

your desk various books and you don't think of keeping all these books separately. The Jews probably would keep their Hebrew separate but this translation into the common language and there is no reason that they would think that these should be kept with just the sacred Scriptures. One Jew might have one book of the O.T. in his book while another Jew might have 6 or 7 books of the O.T. and he might have some literature of Philo or some other Greek or Latin writer so he would have them all mixed together. They practically had to keep these rolls in boxes. Swete didn't bother giving us a footnote to prove that the Jews used boxes to keep their rolls together. It would just be the natural thing to do. He isn't discussing the critical theory here but how these books got into the LXX. Very few of the MSS which we have, very few of them come prior to the 4th century A.D., and these books as we have them came into use around the 4th cent. though they had been used as early as 200 A.D. But they used these scrolls until this new form was introduced. The thing that made it easy to introduce was the new type of material. The question came up amongst the Jews whether or not it was right to include more than one book on the roll or the whole of the prophets upon one roll--that was the question that was raised, though others didn't seem to care--the important thing is that a change took place. Whatever the way was before binding came into common usage, the question afterwards was how to bind all these books into one--it was a brand new question that hadn't occurred to them before. The question then arises around the 4th cent. A.D. when our earliest MSS were made of the LXX does not prove anything of what books would have been bound together if this had come to pass three centuries earlier. If they didn't have boxes earlier then it proves absolutely nothing about the arrangement and if they did, it proves what boxes the books were put in. Since they didn't think of the Greek translation as specially sacred it could easily be seen why they would put them with these other books. If they didn't use boxes the thing is made much simpler. The sacred Scriptures in the original Hebrew they considered as so extremely important that they counted the number of letters in every book. They would copy a page and then rewrite it. They were extremely careful and very strict about the Heb. but with the Greek they took very little care. They are just a translation made for common use. The LXX is just full of error, especially the proper names. Cf. Omri and Tibni--the LXX uses the same name for both. Beersheba and Bathsheba are mixed up. It means that they were not especially careful with the translation. They leave out KING so and so. They were afraid that something would happen to their Heb. MSS and sometimes bury them when they got old.