

Reviews

A history of New Testament lexicography. By John A. L. Lee. (Studies in Biblical Greek, 8.)
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This work from John Lee, best known for his 1983 work *A lexical study of the Septuagint*, offers a thoroughgoing critique of the practice of New Testament lexicography since its beginnings. The historical account in the first half of the book follows the progress from the *vocabularium* of the New Testament, Wisdom and Ecclesiasticus in the New Testament volume of the Complutensian Polyglot (1514), to the present. It is actually far more than a history – it is a thorough analysis of the problems besetting lexicographical method, so that one sees very early on the methodological deficiencies of those works which simply provide single word glosses, glosses which themselves have often simply been taken from the Vulgate translation. This, coupled with the fact that new editions are often heavily dependent on their predecessors, means that progress is seldom really made. Lee observes astutely how these new editions often change their authors over the course of a few years, giving the impression of a revision which is in fact only superficial: Pasor's enormously influential 1619 lexicon – itself a collation of the New Testament material from Stephanus's *Thesaurus* – becomes Pasor revised by Schöttgen (1717), which then in 1746 is attributed to Schöttgen alone. This pattern is repeated elsewhere. Thayer exerted a particularly strong influence on Preuschen's work, which was then, on the latter's death in 1920, given to Walter Bauer to revise. The lexicon of Bauer, the *doxyn* of twentieth-century lexicographers, was then a source even for those works which tried to break out from the genre's chequered past. 'The breakthrough' (the title of Lee's chapter 8) came with the introduction of what Lee regards as the *sine qua non* of a good lexicon, the definition, which attempts to provide a meaning for the entry, rather than merely single word glosses. Here, the work of J. Louw and E. Nida represents the watershed, although the 2000 revision of Bauer also contained a surprise in including definitions. The problem which Lee identifies with a number of definitions, however, is that they have simply been derived from the glosses. In any case, even Louw-Nida is heavily dependent on the lexical entries offered by Bauer. Lee offers in his final chapter a vision of 'the way ahead', whereby the mass of data available electronically could, by a combination of collaboration and 'the lone scholar', be condensed into a digestible form. Next (pp. 193–320), the book consists of a number of lengthy case studies, on ἀγαπητός, ἀκροατήριον, ἀνατάσσω, γυναικάριον, δεξιολάβος, διανούω, εἰδέα, ἔξις, κράτος, οἰκονομία, πλῆν and

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