

N E W S

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NEW YORK, May 18 -- A Revised Standard Version of the Apocrypha will appear Sept. 30, on the fifth anniversary of publication of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Announcement was made by the Rev. Dr. Luther A. Weigle, New Haven, Conn., chairman of the Standard Bible Committee of the National Council of Churches, which also translated the RSV Bible. Dr. Weigle is dean emeritus of Yale Divinity School.

The Apocrypha comprises the fourteen books of the Old Testament appearing in the Latin Vulgate Bible of 1592 which were not in the Hebrew Bible and which are now excluded from the Authorized Version. With the exception of one, these books appear in the Septuagint, a Greek version of the Old Testament, but they are not included in the Hebrew Canon of Holy Scripture.

Because of their inclusion in the Latin Vulgate, the church throughout the medieval period looked upon these books as belonging to the Scriptures, though not unaware of their lack of canonical status among the Jews.

In 1952 the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church asked the National Council of Churches to undertake the translation of the Apocrypha, and it was authorized by the Council's General Board in December of that year.

The four year project involved the preparation and circulation of drafts of translation, discussion and resolution of disputed points in face-to-face conference, circulation of new drafts, and a review of each book by an advisory board made up of representatives appointed by denominations which accented the invitation to review the drafts.

This procedure was similar to that followed in the preparation of the Revised Standard Version of the Old and New Testaments.

Between 1953 and 1956 the committee of scholars held ten such conference meetings, usually for periods of two weeks each.

The basic Greek text of the books of the Apocrypha from which the present translation was made is the Rahlfs edition of the Septuagint. This text is based mainly upon the Codex Vaticanus (4th century A.D.), the Codex Sinaiticus (4th century), and the Codex Alexandrinus (5th century).

The translators also used the Greek text found in the codices Vaticanus and Alexandrinus; the Greek version of Theodotion; the Old Latin version; several Oriental versions, namely the Syriac, Ethiopic, Arabic, Armenian, and Georgian; and portions of the Apocrypha preserved in the Greek papyri from Egypt.