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Some manuscripts of the book of Acts have a slightly longer version of the book that is familiar to us, a version called the Western text, which is made up of small amounts of additional material scattered throughout the work. Various theories have been proposed to account for the existence of the Western text, although no real consensus has emerged. In recent years this material, long thought to be inauthentic, has been re-examined by a number of scholars who have come to the conclusion that it may derive from Luke, the author of Acts. This study puts forward the ingenious thesis that Luke left Acts unfinished at his death, and that the work of his posthumous editors has led to the existence of the two versions of Acts which appear in our manuscripts.

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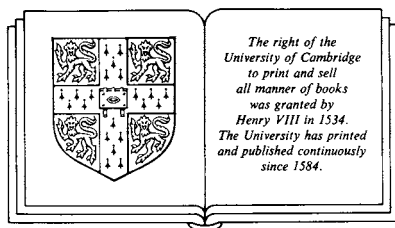
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# The Problem of the Text of Acts

W. A. STRANGE



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## PREFACE

The material in this book began its existence as an Oxford D.Phil. thesis, undertaken while the author was on the staff of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and a postgraduate student of The Queen's College, Oxford. In expressing my appreciation for the help I received from both institutions, I would like to thank in particular the then Principal of Wycliffe Hall, the Revd Geoffrey Shaw, for his support, and my colleagues there for their encouragement.

It was the late Professor G. D. Kilpatrick whose teaching first stimulated my interest in the discipline of textual criticism; for this I shall always remain grateful. As the work progressed the helpful and wise guidance of my supervisors, the late Professor G. B. Caird and Dr J. B. Muddiman (who acted as supervisor for the greater part of the time), put me enormously in their debt.

Comments and suggestions from Professor J. N. Birdsall, Dr J. K. Elliott, and Professor J. C. O'Neill have been of great help in the preparation of this work.

Finally, this book would not have seen the light of day had it not been for my wife's patient encouragement during the years in which Acts has become part of our lives.

It need scarcely be said that the imperfections of the work are wholly my own.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Wherever possible, the abbreviations used here follow the conventions of S. Schwertner, *Internationales Abkürzungsverzeichnis für Theologie und Grenzgebiete* (Berlin and New York, 1974).

### *Periodicals*

<i>Ant.</i>	<i>Antonianum</i>
<i>AThR</i>	<i>Anglican Theological Review</i>
<i>AUSS</i>	<i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i>
<i>BASP</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists</i>
<i>BBezC</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Bezan Club</i>
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CQR</i>	<i>Church Quarterly Review</i>
<i>CR</i>	<i>Classical Review</i>
<i>ET</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
<i>EtCl</i>	<i>Etudes classiques</i>
<i>EThL</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae Lovanienses</i>
<i>GGA</i>	<i>Göttingische gelehrte Anzeigen</i>
<i>GHÅ</i>	<i>Göteborgs Högskolas Årsskrift</i>
<i>Gn.</i>	<i>Gnomon</i>
<i>HThR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>IrBibSt</i>	<i>Irish Biblical Studies</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JP</i>	<i>Journal of Philology</i>
<i>JR</i>	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JThS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>LTP</i>	<i>Laval théologique et philosophique</i>
<i>Mn.</i>	<i>Mnemosyne</i>

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<i>NT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>PBA</i>	<i>Proceedings of the British Academy</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RBPH</i>	<i>Revue belge de philologie et de l'histoire</i>
<i>REAug</i>	<i>Revue des études augustinienes</i>
<i>REG</i>	<i>Revue des études grecques</i>
<i>RHPhR</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses</i>
<i>RMP</i>	<i>Rheinisches Museum für Philologie</i>
<i>RSPhTh</i>	<i>Revue des sciences philosophiques et théologiques</i>
<i>RSR</i>	<i>Recherches de science religieuse</i>
<i>RThL</i>	<i>Revue théologique de Louvain</i>
<i>RThom</i>	<i>Revue thomiste</i>
<i>StTh</i>	<i>Studia Theologica</i>
<i>ThL</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>ThR</i>	<i>Theologische Rundschau</i>
<i>ThSt</i>	<i>Theological Studies</i>
<i>ThStKr</i>	<i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>
<i>ThZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>VigChr</i>	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
<i>ZKG</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>
<i>ZThK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>

*Other abbreviations*

<i>Actes</i>	<i>Les Actes des Apôtres, traditions, rédactions, théologie</i> , ed. J. Kremer (EThL.B 48; Gembloux, 1979)
<i>ANTT</i>	Arbeiten zur neutestamentlichen Textforschung
<i>AThANT</i>	Abhandlungen zur Theologie der alten und neuen Testaments
<i>Beg.</i>	<i>The Beginnings of Christianity</i> . Part 1, <i>The Acts of the Apostles</i> , ed. F. J. Foakes Jackson and Kirsopp Lake, 5 vols. (London, 1920–33)
<i>BEvTh</i>	Beiträge zur evangelische Theologie
<i>BHTh</i>	Beiträge zur historischen Theologie
<i>BZNW</i>	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
<i>EThL.B</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae Lovanienses Bibliotheca</i>



xii *List of abbreviations*

- FRLANT Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur der alten und neuen Testaments
- HThS Harvard Theological Studies
- KPS Klassisch-Philologische Studien
- MSSNTS Monograph Series. Society for New Testament Studies
- N-A<sup>26</sup> Nestle–Aland, *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 26th edn (1979)
- NTTC *New Testament Textual Criticism, Its Significance for New Testament Exegesis. Essays in Honour of Bruce M. Metzger*, ed. E. J. Epp and G. D. Fee (Oxford, 1981)
- NTTS New Testament Tools and Studies
- NT.S Supplements to *Novum Testamentum*
- PG J.-P. Migne, *Patrologia Graeca*
- PL J.-P. Migne, *Patrologia Latina*
- PRE *Pauly's Real Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*
- P.Oxy* B. P. Grenfell, A. S. Hunt, and others, *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, 53 vols. (London, 1898–1986: in progress)
- PSI *Pubblicazioni della Società italiana per la ricerca dei papiri greci e latini in Egitto* (Florence, 1912– )
- SAW Studienhefte zur Altertumswissenschaft
- SBL.DS Society of Biblical Literature. Dissertation Series
- SBL.MS Society of Biblical Literature. Monograph Series
- SLA *Studies in Luke–Acts*, ed. L. E. Keck and J. L. Martyn (London, 1968)
- SPT W. M. Ramsay, *St. Paul the Traveller and the Roman Citizen* (London, 1895)
- StUNT Studien zur Umwelt der Neuen Testaments
- TCGNT B. M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament* (on behalf of and in cooperation with the Editorial Committee of the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament) (London and New York, 2nd edn, 1975)
- TDNT G. Kittel and G. Friedrich (eds.), *A Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, 10 vols. (Grand Rapids, 1963–76)
- TeT Temi e Testi
- ThHNT Theologisches Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament

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- ThWNT* G. Kittel and G. Friedrich (eds.), *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament*, 10 vols. (Stuttgart, 1933–79)
- TU Texte und Untersuchungen
- UBS<sup>3</sup> United Bible Societies' *Greek New Testament*, 3rd edition (1975)

## CONSTRUCTION OF APPARATUS

The apparatus is intended to assist in elucidating the Western variants under discussion. It does not, therefore, give details of every variant found in the texts cited.

When the term Maj (Majority) appears, it may be assumed that all witnesses detailed above are cited when they give readings at variance with that of the majority of witnesses and when their readings may be ascertained. Conversely, it may be assumed that those which are not explicitly cited concur with the Majority.