

## SELECTED CHRISTIAN HEBRAISTS

The Christian Hebraists singled out here – Andrew of St Victor, William Fulke, Gregory Martin, Richard Simon and Alexander Geddes – contributed in different ways to the reception of the Hebrew Bible in the Christian Church. All were strongly influenced by Origen and Jerome, who supplied a foundation on which subsequent study of the Hebrew Bible in the Christian Church rests.

The concern of these studies is with how the exercise of critical methods can be reconciled with the assumption that the Hebrew Bible is a Christian book. With *Andrew of St Victor* this concern is expressed as a robust, human and historical interest. *William Fulke*, influenced by Renaissance linguistic science, asserted that the quality of a translation from Hebrew into English is determined entirely by scholarly competence and integrity. *Gregory Martin* accepted the idea of an English translation with the greatest reluctance; he even rejected Fulke's demand for a return to the 'original' languages of Hebrew and Greek, and translated from the Latin Vulgate.

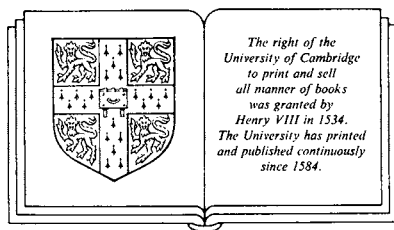
Much greater critical inroads were made by *Richard Simon* and *Alexander Geddes*. Simon made out a case for the autonomy and comprehensiveness of the critical exegesis of the Hebrew Bible. Geddes's objective was to employ his critical reconstruction of the Bible in order to reformulate Christianity so that God might be worshipped in a temple of reason.

McKane thus reviews the shifts in the Church's understanding of the nature and authority of its scriptures, particularly the Old Testament, and shows how the beginnings of the critical scholarship of modern times is connected with, and has grown out of, that change in understanding.

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TO MY WIFE  
AGNES MATHIE HOWIE

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## PREFACE

This book arose out of public lectures which were offered in St Mary's College, St Andrews as 'The St Mary's College Lectures' in the Candlemas Term during the years 1982–5. Their character was influenced by the circumstance that Archibald Hay, who was associated with the College shortly after its foundation in 1538 (or 1539), urged that it should be a Trilingual College after the model of the Collège de France which was founded in 1530. The emphasis on Hebrew and Greek can be seen after the Reformation in the provisions of Andrew Melville's 'New Foundation' (*Nova Erectio*) of 1579. The subject *Selected Christian Hebraists* was perceived as one which would give scope for the exercise of trilingual scholarship.

I am most grateful to my colleague, Dr. R. B. Salters, for the help which he has given me with the reading of the proofs of this book.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BDB	Brown F., Driver S. R., Briggs C. A., <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Oxford, 1907, 1966).
BSOAS	<i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i>
CHB	<i>Cambridge History of the Bible</i>
DNB	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
ET	<i>Expository Times</i>
GK	Gesenius W., Kautzsch E., <i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> , English translation revised by Cowley A. E. (Oxford, 1910).
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KB <sup>2</sup>	Koehler L., Baumgartner W., <i>Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros</i> , 2nd edition (Leiden, 1958).
KB <sup>3</sup>	<i>Hebräisches und Aramäisches Lexikon zum Alten Testament</i> , 3rd edition (Leiden, 1967, 1974, 1983).
KJV	King James Version
NEB	New English Bible
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
PG	<i>Patrologiae Graecae</i>
PL	<i>Patrologiae Latinae</i>
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SVT	<i>Supplements to Vetus Testamentum</i>
ZThK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>