1975, four years before it was published as the 26th edition of Nestle-Aland.

Members of the Editorial Committee of the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament comprise:

- UBS1, 1966
- UBS2, 1968

Kurt Aland, Matthew Black, Bruce Metzger, Allen Wikgren.

- UBS3, 1975

Kurt Aland, Matthew Black, Carlo Maria Martini, Bruce Metzger, Allen Wikgren.

- UBS4, 1993

Barbara Aland, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo Maria Martini, Bruce Metzger

The current edition of Nestle-Aland reproduces the text of NA26 (the same text used in UBS3 and UBS4). The 27th edition presents a thoroughly revised critical apparatus and a rewritten introduction and appendices.

A more complete set of variants is listed in the multiple volume *Novum Testamentum Graecum – Editio Critica Maior*. A small number of textual changes in the most current edition were incorporated in the 28th edition of the

Nestle-Aland.^[10] The 28th revised edition tentatively was released in 2012. Papyri 117-127 were used in this edition.

Current editions

The NA28 text is published by Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft (the German Bible Society).

- Greek:
 - *Novum Testamentum Graece*, Standard 28th edition, ISBN 978-3-438-05140-0
 - *Novum Testamentum Graece*, Large Print 27th edition, ISBN 978-3-438-05103-5
 - *Novum Testamentum Graece*, Wide Margin 27th edition, ISBN 978-3-438-05135-6
 - *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 28th edition with *A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament* (by B. M. Newman), ISBN 978-3-438-05160-8
 - *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 28th edition with Greek-German Dictionary, ISBN 978-3-438-05159-2
 - *Biblia Sacra Utriusque Testamenti Editio Hebraica et Graeca* (NA27 with the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*), ISBN 978-3-438-05250-6
- Diglot:
 - *Das Neue Testament Griechisch und Deutsch*, ISBN 978-3-438-05406-7 (with revised Luther and Common Bible in parallel columns)
 - *Nestle-Aland Greek-English New Testament*, ISBN 978-3-438-05408-1 (with Revised Standard Version, 2nd edition)
 - *New English Translation-Novum Testamentum Graece New Testament*, ISBN 978-3-438-05420-3
 - *Novum Testamentum Graece et Latine*, ISBN 978-3-438-05401-2 (with Nova Vulgata)
 - *Nuovo Testamento Greco-Italiano*, ISBN 978-3-438-05409-8 (with the *Versione Conferenza Episcopale Italiana*)

Accuracy of the New Testament

In *The Text of the New Testament*, Kurt Aland and Barbara Aland compare the total number of variant-free verses, and the number of variants per page (excluding orthographic errors), among the seven major editions of the Greek NT (Tischendorf, Westcott-Hort, von Soden, Vogels, Merk, Bover, and Nestle-Aland) concluding 62.9%, or 4999/7947, agreement.^[11] They concluded, "Thus in nearly two-thirds of the New Testament text, the seven editions of the Greek New Testament which we have reviewed are in complete accord, with no differences other than in orthographical details (e.g., the spelling of names, etc.). Verses in which any one of the seven editions differs by a single word are not counted. This result is quite amazing, demonstrating a far greater agreement among the Greek texts of the New Testament during the past century than textual scholars would have suspected [...]. In the Gospels, Acts, and Revelation the agreement is less, while in the letters it is much greater" For over 250 years, New Testament scholars have argued that no textual variant affects any doctrine.

Book	Total Number Of Verses	Variant-Free Verses-Total	Percentage	Variants per page
Matthew	1071	642	59.9 %	6.8
Mark	678	306	45.1 %	10.3
Luke	1151	658	57.2 %	6.9
John	869	450	51.8 %	8.5
Acts	1006	677	67.3 %	4.2
Romans	433	327	75.5 %	2.9
1 Corinthians	437	331	75.7 %	3.5
2 Corinthians	256	200	78.1 %	2.8

Galatians	149	114	76.5 %	3.3
Ephesians	155	118	76.1 %	2.9
Philippians	104	73	70.2 %	2.5
Colossians	95	69	72.6 %	3.4
1 Thessalonians	89	61	68.5 %	4.1
2 Thessalonians	47	34	72.3 %	3.1
1 Timothy	113	92	81.4 %	2.9
2 Timothy	83	66	79.5 %	2.8
Titus	46	33	71.7 %	2.3
Philemon	25	19	76.0 %	5.1
Hebrews	303	234	77.2 %	2.9
James	108	66	61.6 %	5.6
1 Peter	105	70	66.6 %	5.7
2 Peter	61	32	52.5 %	6.5
1 John	105	76	72.4 %	2.8
2 John	13	8	61.5 %	4.5
3 John	15	11	73.3 %	3.2
Jude	25	18	72.0 %	4.2
Revelation	405	214	52.8 %	5.1
Total	7947	4999	62.9 %	

Influence

Earlier translations of the Bible, including the Authorized King James Version, tended to rely on Byzantine type texts, such as the Textus Receptus. A number of translations began to use critical Greek editions, beginning with the translation of the Revised Version in England in 1881-1885 (using Westcott and Hort's Greek Text). English translations produced during the twentieth century increasingly reflected the work of textual criticism, although even new translations are often influenced by earlier translation efforts.

A comparison of the textual and stylistic choices of twenty translations against 15,000 variant readings shows the following rank of agreement with the Nestle-Aland 27th edition:^[12]

Abbreviation	Name	Relative Agreement with Nestle-Aland 27th edition
NASB	New American Standard	1
ASV	American Standard Version	2
NAU	New American Standard 1995 Update	3
NAB	New American Bible	4
ESV	English Standard Version	5
HCS	Holman Christian Standard Bible	6
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version	7
NET	New English Translation	8
RSV	Revised Standard Version	9

NIV	New International Version	10
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible	11
REB	Revised English Bible	12
JNT	Jewish New Testament	13
GNB	Good News Bible	14
NLT	New Living Translation	15
DRA	Douay-Rheims American edition	16
TLB	The Living Bible	17
MRD	Murdock Peshitta translation	18
NKJV	New King James Bible	19
KJV	King James Version	20

Videos

- TV report (with English subtitles) on the grand opening of the Bible Museum/Münster in March 1979 and the work of the INTF and Interview of Kurt Aland ^[13], 1979

References

- [1] http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Bible_related&action=edit
- [2] Robinson, Maurice A. and William G. Pierpont (2005). *The New Testament in the Original Greek: Byzantine Textform*. Southborough: Chilton.
- [3] Pickering, Wilbur (2012). *The Identity of the New Testament Text III*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock.
- [4] Fee, Gordon (1979). "A Critique of W. N. Pickering's The Identity of the New Testament Text" *Westminster Theological Journal*, 41, 397-423.
- [5] Metzger, Bruce (1992). *The Text of the New Testament*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press. 290-293.
- [6] *Novum Testamentum Graece* (1993) Barbara and Kurt Aland, eds. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft. 12*.
- [7] Elliott, J. K. (1996). "A Comparison of Two Recent Greek New Testaments", *The Expository Times*, Volume 107, Number 4, pages 105-106.
- [8] Michael W. Holmes, *From Nestle to the Editio Critica Maior* ; in: *The Bible as Book: The Transmission of the Greek Text*, London 2003, p. 127. ISBN 0-7123-4727-5
- [9] Michael W. Holmes, *From Nestle to the Editio Critica Maior* ; in: *The Bible as Book: The Transmission of the Greek Text*, London 2003, p. 128. ISBN 0-7123-4727-5
- [10] University of Bremen list of textual updates for Nestle-Aland 28 (<http://www-user.uni-bremen.de/~wie/ECM/ECM-index.html>)
- [11] K. Aland and B. Aland, *The Text of the New Testament: An Introduction to the Critical Editions & to the Theory & Practice of Modern Textual Criticism*, 1995, op. cit., p. 29-30.
- [12] T.E. Clontz (2008), *The Comprehensive New Testament*. Clewiston: Cornerstone Publications. ii, iii, vii; graphs on iii and back cover.
- [13] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcYoRHU0Atc>

External links

- www.nestle-aland.com, Homepage of the Nestle-Aland 28 (<http://www.nestle-aland.com/en/home/>)
- Institute for New Testament Textual Research (INTF) (<http://www.uni-muenster.de/INTF/>), home of the *Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece*
- Comparison of the Novum Testamentum Graece (NA27/UBS4) text with other manuscript editions (<http://openscriptures.org/prototypes/manuscript-comparator/>) on the Manuscript Comparator
- Novum Testamentum Graece – Textum et Lexicon proprium seu 'concordances' (http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/1001/1005/local_general_index.html)
- Greek Interlinear Bible (http://www.scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/Greek_Index.htm)

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