

Roman building terms is the "Glossary of Technical Terms" (e.g., "suspensura. A support for the raised floor of a hypocaust").

Those who want additional information on topics not fully discussed, due to the survey nature of the book, will find help in the book's copious notes (1,525 endnotes). The index turns the book into a helpful reference work.

One hesitates to criticize a book of such substance and value, but a few improvements should be considered for the second edition. Two minor printer errors were detected (the photograph of Beth Shean, p. 25, an easily visited and photographed site, is notably out of focus; and the negative of the lamps displayed on p. 31 was probably reversed by the printer, making the text date them in reverse order). A more important improvement would be a better coordination between the text and some of the "schematic" drawings. For example, Figure 18 "Schematic of Caesarea Maritima" (141) does not clearly illustrate the text. McRay's discussion of Caesarea Maritima describes the storage vaults, the aqueducts, the layout of the city streets, and the theater. The schematic drawing does not locate the storage vaults or display the layout of the city streets, but it does locate the excavation fields (A-H), which are not discussed. This lack of coordination does not benefit the reader.

Any book on New Testament archaeology will attract attention because there are too few books written for readers interested in this subject. McRay's work, however, will not only attract attention, it will also become a classic reference because he has accomplished his task with thorough research, excellent scholarship, and obvious enthusiasm. That this project has been his life-long interest is revealed in the completeness of the book. Where else will the average reader learn about Roman toilets, including two photographs of examples (85-86)? McRay's involvement in the project is also clearly demonstrated by his personal visits to the places described (virtually every photograph was taken on-site by the author).

*Archaeology and the New Testament* is highly recommended and much needed in the field of New Testament studies. No doubt it will serve as a standard text for many years to come.

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Powell, Barry B. *Homer and the Origin of the Greek Alphabet*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1991. xxv + 280 pp. \$80.00.

*Homer and the Origin of the Greek Alphabet* is yet another work by a classical scholar on the adoption of the Greek alphabet. The first chapter briefly summarizes the entire field with Powell's conclusions on each point. Chapter 2 discusses in detail the writing systems of Egypt, Cyprus,

and Phoenicia, contrasting the unsuitability of syllabaries and the advantages of Greek alphabetic writing for verse. Chapter 3 discusses material remains, and chaps. 4 and 5 present Powell's special arguments in detail. There are two appendices, a glossary and an index.

Powell argues that the Greek alphabet was the work of one person and was adopted primarily for the recording of verse in general, and the verse of Homer in particular (10-11).

Further, this person was a single later Ionian "reformer" (61). As the author does not allow for Phoenician influence in the reshaping of the alphabet after its adoption, the transmission must occur as late as possible to cover late Phoenician forms, while the problem of early forms is ignored. A date of 800 B.C. is chosen and the objections to a late transmission are largely ignored. In this, Powell follows in the footsteps of most Classical scholars. There is a great deal of argument from silence, and the evidence does not exclude more prosaic origins, but Powell's case is well argued.

The principal difficulty with this book is the author's fascination with Gelb's hypothesis, to which the first appendix is dedicated. Gelb argues that alphabets *must* evolve via syllabaries, therefore the Canaanite writing system was actually a syllabary. Of course, those who work closest with Northwest Semitic have been unsympathetic with Gelb, and with good reason. Such statements by Powell as, "the adapter took from a Phoenician informant an abecedarium and created from it his own system, the first true alphabet" (20) clutter both the text and the mind of the reader. More important, Gelb's hypothesis is unnecessary to the main arguments of the book. Likewise the argument against pictorial origins for Canaanite writing (25) is both simplistic and unnecessary.

Positive contributions include Powell's argument that the "supplementary" letters phi, chi, and psi were not evolutionary additions, but rather original inventions (48-57). After discussing in detail the various early inscriptions available, Powell observes that there are no legal or accounting documents and no public inscriptions (181-82). All of the earliest inscriptions are personal, poetic, or both. Thus the alphabet's earliest widespread use was aesthetic and/or recreational.

Powell also points out that literacy is all but absent in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* (198-200). Thus the poems were written on the eve of widespread literacy so that the new practice never contaminated the works. As Powell dates Homer prior to 750, and the adoption of the alphabet to 800 B.C., he argues for a close relationship between the adapter and the poet.

A standard component of this work, and indeed any work on the early alphabets, is a large number of references to the lack of attestation. This reviewer was reminded again and again of how little evidence has been recovered, and how heavily the work relies on guesswork. This is not

a criticism of Powell, who openly recognizes the silences, some of them extensive. Rather it should remind the reader of how little we actually know and how much we assume. Furthermore, discussion on pre-Greek writing is derivative and often questionable. In this area information is best sought elsewhere.

The price prohibits popular distribution of this book. However, the material on the alphabet within the Greek world recommends the volume to research libraries.

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Samaan, Phillip G. *Christ's Way of Reaching People*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assoc., 1990. 160 pp. \$9.95.

Because it is tempting for evangelists to be goal-oriented, i.e., focusing on achieving baptismal figures rather than on making mature Christians, or being program centered rather than people-centered, Phillip Samaan's book is must reading for the professional evangelist. Yet it is also an excellent tool for the average Christian who wants to witness simply yet effectively for Christ.

Samaan is Assoc. Prof. of Christian Ministry at the Theological Seminary of Andrews University. His book is based, to a great extent, on his own practice as a pastor-evangelist before coming to the classroom.

Although Samaan doesn't dismiss the need for programs, goals, and methods, he shows clearly that every endeavor must be Christ-centered and people-oriented. It must also follow Christ's method of witnessing in order to be successful.

Samaan bases his understanding of Christ's method on a quotation from the book *"The Ministry of Healing,"* by Ellen G. White, which says that Christ achieved true success in witnessing by mingling with people in order to bless them. He showed sympathy, met their needs and won their confidence and then told them to follow Him (43). Using these six steps as the basis for his book, Samaan takes the pressure from witnessing by focusing on a witnessing which flows naturally from a relationship with Christ to an unconditional friendship with others. Using the metaphor found in II Cor 2:14, 15, "the aroma of Christ," Samaan says that this fragrance given out by Christians will naturally, yet subtly, pervade those around them so as to draw them to Christ. To Samaan this is the Christian's best strategy of infiltrating the world.

Samaan's prerequisite to witnessing as Christ did is to spend time daily with Christ so that Christ will be in us. This is the message of chap. 1.