

the edition of Ruth, was published by the Württemberg Bible Society's Press. The considerations which had to be taken into account in the textual criticism of Genesis proved entirely different from those concerning Ruth, and the critical apparatus extended further in the case of the former than in that of the latter. Thus the edition of Genesis assumed a form midway between that of a pocket edition and that of the larger edition which had been previously proposed. There was at first a ready sale for this edition of Genesis, but it happened that, when only about a quarter of the edition had been disposed of, its sale came to a standstill. Consequently, when the manuscript of the Psalms, which should have come next in order of publication, was nearing completion, the Bible Society declared that future issues could not be permitted to assume as full a form as that of the edition of Genesis. At the same time, the "Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften" once more gave consideration to the possibility of the publication of the larger edition. As a consequence of this, the Bible Society resumed its original plan of publishing a small pocket edition. Subject to the approval of the "Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften", I declared myself willing to prepare a pocket edition on the textual basis of the three oldest Greek manuscripts. Thus the scheme was abandoned which had for a time been contemplated, of combining the pocket edition with the larger edition. Thereupon the Göttingen firm of Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht undertook the publication of the larger edition. In 1930—1931 they published my edition of the Psalter, which was originally intended for publication by the Bible Society, but which had, meanwhile, been still further enlarged, and now appeared as Part X of the big work. This full edition is designed for detailed study, and is intended to cover all available material. The pocket edition confines itself, in the main, to the three most important manuscripts, B, S, and A, and refers only incidentally and where it seems needful to other material. The aim of this work is to provide clergy and students with a reliable edition of the Septuagint at a moderate price, and thus to supply an important companion and aid to the study not only of the Old Testament, but also of the New Testament. It is my hope that this volume may adequately fulfil its purpose.

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