

**GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE  
SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE COMMENTARY ON THE SEPTUAGINT<sup>1</sup>**

**1. PREAMBLE**

The objective of the Society of Biblical Literature Commentary on the Septuagint (SBLCS) is to elucidate the meaning of *the text-as-produced* in distinction from *the text-as-received*. “Meaning,” however, is neither to be presupposed nor to be superimposed from either the source text or the text-as-received (cf. Prospectus [2]). Inherent in this goal statement are four fundamental principles.

**1.1. The commentary is *genetic*, in the sense that it seeks to trace the translation *process* that results in the *product*, i.e., the so-called **original text of the Old Greek** (cf. Prospectus [1]).**

1.1.1. The text-as-produced is conceptualized as a *dependent* entity, derived from its source text. That is to say, it is perceived to be *compositionally* dependent on its source, though not *semantically* dependent (cf. Prospectus [3]).

1.1.2. The aim is to uncover the strategies and norms by means of which the text came into being. Therefore, the commentator will analyze the relationship between the target text and the source text, attempting to account for the *process* underlying the derivation of the Greek version from its Semitic parent. It is from this analysis that the commentator will formulate his or her principles of interpretation and procedural methodology (see §3.2.2.1 below).

**1.2. The primary focus of the commentary is the *verbal make-up* of the translation, understood in terms of *conventional* linguistic usage (i.e., the grammar and lexicon of the target language) rather than in terms of what may be encountered in translation Greek (cf. Prospectus [5] and §3.2 below).**

1.2.1. The text-as-produced can be said to have semantic autonomy because it means what it means in terms of the grammar and lexicon of the Greek language at the time of the Septuagint’s production.

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<sup>1</sup> See “Prospectus for IOSCS-Sponsored LXX Commentary Series,” *BIOSCS* 31 (1998): 43–48; <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ioscs/commentary/prospectus.html>.

1.2.2. The “reader” of the text-as-produced is conceptualized as the *prospective* or *implied* reader, a construct based on the text itself, in distinction from any reader, actual or hypothetical, exterior to the text. The prospective reader is to be inferred from those features of the text’s make-up that are indicative of a specific linguistic, literary, or cultural aim (e.g., transcriptions and Hebraisms).

**1.3. The text-as-produced represents *an historical event*, and should be described with reference to the relevant features of its historical context** (see §3.2 below).

1.3.1. The translation is to be viewed as a fact of the culture that produced it inasmuch as it is a specimen of discourse within that culture.

1.3.2. The verbal make-up of the translation should be understood in relation to the cultural system in which it was produced, that is to say, the sort of text it is as a Greek document.

1.3.3. Since unintelligibility is one of the inherent characteristics of the text-as-produced, it should not always be assumed to make sense (see §1.2.1 above).

**1.4. The text-as-produced is *the act of an historical agent—the translator—and should be described with reference to the translator’s intentions, to the extent that these are evident*** (cf. Prospectus [4]).

1.4.1. The meaning of the text is best understood as encompassing both *what* the translator did and *why*.

1.4.2. The commentator’s task thus includes the following: (a) to search out the intention of the translator insofar as this may be inferred from the transformation of the source text and the verbal make-up of the target text; (b) to describe the possibilities *deliberately* marked out by the language of the text (see §3.2.3.1 and 3.2.5.1 below).

1.4.3. It should not be presupposed in any given instance that the translator’s primary intention was to produce an intelligible text.

## **2. THE COMMENTARY IN OVERVIEW**

The commentary volume will be comprised of the following components and in stated sequence.

**2.1. Front Matter:** (a) materials supplied by the publisher; (b) both table of contents and sigla and abbreviations supplied by the author (see §9 below); (c) series introduction supplied by the editors.

**2.2. Volume Introduction.** See §3 below.

**2.3. Commentary.** See §4 below.

**2.4. General Style Guidelines.** See §5 below.

**2.5. Formatting a Manuscript.** See §6 below.

**2.6. Excursuses.** See §7 below.

**2.7. Indexes.** See §8 below.

**2.8. Abbreviations.** See §9 below.

**2.9. Publishers.** See §10 below.

**2.10. Keyboard Commands.** See §11 below.

### 3. VOLUME INTRODUCTION

Our anthology of texts is comprised of two distinct genres of literature: (i) translations from a Semitic parent text; (ii) original compositions in Greek. The guidelines in §§3.1–5 are therefore distinguished accordingly: (i) Translations, (ii) Compositions. Moreover, since under (i) the object of research is the text-as-produced, this means that the focus is on what the *translator* did with his source text, not on the Greek text as a freestanding entity.

3.1(i). Date, Provenance, Translator/Author, and Unity (= Prospectus I A).	3.1(ii). Date, Provenance, Translator/Author, and Unity (= Prospectus I A).
3.1.1(i). Commentators will interact critically with published views on a book’s probable date and place of translation. They will deal with its translational unity (e.g., Ieremias) and with questions regarding the original language of a book’s component parts (e.g., Esther).	3.1.1(ii). Commentators will interact critically with published views on a book’s probable date of composition, provenance, author/epitomist, and compositional unity (e.g., 2 Makkabees). See §3.1.2(i).
3.1.2(i). On “Date,” the best that commentators might be able to do is to comment on the relative date within the anthology. Similarly, what a commentator can say about “Provenance” and “Translator” is likely limited. Even on the question of “Unity,” one can typically	

comment only on translational unity.	
3.1.3(i). If items such as "Title" require considerable coverage, they should be discussed under this heading rather than in the body of the commentary.	3.1.3(ii). If items such as "Title" require considerable coverage, they should be discussed under this heading rather than in the body of the commentary.
3.2(i). Linguistic, Stylistic, & Thematic Features.	3.2(ii). Linguistic, Stylistic, & Thematic Features.
3.2.1(i). Commentators will provide an overview of the results of their descriptive analysis of the text-as-produced, with a view to capturing what is characteristic of (rather than incidental to) the translation. The goal of descriptive analysis is twofold: (a) to characterize the translation with respect to the formal features of the source text (its so-called adequacy), and (b) to characterize the translation with respect to the conventions of the target language (its so-called acceptability). This aim is achieved by a combination of two distinct operations: comparative study of the target and source texts (translation technique), and comparative study of the target text with contemporary Greek literature (linguistic profile) (see §1.1.1 above).	3.2.1(ii). Commentators will provide an overview of the results of their literary and thematic analysis, with a view to capturing what is characteristic of the work. Interaction with the secondary literature, where relevant, should be selective rather than exhaustive. The focus throughout shall be on the text-as-produced (in contrast to the text-as-received).
3.2.2(i). Translation Technique.	
3.2.2.1(i). Commentators will address the process of derivation from the source text. Therefore, the focus here will be on the text-as-translation in distinction from the translation-as-text (see §1.1 above; cf. Prospectus [1]).	
3.2.2.2(i). Commentators are encouraged to distinguish between strategies and norms where this is appropriate (see §1.1.2 and NETS	

Manual 3, p. 12).	
3.2.2.2.1(i). Translational strategies are specific operations involving the translator's <i>modus operandi</i> , such as his use of transcription, neologism, <i>hapax legomenon</i> , calque, stereotype, and isolate (syntactic as well as semantic)—in so far as any of the preceding can be said to be non-incidental to the book.	
3.2.2.2.2(i). Translational norms are general principles underlying a translator's handling of the source text. For example, a norm of isomorphism or formal equivalence is typical.	
3.2.3(i). Linguistic Profile.	3.2.3(ii). Linguistic Profile.
3.2.3.1(i). Commentators will focus here on the product, namely, the translation-as-text in distinction from the text-as-translation. They will deal with lexicon, syntax, and textual-linguistic make-up. It will thus be crucial to evaluate the text with respect to models of textual production within the target language. That is to say, to what extent does the translation approximate non-translation literature of the target culture? (See §1.2 above; cf. Prospectus [1]). A key dimension of the analysis is the translator's tolerance of interference from the source text, in terms of positive and negative transfer.	3.2.3.1(ii) In this section commentators will focus on the language of the text. They will deal with its lexicon, syntax, and textual-linguistic make-up. It will be crucial to evaluate the text with respect to models of textual production within the target language. That is to say, to what extent does the text approximate other literature of the target culture? (See §1.2 above).
3.2.4(i). Structure, Form, and Genre.	3.2.4(ii). Structure, Form, and Genre.
3.2.4.1(i). Commentators will note major differences in order and contents, such as major additions, omissions, and transpositions with	3.2.4.1(ii). Commentators will address questions of form and genre with respect to the literature of the target language.

<p>respect to MT, and the resultant differences in numbering of chapters and verses. It should be borne in mind, however, that such deviations are typically due to a parent text at variance with MT, rather than to the translator's activity.</p>	
<p>3.2.5(i). Style and Rhetoric.</p>	<p>3.2.5(ii). Style and Rhetoric.</p>
<p>3.2.5.1(i). Commentators will focus on identifiable and characteristic transformations, namely, deliberate manipulations of the source text that characterize a given translation technique, that are non-obligatory and not purely grammatical, and that are therefore not linguistically determined. To the extent that such transformations conform to certain stylistic or rhetorical models, this should be noted (see §1.4.2 above). References to contemporaneous parallels may prove illuminating.</p>	<p>3.2.5.1(ii). Commentators will focus on identifiable and characteristic features of the text. To the extent that such features conform to certain stylistic or rhetorical models, this should be noted (see §1.4.2 above).</p>
<p>3.2.5.2(i). Where appropriate, commentators may want to draw attention to Greek rhetorical conventions, specifically those pertaining to lexis or manner of expression. Thus, for example, a scheme attributed to Theophrastus (370–285 BCE) distinguishes three stylistic means according to word choice (vocabulary), the melodious arrangement of words (the structure, sonority, and rhythm of sentences), and the figures of speech in which the words are set (e.g., metonymy or anaphora) (cf. Smyth, <i>Greek Grammar</i> §§3004–48 for Greek figures of speech).</p>	<p>3.2.5.2(ii). Commentators should draw attention to Greek rhetorical conventions, specifically those pertaining to lexis or manner of expression. Thus, for example, a scheme attributed to Theophrastus (370–285 BCE) distinguishes three stylistic means according to word choice (vocabulary), the melodious arrangement of words (the structure, sonority, and rhythm of sentences), and the figures of speech in which the words are set (e.g., metonymy or anaphora) (cf. Smyth, <i>Greek Grammar</i> §§3004–48 for Greek figures of speech).</p>
<p>3.2.5.3(i). In identifying rhetorical and poetic features, great care should be exercised in distinguishing, not only between unmarked and marked renderings,</p>	

but also between the text-as-produced and the text-as-received.	
3.2.5.4(i). It should be noted that, although our analysis is target-oriented, the ancient translator need not have been—at least not consciously so. Rather, he may have had recourse to models within the source text that reflected the conventions of the source literature.	
3.2.6(i). Themes and Major Concerns.	3.2.6(ii). Themes and Major Concerns.
3.2.6.1(i) The rule of thumb for treatment in the introduction versus in the commentary body is whether an item is perceived to be thematic rather than incidental. Included here would be such items as specialized terminology (e.g., βασιλεύς versus ἄρχων for מֶלֶךְ in Deuteronomy), intertextuality (e.g., use made of the Greek Pentateuch or Psalms), (anti)anthropomorphisms, geographical orientation, weights/measures/coinage, cultural matters, and the like.	3.2.6.1(ii) The rule of thumb for treatment in the introduction versus in the commentary body is whether an item is perceived to be thematic rather than incidental. Included here would be such items as specialized terminology, intertextuality, geographical orientation, weights/measures/coinage, cultural matters, and the like.
3.3(i). The Old Greek and Its Parent Text.	
3.3.1(i). Commentators can here discuss issues of a parent text that varies from MT, at the macro level, if any given book or translation unit warrants such discussion. Typical sources for such deviant traditions are SamPent, MSS from Qumran, Peshitta, and other sources indirectly accessed (e.g., in Reigns).	
3.4(i). Old Greek Text and Text History.	3.4(ii). Old Greek Text and Text History.
3.4.1(i). This section will typically comprise four subsections, all Old	3.4.1(ii). This section will typically comprise three subsections.

Greek-centered.	
3.4.1.1(i). Printed Editions of the Greek. Included here will be the editions, ranging from diplomatic to critical, from Gutenberg through the polyglots to the Cambridge Septuagint.	3.4.1.1(ii). Printed Editions of the Greek. Included here will be the editions, ranging from diplomatic to critical, from Gutenberg through the polyglots to the Cambridge Septuagint.
3.4.1.2(i). State of the Text. This section will be devoted to discussion of the best critical text (Rahlfs, Margolis, Göttingen) or the closest approximation thereto. Discussion may also include an assessment of how the critical text was arrived at or how it is likely to be reconstructed.	3.4.1.2(ii). State of the Text. This section will be devoted to discussion of the best critical text (Rahlfs, Margolis, Göttingen) or the closest approximation thereto. Discussion may also include an assessment of how the critical text was arrived at or how it is likely to be reconstructed.
3.4.1.3(i). Textual History. When critical editions exist, the materials can be summarized. Otherwise, some attempt at establishing the text history ought to be made.	3.4.1.3(ii). Textual History. When critical editions exist, the materials can be summarized. Otherwise, some attempt at establishing the text history ought to be made.
3.4.1.4(i). Non-Old Greek Traditions. Although "the three" (et al.) are by and large irrelevant except in certain details, in some books they intrude significantly on the history of the so-called LXX. They will be referred to (or cited) only when they provide useful information on the original Greek text.	
3.5(i). History of Scholarship, Bibliography, and Acknowledgement of Sources.	3.5(ii). History of Scholarship, Bibliography, and Acknowledgement of Sources.
3.5.1(i). Each volume will contain a single, comprehensive bibliography of all works cited arranged according to the categories below. It will appear at the beginning of the commentary. Entries should conform to the author-date style. For the preferred listing of places and publishers, see 9.4 below.	3.5.1(ii). Each volume will contain a single, comprehensive bibliography of all works cited arranged according to the categories below. It will appear at the beginning of the commentary. Entries should conform to the author-date style. For the preferred listing of places and publishers, see 9.4 below.

3.5.2(i). Text Editions of Non-Greek Texts: MT, Qumran, SamPent, Targums, Peshitta, Vulgate (standard bibliographical listings with abbreviations to be used).	
3.5.3(i). Studies of the Greek Text. Include here two subsections: (a) a discussion of major interpretive or exegetical treatments; and (b) an annotated bibliography of other items.	3.5.3(ii). Studies of the Greek Text. Include here two subsections: (a) a discussion of major interpretive or exegetical treatments; and (b) an annotated bibliography of other items.
3.5.4(i). Exegetical Commentaries on the Hebrew Bible. Include both modern commentaries of particular relevance to the LXX and medieval Jewish treatments (e.g., Rashi).	
3.5.5(i). Lexica and Grammars.	3.5.5(ii). Lexica and Grammars.

#### **4. Commentary. (For more detail and specific examples, see the Template Text [= Psalm 28]).**

When the text is a translation rather than an original composition, one should take an essentially two-pronged approach to the actual commentary. First, because it is a translation, one must keep in mind that the contextual sense of Greek words or expressions may have suffered interference from the Greek's close relationship to the parent text. Consequently, one may be forced to acknowledge the disjointed nature of the Greek text. Second, because, in spite of its precise relationship to its parent text, the Greek text is nevertheless a new entity, one should treat it, as much as is warranted, as a unitary whole. Thus, commentary should focus on (1) matters of the Greek critical text, including any deviations from the critical text, since strict text-critical procedure is presupposed; and (2) matters of lexicography, grammar, exegesis, and intertextuality. These areas of focus derive from the five principles that constitute the basis for this commentary series and that are articulated in the Preamble to "A Prospectus for a Commentary on the Septuagint" (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ioscs/commentary/prospectus.html>)

**4.1. Segmentation of the Text.** The segment of text to be commented on may be as long as a chapter or may be as short as a single verse. The determination of its length can best be based on a reasonable degree of

topical coherence, whether derived from the source text or introduced by the translator.

**4.2. Chapter-and-Verse Reference of Text Segment.** Because this is a main heading, the name of the book should be spelled out (e.g., Genesis 1.1–2.4). However, for books that begin with a numeral, retain the numeral (e.g., 1 Makkabees 1.1–4).

4.2.1. Within the commentary, book, chapter, and verse references should be, e.g., Gen 1.1, 3, 5; 1 Makk 1.1, 3, 5. When verses are consecutive, however, they should be Gen 1.1, 2, 3, 4 or 1 Makk 1.1, 2, 4.

**4.3. Outline and Summary.** Each segment of text shall begin with a minimal outline of no more than 50 words and end with a summary of the major expositional findings of similar size.

**4.4. Verse-by-Verse Commentary.** Each section of the commentary proper should address the smallest coherent unit of text, typically a verse. The first verse in a segment should begin with a “Commentary” heading followed by the verse reference (e.g., “Commentary: Ps 28.1). Subsequent verses should use a verse-reference heading only (e.g., “28.2”).

**4.5. Running Texts.** For each segment of text, the running texts in stated order shall be: M(asoretic)T(ext) (unpointed), O(ld)G(reek) (best edition), and N(ew)E(nglish)T(ranslation of the)S(eptuagint) (latest printing).

4.5.1. Standard abbreviations are MT, OG, and NETS, and G for the Greek translator.

4.5.2. Variants within the running texts are marked with (or enclosed by) superscripted letters of the alphabet (a, b, c, etc.), to be discussed in the commentary *per se*. Also included here will be a discussion of any deviations from the NETS translation that the commentator feels must be made.

4.5.3. All running texts are to be left-justified, but segmentation of the Hebrew should accord with the Greek, wherever possible.

4.5.4. The running texts of the verse should be provided in Unicode-compliant characters and indented from the left margin.

4.5.5. Each discrete discussion (which can encompass multiple paragraphs) should begin with the Greek word or phrase under discussion, closed by a period and a space, followed by the ensuing discussion on the same line.

4.5.5.1. Discrete discussions shall be separated by a vacant line.

**4.6. Sectional Headings.** Like NETS (but unlike the NRSV) no descriptive headings shall be used for the text to be commented upon.

**4.7. Citation of Lemma Text.** A citation of the lemma text that includes a dash (e.g., A – B) means A to B inclusive, and one that includes ellipsis dots

(A ... B) refers to A and B as distinct items. Glosses should be provided for words that are not part of the lemma.

**4.8. The Pristine Text.** Although commentators are free to deviate from the lemma text (even if “critical”), such deviations shall be based on and accompanied by judicious argumentation.

**4.9. Parent Text Differs from MT.** The commentator will discuss significant departures in OG from its source text. When OG reflects a source text that differs from MT, it cannot be said to depart from its source text. A comment to that effect is, however, warranted in such cases.

**4.10. Head Terms.** For nouns the head term shall be the nominative singular, and for verbs the first person singular present active indicative.

**4.11. Secondary Texts.** Since SBLCS is a commentary on the Old Greek text, all texts known to be secondary (e.g., the Theodotonic text of Iob, Sousanna, Daniel, Bel and the Dragon) shall not be commented upon unless they are of direct relevance to OG.

**4.12. Citing “The Three.”** “The Three” (Aquila, Symmachus, Theodotion) will be cited only when they supply useful information on the original text of OG.

**4.13. Citation of Ancient Sources.** Ancient sources should be manually consulted and cited from the best available editions in accordance with *DB*, *LSJ*, and *SBLHS* conventions (e.g., Aristotle, *Div. somn.* 463a). Only in the rare instance that an edition is not available to the researcher should *TLG* be cited. In the introduction of the commentary, of course, use of *TLG* could be mentioned, but in accordance with scholarly practice it should not be cited as an authoritative edition.

**4.14. The Old Greek—A Sacred Text?** SBLCS is based on the methodological principle that *in no instance* should it be assumed that the translated Septuagint *as produced* was intended to eclipse its Hebrew source, to be read or consulted independently of its parent, or to be regarded as an officially sanctioned canonical or sacred text.

## **5. GENERAL STYLE GUIDELINES**

**5.1. Authorities.** This manual will serve as the primary style and formatting authority, followed by *The SBL Handbook of Style* (hereafter *SBLHS*) (ed. Patrick H. Alexander et al.; Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999) and *The Chicago Manual of Style* (hereafter *CMS*) (15th ed.; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003).

**5.2. Spelling.** To ensure consistency, the series will follow American conventions (e.g., *analyze*, not *analyse*; *honor*, not *honour*), generally

adhering to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (11th ed.; Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, 2003). Specialized or technical terms should conform to the list of words given in *SBLHS* appendix A (153–64).

**5.3. Capitalization.** In general, the series will enforce a “down style” in which words are not capitalized unless necessary (e.g., proper nouns, titles of works). Therefore, pronouns referring to the deity should be lowercased. In addition, adjectival forms of capitalized noun forms are generally lowercased.

biblical, not Biblical

Gospel for the genre (canonical or noncanonical), gospel for the message  
kingdom of God, not Kingdom of God

Masoretic Text (a title), but masoretic editing

the Messiah, but a messiah

psalm(s), but Ps 1

Septuagint, but septuagintal

temple, not Temple

**5.4. Quotation Marks.** Authors should use double quotation marks (not single quotation marks) for quotations and words being emphasized or set apart. “Smart” quotes should always be turned on. In addition, periods and commas are set within a closing quotation mark; semicolons, colons, question marks, and exclamation points that are not part of the original quotation are set outside, as in the following examples.

“xxx,” not “xxx”,

“xxx.” not “xxx”.

“xxx”; not “xxx;”

“xxx”: not “xxx:”

“xxx”? not “xxx?”

Single quotation marks are used only for quotations or emphasized words within a quotation (*SBLHS* 4.1.5).

**5.5. Quotations.** It is an author’s responsibility to ensure complete accuracy when quoting someone else.

5.5.1. Ellipses (see 5.16 below) should not be used at the beginning of a quotation, even if the quotation omits the first part of a quoted sentence. As a rule, ellipses are likewise unnecessary at the end of a quotation.

5.5.2. An author’s explanatory comments within a regular or block quotation should be set within brackets, not parentheses. This includes the identification of, e.g., a Greek word within an English translation of a

passage.

**5.6. Block Quotations or Extracts.** Quotations longer than fifty words should be set as block quotations (i.e., separate paragraphs indented 1/2-inch on left and right).

5.6.1. Quotation marks are not used at the beginning or end of a block quotation.

5.6.2. Original quotation marks within a block quotation should be represented by double quotation marks regardless of the style of quotation mark used in the original.

5.6.3. Authors may also set translations of texts shorter than fifty words in block quotations, keeping in mind the need to economize on space whenever possible.

5.6.4. Using the author-date citation system, citations at the end of block quotations should follow the closing punctuation of the quotation and be set within parentheses, with no punctuation following the closing parenthesis. The same principle applies to citations of ancient texts after block quotations.

### **5.7. Biblical Citations**

5.7.1. Use a period (.) rather than a colon (:) or a comma (,) to separate chapter and verse numbers (e.g., 1.24).

5.7.2. Use the appropriate biblical book abbreviation whenever a book name is followed by a chapter number or a chapter and verse reference (e.g., Genesis; Gen 1; Gen 1.24)—*unless* the biblical book is the first word in a sentence. If a biblical book begins with a numeral, spell out that numeral at the beginning of a sentence (e.g., First Esdras). See 9.2 below.

5.7.3. Use commas to separate nonconsecutive verses (e.g., 1.24, 26, 28—note that a space follows each comma), semicolons to separate chapters (e.g., 1.24; 2.3; 4.6).

5.7.4. When chapter and verse references differ between LXX and MT, authors should use LXX references, indicating the MT versification as needed in one of two ways (whichever seems best for clarity in a given context): Ps 29(30).1 or Ier 32.1 (MT 25.15) or Ier 29(47).1.

**5.8. Citations of Other Ancient Sources.** Unless convention dictates otherwise (e.g., Dead Sea Scrolls), citation of nonbiblical texts should (1) use arabic numerals rather than roman and (2) separate, e.g., book, chapter, and paragraph with periods (e.g., 3.17.9, not III, 17.9 or III:17,9).

**5.9. Abbreviations.** Authors are to follow the abbreviations provided in section 9 of this manual. If a required abbreviation is not listed, authors should follow *SBLHS* or the authorities cited therein.

5.9.1. For the sake of economy, authors are encouraged to use the following abbreviations whenever practical: LXX; MT; NRSV (and other modern translations). Note that all are set in small caps (use the small-cap font style in your word processor; do not simply use a smaller size font of a capital letter).

5.9.2. Apart from ancient texts and the exceptions noted in 5.9.1, the use of abbreviations in the main text is discouraged. Instead of “e.g.,” write out “such as” or “for example”; instead of “i.e.,” use “that is” or “namely.” Likewise, write out “chapter” or “verse” in running text. This guideline does not apply to material placed in parentheses, where abbreviations should be used freely.

5.9.3. When used, the abbreviations “i.e.” and “e.g.” should have no spaces between the letters and always be followed by a comma.

5.9.4. Use “cf.” only when “compare” is meant. Authors often use “cf. also” when what is really meant is “see also.” One observes the same usage of “cf.” alone when “see” is meant. See further the guidelines in *CMS* 15.45.

**5.10. Gender-inclusive Language.** Nonspecific references to people should be inclusive, not gender-specific (*SBLHS* 4.3). Most gender-specific constructions can be avoided by use of a plural, as in “Scholars will find their work...” rather than “A scholar will find his work....”

**5.11. References to Eras.** Authors are encouraged to use B.C.E./C.E., although B.C./A.D. are permissible if an author prefers (*SBLHS* 8.1.2). Note that these abbreviations use periods and are set in small caps.

**5.12. Italics.** Use italics for emphasis or clarity only as truly necessary. Overuse of italics is typographically discouraged and less effective than a judicious use of italics. However, italics (not quotation marks) should be used to refer to a specific term (e.g., “The word *law* does not appear in the original text”).

### **5.13. Hyphens.**

5.13.1. Common prefixes are typically *not* hyphenated unless followed by a capitalized word or unless the absence of a hyphen might create a misreading (see *CMS* 7.90 for a full listing).

**anti:** antilegalistic, antimonarchic; but anti-Semitic  
**counter:** counterintuitive, counterproductive  
**extra:** extrabiblical, extramural  
**inter:** internecine, interfaith  
**macro:** macrostructure  
**meta:** metalanguage; but meta-analysis  
**mid:** midcareer, midcentury; but mid-first century  
**multi:** multiauthor, multiperspectival  
**non:** noncanonical, nonidolatrous, nonnative; but non-Christian  
**over:** overemphasize, overread  
**post:** postexilic, postbiblical  
**pre:** preexilic, premonarchic  
**pro:** promonarchic  
**proto:** protolanguage, prototext  
**pseudo:** pseudointellectual, pseudolegal  
**re:** reread, reedit; but re-creation/re-create to signify creating again  
**semi:** semitechnical; but semi-independent  
**socio:** sociohistorical, sociorhetorical, sociocultural, socioeconomic  
**sub:** subheading, substandard  
**super:** superabundant, superstructure  
**trans:** transhistorical, translegal  
**un:** unchristian, unattested, uncorroborated  
**under:** underrepresented, undervalued

#### **5.14. Numbers.**

5.14.1. In text, most numbers should be spelled out when one can do so in two words or less (e.g., seventy-five [note the hyphen], one hundred, fifteen thousand; but 137, 1,011).

5.14.2. Exceptions to 5.14.1 include citation of page numbers, references to parts of a text (e.g., chapter 2, not chapter two), years (e.g., 1100 B.C.E., but eighteenth century or first millennium), and percentages (e.g., 15 percent, not fifteen percent or 15%).

5.14.3. When listing page numbers, authors should omit repeated digits in the closing number according to the following examples:

10–11, 35–38, 98–99 (no digits omitted)

100–102, 200–252 (no digits omitted when the first number ends in x00)

101–2 (omit both repeated digits)

204–11, 309–56, 323–47

1000–1004 (no digits omitted when the first number ends in x000)

1002–8 (omit all repeated digits)

1002–16

Ideally, authors will use en-dashes (–) between numerals, not hyphens (-). See §11 below for instructions on how to type an en-dash.

5.14.4. When citing ancient texts, biblical or otherwise, do not omit repeated digits in the citation (e.g., Pss 113–114; Josephus, *J.W.* 1.321–329).

**5.15. Notes.** The series will not use footnotes or endnotes. Citation of secondary sources should follow the author-date-page style (e.g., Smith 2002, 148). Extraneous discussions that typically would be placed in a note should either be incorporated into the main text, placed in an excursus, or omitted.

**5.16. Ellipses.** An ellipsis (...) is used to indicate an omission of one or more words.

5.16.1. If an ellipsis is used between words within a sentence, it should be preceded and followed by a space. When an ellipsis ends a sentence, it should be preceded by the punctuation closing the sentence but no space, then followed by a space. If an ellipsis closes a clause followed by a comma, semicolon, or colon, it should not be preceded or followed by a space. Ellipses should not be set within parentheses or brackets. See the examples below.

“Textual critics will continue to seek the earliest ... text.”

“Textual critics will continue to seek the earliest, or most ‘original,’ form of the text.... However, this assumes that such a text existed.”

“Multiple variants, with no single original or simple resolution..., can show us the way for our own times.”

5.16.2. Authors are encouraged to use the proper ellipsis character (see §11 below), not a series of three periods.

## **6. FORMATTING A MANUSCRIPT**

### **6.1. General Guidelines.**

6.1.1. Manuscripts should be submitted as Microsoft Word (.doc) or rich text format (.rtf) files. Other file types may be supported, but please check with the editors before submitting something other than .doc or .rtf files.

6.1.2. Manuscripts should be double-spaced throughout, with only a single return between paragraphs (i.e., no double returns).

6.1.3. The first line of each new paragraph of text (i.e., not headings) should be indented. Do *not* use a tab to indent a line. Rather, use the ruler in your word processor to set the indent of the first line. If a paragraph continues after a block quotation (§5.6), do not indent the continuation. Typesetters will assume that any line indented after a block quote starts a new paragraph.

6.1.4. Do not use two spaces between sentences (or anywhere else).

6.1.5. To indicate that a word or phrase is to be italicized, set it in italics in the manuscript. Do not use underlining to indicate italics.

6.1.6. When tabs are needed to align a column or table, do not use multiple tabs to achieve the desired alignment. Rather, set the tab at the proper place on your word processor's ruler, then use a single tab to align the text.

6.1.7. All headings and subheadings should be capitalized according to "title case" rules (not in all caps) regardless of how the heading or subheading will appear in the printed volume. That is, capitalize the first and last word of every heading or subheading as well as every word in between unless it is an article (a, an, the), a coordinating conjunction (and, but), or a preposition of any length (of, with, through, according).

**6.2. Greek Text.** Greek words should be displayed in a Greek typeface, not transliteration. Further, all Greek text *must* be Unicode-compliant to ensure that no errors or changes are introduced when a manuscript is typeset.

6.2.1. Unicode-compliant fonts are platform (e.g., Mac or PC) and software (e.g., MSWord, WordPerfect, InDesign) independent, which means that characters display consistently regardless of the Unicode font used on multiple computers.

6.2.2. We recommend that authors use a Unicode font that supports all character + accent combinations (*not*, e.g., TimesNewRoman), such as SBL Greek, a free font provided by SBL, or Gentium, a free font provided by SIL ([http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site\\_id=nrsi&item\\_id=Gentium\\_download](http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=Gentium_download)). However, authors are free to use any Unicode-compliant font that supports the full range of characters

needed.

6.2.3. To type in Greek Unicode, one needs both a Unicode font (installed by following the normal process for your computer) *and* a keyboard driver. Various free keyboard drivers are available, each with its own installation directions. Some of the more popular include the following:

PC: <http://members.aol.com/AtticGreek/>

PC: [http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site\\_id=nrsi&item\\_id=keyman](http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=keyman)

Mac: <http://faculty.bbc.edu/rdecker/font/mackeyboard.htm>

Mac: <http://www.sourcecod.com/sophokeys/>

6.2.4. It is possible to convert many non-Unicode fonts (e.g., Graeca, Sgreek, SPIonic) to Unicode through a simple MSWord macro. Contact Bob Buller at SBL for further details. Since, however, this process is not perfect, it should be used only to convert text that an author has already entered in a non-Unicode font. In all other cases, authors should type text in a Unicode-compliant manner.

6.2.5. A Unicode-compliant version of the LXX (Rahlfs) is available online at [http://ba.21.free.fr/septuaginta/genese/genese\\_1.html](http://ba.21.free.fr/septuaginta/genese/genese_1.html).

6.2.6. Further questions regarding the use of Unicode should be directed to Bob Buller.

**6.3. Hebrew Text.** As with Greek, Hebrew words should be typed in a Hebrew typeface, not transliteration. However, because current typesetting software does not support the use of right-to-left display, authors must *not* use Unicode-compliant, OpenType Hebrew fonts. In other words, do not use the language toolbar and/or right-to-left text direction in, e.g., MSWord to type Hebrew characters in “normal” order.

6.3.1. All Hebrew text must be entered in one of the following fonts:

SBL Hebrew, SPTiberian ([http:// www.sbl-site.org/Resources/Resources\\_BiblicalFonts.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/Resources/Resources_BiblicalFonts.aspx)), or SBLHebrewSPC (available from Bob Buller). Authors may *not* use other common Hebrew fonts, such as Shebrew, Jerusalem, or Bwhebb.

6.3.2. SPTiberian and SBLHebrewSPC do not require a special keyboard, and both fonts use identical keystrokes to display the same characters. For details, consult the keyboard map at <http://www.sbl-site.org/Fonts/readme/sptiberian.txt>.

6.3.3. Unless it is crucial to a point being discussed, all Hebrew text should be rendered in consonants only (no vowels or accents).

6.3.4. Unfortunately, SPTiberian and SBLHebrewSPC must be entered “backward.” That is, to type מלך-ישראל, one must enter l)r#y-Klm.

6.3.5. When typing a Hebrew phrase within a paragraph, authors should type the words in exactly the order in which they appear even when a phrase extends from one line to the next in the manuscript. The ends of all lines will change when a manuscript is typeset, so one cannot know where a break should be until then. It is crucial to keep Hebrew phrases in their actual order so typeset knows where (and where not) to break lines.

## **7. Excursuses.**

7.1. Frequency and Focus. Excursuses shall be kept to bare minimum and shall always take the Greek text as their point of departure. Discussion of the Hebrew shall be strictly limited to its direct bearing on the Greek.

7.2. Heading and Content. Each excursus should be introduced by a title consisting of “Excursus” and a short description of the excursus content (e.g., “Excursus: Psalm Superscriptions”).

7.3. Location. Excursuses should appear at the end of larger blocks of text or at the end of a given book, in the case of relatively short books.

## **8. Indices.**

8.1. Types. Once a volume has been typeset, authors will create the following indices: (a) biblical references; (b) Greek words and phrases; (c) Hebrew words and phrases; (d) nonbiblical ancient literature, (e) general subjects.

8.2. Formatting. Each index entry should be formatted as follows: entry[TAB] page(s). On the use of tabs, see §6.1.6 above. Discussions covering two or more consecutive pages should be indicated through the use of an inclusive page range (e.g., 137–41).

## **9. ABBREVIATIONS.**

### **9.1. General.**

As a rule, use the abbreviations given in the *SBL Handbook of Style*, unless a different abbreviation is given below. For abbreviations not listed in these Guidelines or in the *SBL Handbook*, please consult your volume editor.

## 9.2. Biblical Books.

For LXX books, the abbreviations are: Gen, Ex, Leu, Num, Deut, Ies, Judg, Routh, 1-4 Rgns, 1-2 Suppl, 1-2 Esd, Esth, Idt, Tob, 1-4 Makk, Ps, PrMan, Prov, Eccl, Song, Iob, WisSal, Sir, PsSal, Hos, Am, Mich, Ioel, Abd, Ion, Na, Hab, Soph, Hag, Zach, Mal, Esa, Ier, Bar, Lam, LetIer, Iezek, Sous, Dan, Bel.

## 9.3. Primary Texts.

<i>BHS</i>	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i>	
G	Greek translator	
Ha	Göttingen edition of Robert Hanhart	
Ka	Göttingen edition of Werner Kappler	
LXX	Septuagint	(abbr. in small caps)
Margolis	Edition of Max Margolis	
MT	Masoretic Text	(abbr. in small caps)
Mu	Göttingen edition of Olivier Munnich	
NT	New Testament	(abbr. in small caps)
OG	Old Greek	
Pesh	Peshitta	
Ra	Göttingen edition of Alfred Rahlfs	
SamPent	Samaritan Pentateuch	
We	Göttingen edition of John Wevers	
We <sup>ed</sup>	Wevers Göttingen edition (in distinction from Notes)	
We <sup>N</sup>	Wevers Notes (in distinction from Göttingen edition)	

Zi	Göttingen edition of Joseph Ziegler	
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#### 9.4. Secondary Works.

9.4.1. The table below contains a list of standard grammars, lexica, commentaries, etc. and the abbreviations the series will use.

9.4.2. Commentators should consult *SBLHS* for the abbreviations to use for other standard works.

9.4.3. Multiple works by the same author will be arranged by year in an ascending sequence from earliest to most recent, and those that were published in the same year will be distinguished by the use of a, b, c, etc. following the year date.

<i>BdA</i>	<i>La Bible d’Alexandrie</i> . 1986–. Paris: Cerf.
BDAG	Bauer, W., F. W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. 2000. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3d ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
BDB	Brown, F., S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs. 1907. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Oxford: Clarendon.
BDF	Blass, F., A. Debrunner, and R. W. Funk. 1961. <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Brenton	Brenton, L. C. L. 1844. <i>The Septuagint Version of the Old Testament, according to the Vatican Text, Translated into English; with the Principal Various Readings of the Alexandrine Copy</i> . 2 vols. London: S. Bagster.
Chamberlain	Chamberlain, G. A. 2011. <i>The Greek of the Septuagint: A Supplemental Lexicon</i> . Peabody: Hendrickson.
C–S	Conybeare, F. C., and St. G. Stock. 1980. <i>A Grammar of Septuagint Greek</i> . Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
<i>DCH</i>	<i>Dictionary of Classical Hebrew</i> . 8 vols. 1993-2012. Edited by D. J. A. Clines. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press.

GKC	<i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> . Edited by E. Kautzsch. Translated by E. A. Cowley. 2d ed. 1910. Oxford: Clarendon.
HALOT	<i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . 5 vols. 1994-2000. L. Koehler, W. Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm. Translated by M. E. J. Richardson. Leiden / New York: Brill.
HRCS	Hatch, E., and H. A. Redpath. 1998. <i>A Concordance to the Septuagint and the Other Greek Versions of the Old Testament</i> . 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker.
IBHS	<i>An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax</i> . 1990. B. K. Waltke and M. O'Connor. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns.
LEH	Lust, J., E. Eynikel, and K. Hauspie. 2003. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint</i> . Rev. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.
Louw-Nida	Louw, J. P., and E. A. Nida. 1989. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains</i> . 2d ed. New York: United Bible Societies.
LSJ	Liddell, H. G., R. Scott, and H. S. Jones. 1996. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed. with revised supplement. Oxford: Clarendon; New York: Oxford University Press.
LXX.D	<i>Septuaginta Deutsch: Das griechische Alte Testament in deutscher Übersetzung</i> . 2009. Herausgegeben von Wolfgang Kraus und Martin Karrer. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.
Mayser	Mayser, E. 1970. <i>Grammatik der griechischen Papyri aus der Ptolemäerzeit</i> . 2d ed. 2 vols. Edited by H. Schmoll. Berlin: W. de Gruyter.
MM	Moulton, J. H., and G. Milligan. 1997. <i>The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament</i> . Peabody: Hendrickson.
Muraoka, GELS	Muraoka, T. 2009. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint</i> . Rev. ed. Louvain/Walpole: Peeters.
Muraoka, Index	Muraoka, T. 2010. <i>A Greek-Hebrew/Aramaic Two-Way Index to the Septuagint</i> . Louvain/Walpole: Peeters.

NETS	<i>A New English Translation of the Septuagint</i> . 2007, 2009. Edited by A. Pietersma and B. G. Wright. New York / Oxford: Oxford University Press.
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
PGL	<i>A Patristic Greek Lexicon</i> . 1961. Edited by G. W. H. Lampe. Oxford: Clarendon.
Smyth	Smyth, H. W. 1956. <i>Greek Grammar</i> . Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
Taylor	Taylor, B. A. 2009. <i>Analytical Lexicon to the Septuagint</i> . Rev. ed. Peabody: Hendrickson; Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.
Thackeray	Thackeray, H. St. J. 1909. <i>A Grammar of the Old Testament in Greek according to the Septuagint</i> . Cambridge: University Press.
Thomson	Thomson, C. 1808. <i>The Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Covenant, Commonly Called the Old and New Testament, Translated from the Greek</i> . 4 vols. Philadelphia: Jane Aitken.
TLG	<i>Thesaurus linguae graecae</i>
Wevers, NGTG	Wevers, J. W. 1993. <i>Notes on the Greek Text of Genesis</i> . SBLSCS 35. Atlanta: Scholars Press.
Wevers, NGTE	Wevers, J. W. 1990. <i>Notes on the Greek Text of Exodus</i> . SBLSCS 30. Atlanta: Scholars Press.
Wevers, NGTL	Wevers, J. W. 1997. <i>Notes on the Greek Text of Leviticus</i> . SBLSCS 44. Atlanta: Scholars Press.
Wevers, NGTN	Wevers, J. W. 1998. <i>Notes on the Greek Text of Numbers</i> . SBLSCS 46. Atlanta: Scholars Press.
Wevers, NGTD	Wevers, J. W. 1995. <i>Notes on the Greek Text of Deuteronomy</i> . SBLSCS 39. Atlanta: Scholars Press.
Wevers, THGG	Wevers, J. W. 1974. <i>Text History of the Greek Genesis</i> . MSU 11. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
Wevers, THGE	Wevers, J. W. 1992. <i>Text History of the Greek Exodus</i> . MSU 21. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Wevers, <i>THGL</i>	Wevers, J. W. 1986. <i>Text History of the Greek Leviticus</i> . MSU 19. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
Wevers, <i>THGN</i>	Wevers, J. W. 1982. <i>Text History of the Greek Numbers</i> . MSU 16. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
Wevers, <i>THGD</i>	Wevers, J. W. 1978. <i>Text History of the Greek Deuteronomy</i> . MSU 13. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

## 10. Publishers.

Atlanta: SBL

Atlanta: Scholars Press

Berlin/New York: Walter de Gruyter

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Edinburgh: T&T Clark

Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

Grand Rapids, Mi: William B. Eerdmans

Leiden/Boston: Brill

Leuven (or Louvain): Peeters

Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox

Minneapolis: Fortress

New York: Oxford University Press

San Francisco: Harper Collins

Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck

N.B. For some publishers, authors will have to look at the date and imprint of individual volumes, since some publishers have changed locations (e.g., Doubleday in Garden City, NY, then New York and other cities).

**11. Keyboard Commands.** In the following chart, "Num" refers to a key on the number keypad.

Character	PC	Mac
en-dash (–)	CTRL + Num -	OPT + -
em-dash (—)	CTRL-ALT + Num -	SHIFT-OPT + -
ellipsis (...)	CTRL-ALT + .	OPT + ;
paragraph (§)	available in special characters	OPT + 6

new paragraph (¶)	available in special characters	OPT + 7
left double pointed («)	ctrl+`,<	OPT + \
rt double pointed (»)	ctrl+`,>	SHIFT-OPT + \
dagger (†)	alt+0134	OPT + t
root sign (√)	key code 221A	OPT + v
umlaut (¨)	key code 0308	OPT + u then letter
acute accent (´)	ctrl+`,space	OPT + e then letter
grave accent (`)	ctrl+`,`	OPT + ` then letter
circumflex (^)	key code 005E	OPT + i then letter

## 12. Contacts

Rob Hiebert (joint-editor-in-chief)

Ben Wright (joint-editor-in-chief)