

BOOK REVIEWS

Alsop, John R., ed. *An Index to the Revised Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich Greek Lexicon, Second Edition* by F. Wilbur Gingrich and Frederick W. Danker. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1981. 525 pp. Paperback, \$10.95.

This second edition of the Index was necessitated by the fact that a new edition of Bauer's Lexicon in English has been published since the appearance of the first Index. This Index is intended as a time-saver for the student who uses Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich by providing for each word the page, the place on the page, and the section where the specific meaning of the word (in that particular text) is treated. The editor suggests that more than half the time is saved for the ordinary Greek student and considerably more for the student who knows only a little Greek.

The Index was originally published to provide for the Wycliffe Bible Translators "quicker and easier access to the wealth of information" in Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich. Others can benefit from this tool as well, although one must assume some basic knowledge of Greek in recognizing the actual forms as they are found in the text. Nothing is indicated as to how much knowledge of Greek is required before this tool can be used with satisfaction. Obviously the Wycliffe Bible Translators assume a certain standard. In that case one wonders why every word is provided, including proper nouns and frequently occurring words.

An admirable aspect of the Index is that the student is led to Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich for the specific meaning of the word for each particular use. However, one should be aware of the fact that there are differences of opinion as to the precise meaning of many words.

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Aune, David E. *Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels: A Bibliographic Study Guide*. Madison, Wisc.: Inter-Varsity Press, 1980. vi + 93 pp. Paperback, \$2.50.

This volume is the first in a series of bibliographic study guides for the Bible, which is jointly sponsored by the Institute of Biblical Research and the Theological Students Fellowship. The series promises to treat the major sections of the Bible and periods of biblical history. Other volumes in preparation cover such areas as: "Pentateuchal Studies," "Intertestamental Studies," "Pauline Studies," and "Second-Century Christianity."

The principal purpose of this book is to provide a bibliography for the study of Jesus and the Synoptics, which is designed to serve the needs

of college and seminary students. For this reason, Aune has not included highly specialized items or foreign language material. Despite these limitations, the bibliography, which is often insightfully annotated, is quite extensive. Most readers, of course, will look in vain for some favorite piece among the nearly one thousand entries. The user may find access to specific items either by referring to the topical outline or by checking the author index.

However, this book is more than a bibliography. In fact, Aune lists two additional purposes: (1) He wishes to offer "a relatively complete outline of the modern critical study of Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels" (p. 1), and (2) he also defines, describes, and critiques "the various critical methods which have been applied to the study of Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels" (ibid.). The definitions of critical methods and research categories are brief but accurate. This feature of the book should be quite helpful to both beginners and more advanced users.

The publishers have attempted to hold down the cost of production of this volume by computer typesetting. However, this is accompanied by some annoying details. The numbering system associated with the rather intricate outline is not easy to follow. Some headings are missing, e.g., Redaction-critical Studies of Luke (p. 39). At times, headings are difficult to distinguish from the rest of the material. Also, one may quarrel with the categories into which some items have been placed. For instance, Aune has put material on the parables in two different places. The book contains numerous typographical errors, which hopefully the editors will eliminate in the planned updates and revisions.

All who study and teach the Synoptic Gospels and who do research on Jesus will welcome this bibliographic study guide. Specialists will find it incomplete, but it should prove useful to pastors and students at all levels.

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Belo, Fernando. *A Materialistic Reading of the Gospel of Mark*. Trans. by Matthew J. O'Connell. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1981. xiv + 363 pp. Paperback, \$12.95.

Every "bourgeois exegete" should read *A Materialist Reading of the Gospel of Mark*. This is not because Belo has anything substantially new to contribute to the study of Mark, but rather to see how bourgeois conclusions can be set into the framework of Marxist philosophy.