

"We gladly acknowledge our debt," said Dr. Weigle, "not only to the scholars who throughout the centuries have made competent studies of these books, but also to the former English translations, especially the King James Version of 1611, the English Revised Version of 1895, and Goodspeed's translation of 1938.

A generation that has witnessed the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls will probably agree that modern historical interest is putting the books of the Apocrypha in their true place as significant documents of a most important era in Christian history."

In the new translation the Apocrypha will be placed at the end of the New Testament, rather than in their usual position between the Testaments.

In Luther's German translation of 1534 they stood between the Old and the New Testament, with the title: "Apocrypha, that is, books which are not held equal to the sacred Scriptures, and nevertheless are useful and good to read."

Coverdale's English translation of 1535 gave them the same position, with the title: "Apocrypha. The books and treatises which among the fathers of old are not reckoned to be of like authority with the other books of the Bible, neither are they found in the Canon of the Hebrews."

The Puritans opposed every use of them that would suggest that they possessed any authority.

Revised Standard work began as long ago as 1929, when the International Council of Religious Education, with the support of 40 denominations, appointed a committee of scholars to study the project of "combining the accuracy of the American Standard Version (1901) with the enduring beauty of the King James Version(1611).

The ICRE is now a part of the National Council of Churches. The actual revision was started in 1937. Translation of the New Testament was completed in 1945. The Old Testament was completed and the Revised Standard Version of the Bible published in 1952.

In addition to Dr. Weigle, the committee was composed of Dr. Millar Burrows, Yale University; Dr. Henry J. Cadbury and Dr. Robert H. Pfeiffer, Harvard University; Dr. Floyd V. Filson, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago; Dr. Frederick C. Grant, Union Theological Seminary, New York; Dr. Bruce M. Metzger, Princeton Theological Seminary; Dr. Allen P. Wikgren, University of Chicago; and Dr. J. Carter Swaim, New York, director, Department of the English Bible, National Council of Churches.