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CCXIII

TRANSLATING A TRANSLATION
THE LXX AND ITS MODERN TRANSLATIONS
IN THE CONTEXT OF EARLY JUDAISM

EDITED BY

H. AUSLOOS – J. COOK – F. GARCÍA MARTÍNEZ
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UITGEVERIJ PEETERS
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their unconditional approachability during the conference and their adequate and detailed editorial help in preparing the present volume.

It is the editors' hope that all the support received, and reflected in this book, may contribute to effective and enriching cooperation within the field of the study of the Septuagint and its translations. For as Natalio Fernández Marcos states it in the conclusion of his contribution:

It was the German lyric and Jewish freethinker Heinrich Heine (1797-1856) who pronounced this, no doubt, hyperbolic statement: "All men are either Hebrews... or Hellenes". I would like to paraphrase his sentence by reducing it modestly to all Europeans or people of the Western civilization. Be that as it may, in the Septuagint both roots grow together. In the present political situation of Europe, even the publication of a translation of the Septuagint may contribute not only to a better knowledge of our legacy but also to a better understanding of the foundations and roots of our continent.

We modestly hope that this book might contribute to such a sublime ideal.

The editors

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INTRODUCTION

In the current scholarly context of Old Testament Studies, and more specifically Textual Criticism, the study of the translation of the Septuagint has acquired an increasingly influential role, focusing on both the literary and theological Greek text *in se* and its character as a translation of the Semitic original. The particular aim of the *Specialists’ Symposium on the Septuagint Translation* (Leuven, 4-6 December 2006) was to survey contemporary research within the realm of the translations of the Septuagint. Therefore, the most important Septuagint translation projects were confronted with each other, from the perspective of their objective and methodology as well as with regard to their concrete application in particular cases or examples. The meeting was exclusively intended for specialists in the field.

The programme consisted of five sections: an introductory methodological section, three sections dedicated to the main translations (the French *La Bible d’Alexandrie* [BA], the German *Septuaginta Deutsch* [LXX.D] and the *New English Translation of the Septuagint* [NETS]), and another section which paid attention to Septuagint translation perspectives from other countries (South Africa and Spain). In the three central sections, each first paper situated the project from a general perspective. Two or three other contributions concentrated on particular pericopes and/or problems.

The present book contains the proceedings of this symposium. It offers the full text of the contributions by the participants and is arranged according to the principle explained above. The following articles reflect the views of the leading voices in contemporary research on the Septuagint’s translation, and thus confront different methodological perspectives on a most intriguing research topic.

The three papers of the introductory part of this volume (I) deal with questions of method. In his article entitled ‘*Translating the Septuagint: Some Methodological Considerations*’, Johann Cook focuses on methodological questions with respect to the translation of the Septuagint. Against the background of the observation that the translation of LXX is in fact a translation of a translation, Cook’s article addresses the significance of a suitable textual theory regarding the Septuagint’s origins, the question of translation technique, the need for an appropriate translational model and a discussion of the three main models reflected in NETS (interlinear model), BA (reception orientated model) and finally LXX.D’s