ITSEE Electronic Editions: MA Project

The *Protevangelium Jacobi*

Usage and Methods

In this electronic edition of the *Protevangelium Jacobi* the reader is not provided with the tradition eclectic text supported by a critical apparatus but rather they are offered access to transcriptions of the manuscript witnesses consulted alongside an interactive apparatus.

The edition is made up of two parts: the full text of the *Protevangelium Jacobi* given in three manuscripts and chapter thirteen of the text given in nine manuscripts. Each part has its own set of transcriptions and an apparatus. This division is owing to the limited scope of the project: it was not practical within the given time scale to produce full transcriptions of nine manuscripts while a comparison of this number was considered valuable.

Careful choice was made to select three manuscripts of a varied type for the full text of the *Protevangelium Jacobi*: Bodmer V (B5), a third or fourth century majuscule papyrus codex considered of especial significance because of its early date and the importance attributed by scholars to other texts it contains; Vatopedi 74 (V74), a twelfth century minuscule menologion manuscript and Vindobonensis Palatinna (VN61), a minuscule hagiographic manuscript dated to A.D. 1319. See the table below for more details.

MS	Date (A.D.)	Type of MS	Folia	Material	Library
Bodmer V (a part of the *Bodmer Codex*)	3rd/4th century	Made for private use (Testuz)	49 pages	papyrus	Bodmer Library, Geneva.
Vatopedi 74	12th century	menologion	68r-78r	vellum	Monastery of Vatopedi (Mt.Athos)

| Vindobonensis Palatinna Hist. gr. 61 | 1319 | Hagiographic-a | 6v-14v | --- | Osterreichische Nationalbibliothek (Wien, Austria) |

For the text of chapter 13 in addition to these three manuscripts six minuscule menologion manuscripts were chosen and transcribed. The manuscripts were selected on the basis that the textual evidence they provide has not been used by previous editors of the *Protevangelium Jacobi*, hence this project offers access to fresh information on the tradition of the text. See the table below for more details.

MS	Date (A.D.)	Type of MS	Folia (chps 1-25)	Material	Library
Vatopedi 636	1417	menologion	25r-35r	paper	Monastery of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos)
Vatopedi 448	1700	menologion	1r-7r	paper	Monastery of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos)
Sinai 497	10/11th century	menologion	40v-48v	parchment	Mt. Sinai
Sinai 495	11th century	menologion	40v-47v	parchment	Mt. Sinai
Sinai 519	11th century	menologion	9r-13v	parchment	Mt. Sinai
Pantocrator 3	16th century	menologion	163r-166r	paper	Monastery of Pantocrator (Mt. Athos)

Chapter 13 provides the reader with the opportunity to explore the variation between a greater number of manuscripts then available for the rest of the text. However, it should be borne in mind by the critical reader that the textual relationships between the manuscripts in chapter 13 may not be typical of and repeated in the rest of the text. Often scribes used more than one exemplar as the source of their text and for numerous reasons may have alternated between exemplars at various stages in their copying. Thus, the textual evidence provided by an analysis of chapter 13 should not be stretched to make assumptions about relationships in the rest of the text.

The Transcriptions

The transcriptions provide the user with the texts of the manuscripts consulted, making them available to the reader unlearned in palaeography. V74 was the first manuscript transcribed and once it was completed it was used as a base text to make the other transcriptions. They were written in the Symbol Greek font using the text editing software BBedit, recommended by ITSEE. All *nomina sacra*, occurrences of Greek alphabetical numbers, orthographic variation, and cases of haplography and dittography have been transcribed as they appear in the manuscripts. *Nomina sacra* abbreviations are indicated by a supra-line over the second letter, a practice often employed by the scribes themselves.

The formatting of each manuscript has been preserved, thus where a word is broken by the end of a line in a manuscript, the same word is broken by the line in the transcription.

In the first stages of transcription, page numbers for Bodmer V (papyrus) and folio numbers for all the other manuscripts were recorded. However, owing to technical difficulties, it was only possible to display the pagination of Bodmer V and not the folio numbers of the other manuscripts. If the reader would like general information of this kind, they can consult the tables above.

Scribal corrections to the main text of the manuscripts were recorded using various 'app' tags created by ITSEE experts in transcription. In the on-line transcriptions they appear in brackets and in a different colour to the rest of the text. Words that appear in blue are part of the main text

written by the original scribe. They have been highlighted to indicate that a correction has been made. The correction appears in green.

There was not sufficient time for the editors to familiarise themselves with the various hands of individual scribes and correctors and so distinctions have not been made when there are multiple correctors in a manuscript, except for Bodmer V where two correctors are identified, following the transcription of M. Testuz.

Recording corrections has been the most interpretive aspect of transcription as judgements have had to be made even when letters are blurred by partial erasure or when they have been removed completely. In most cases editorial consensus was reached but when it was judged impossible to read a letter or a number of letters, this is indicated by one blank space representing each illegible letter.

The main editorial interventions during transcription have been:

1. To ease reading by breaking up the *scriptio continua*.

2. The filling in of appropriate letters, where for example a scribe has omitted or abbreviated them to save space at the end of a line. (Usually in such cases the scribe leaves some kind of marking as an indication of this and a thorough knowledge of Greek tense and case endings makes the filling in a straightforward exercise).

As editorial attention has focused specifically on the text contained in these manuscripts, it was not considered worthwhile to transcribe accents or to distinguish between majuscule and minuscule letter forms. Except in cases of very enlarged letters (often the first letter on a new folio/page), all letters have been transcribed using a lower case Greek font, even in the case of Bodmer V, a majuscule manuscript. The analysis of such details belongs to the realm of palaeographical study and is beyond the scope of this project.

All transcriptions were made from microfilms or digital images of the manuscripts except for Bodmer V where the limited budget of the project did not permit the purchase of either, instead a printed transcription made by Michel Testuz was employed. (Testuz, Michel, (ed.), *Papyrus Bodmer V: Nativite de Marie*, Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, 1958)

The Apparatus

The editors followed the chapter numbering and versification used by Ronald Nock in *The Infancy Gospels of James and Thomas* (1995). The chapter and verse numbers provided the system of 'block marking', necessary for the stage of collation. The numbers informed the computer program, *Collate* which sections of text should be compared so that the apparatus could be built.

The two apparatuses function on a verse by verse basis. They provide the reader with the opportunity to explore in detail the variation between the textual witnesses consulted. The electronic medium in which it is contained allows a degree of interaction not possible on a printed page. The user is able to select which chapter and verse they would like to view and to choose which manuscript text they would like to appear at the base of the screen.

RT stands for 'running text'. The text of VN61 was selected for use as the running text in the full text collation and Vatopedi 448 in the chapter 13 collation. However, this choice was arbitrary and the texts of VN61 and Vatopedi 448 should not be considered superior to that of the others witnesses. The running text simply acts as a rail on which to hang the variation, which is the central element in this section of the edition.

To prevent the reader from becoming lost in endless variation, the editors have sought to 'tidy up' the apparatus by a process called 'regularisation', that is, removing certain kinds of variants that would otherwise appear but are of little significance to the meaning of the text. (Although such variants can be valuable in studying the origins of particular manuscripts/texts and/or their relationships with other manuscripts/texts, such analysis would be far beyond the scope of this project). The following types of variants, although the information is preserved in the transcriptions, have been removed from the apparatuses:

- Simple orthographic variants (mostly caused by itacism), except in the case of proper names.
- Variation caused by the inclusion/exclusion of final nus.
- Variants caused by enlarged letters that were recorded in the transcriptions.
- In the part containing the full text of the *Protevangelium Jacobi,* where specific *nomina sacra* have the same the same

number, gender and case, they have been regularised. They will normally appear in the apparatus written out in full.

The editors hope to have preserved in the apparatus all variation that could affect the meaning of the text and they have erred on the side of caution to do this. If for example, what appears to be a possible orthographic error, perhaps because such a mistake is common to the manuscript concerned, if this could affect the case, tense, mood or number of a word, the variation will be displayed in the apparatus and the reader left to make his/her own judgement on the matter.

The software used to build the apparatus employed a complicated points system to determine which words and phrases should be collated together. Inevitably this statistical system did not always make the 'correct' decision and so the editors used a process called 'set variants' which allowed them to alter the collation output and control which words and phrases would be collated together.

This project has formed the Masters dissertation of Christopher Jordan and Alison Welsby at the University of Birmingham. It has been very much a learning process and the finished product is far from perfect especially in respect to regularisations and set variants. It is hoped that the reader will bear with the limitations of this work. The editors would like to give special thanks to their three tutors Barbara Bordalejo, David Parker and Peter Robinson, whose help throughout the project has been invaluable. We hope that you enjoy using the edition.

Chris and Ali

Appendix

Editing Responsibilities

Although Projects 1 and 2 were collaborative scholarly enterprises, there was by necessity a division of labour and below is a record of such individual editing responsibilities.

General Manuscript Research (e.g. catalogues, inventories, in what kind MS text was transmitted?) = CJ and AW.

Part 1:

1) Transcriptions

Vatopedi 74: chps1-25= AW and CJ
Bodmer V: chps 1-13= CJ; chps 14-25= AW
Vindobonensis Hist. gr. 61: chps 1-13= AW; chps 14-25= CJ

2) Collate (set variants, regularisations etc)

Chps 1-12= AW (revised by AW and CJ)
Chps 13-25= CJ (revised by AW and CJ

3) Anastasia

Chps 1-25=AW and CJ

Part 2:

1) Transcriptions

Sinai 495=CJ
Sinai 497=CJ
Sinai 519=AW

Vatopedi 636=AW
Vatopedi 448=CJ and AW
Pantocrator 3=CJ

2) Collate (set variants, regularisations etc)

chp 13= CJ

3) Anastasia

chp 13= AW and CJ

Introductions:

Introduction to *Protevangelium Jacobi*= CJ

Introduction to Project: Usage and Methods= AW (revised and contributions made by CJ)