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THEOLOGICAL OBSERVER

A RE-EXAMINATION OF CODEX EPHRAEMI RESCRIPTUS

Under this heading Prof. R. W. Lyon of Princeton in *New Testament Studies* (July 1959) presents a very helpful study of the valuable but greatly neglected palimpsest Codex Ephraemi, commonly known as Codex C. He presents (1) a brief history of the manuscript; (2) items on which new light may be shed or on which previous statements need to be corrected; and (3) a list of the more significant errors found in Tischendorf's edition. Codex C was brought to Paris by Queen Catherine de Medici, after it had been in Italy a century. J. J. Wettstein was the first to publish the contents of the manuscript in his *Prolegomena* in 1730. But it was not until 1840 that C. Tischendorf at the age of 25 came to Paris to edit the first complete text of the codex with a thorough Introduction and copious notes in an Appendix. Tischendorf's edition was published more than 100 years ago, but as the writer remarks, no one found any errors in this standard edition. In the second part of his article Dr. Lyon shows that the codex contains only 208 leaves and not 209 as is commonly stated. The manuscript had 209 leaves when Tischendorf used it, but since then folio 138, the one used for a facsimile by Tischendorf, has disappeared, though no one lays the blame for its absence on the German scholar. Other problems which the writer mentions are: the number of scribes of the manuscript; the quotation of the codex as a part of a group; the number of lacunae found in the text. The most important part of the article is that in which the author records the more significant errors he found in the Tischendorf edition. Thus in Matthew he found 20; in Mark, 23; in Acts, 39; in 1 Cor. 15, and so on. This shows that

the works of even the most careful scholars need constant scrutiny.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT, AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Under this heading the *Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirchenzeitung* (Aug. 15, 1959) discusses some of the problems facing Protestants who might desire to attend the Ecumenical Council announced by Pope John XXIII. The article reminds the reader of what the Lutherans did in 1552, when they debated the question whether they should attend the Council of Trent. Duke Ulric of Wuertemberg, to clarify the matter, had asked John Brenz to submit to him an opinion in which all the pros and cons were carefully weighed. The main objection to Lutheran participation in the council was that it was under the regency of Rome and therefore could not be free in the sense that the Lutheran strictures of Roman doctrine would receive a fair hearing. On the other hand, in case the Lutherans did not attend the council, they would miss the opportunity publicly to witness to the truth of the Gospel. In fact, in that case they might create the impression that the Lutherans had no special interest in the council and would be willing to submit to its decisions. Very emphatically Brenz insisted upon a "free council" and to this end composed the *Confessio Virtembergica*, a counterpart of Melancthon's *Confessio Saxonica*, which was written for the same purpose. However, in the fall of 1552 it became clear that no "free council" would be granted to the Lutherans. The instructions they officially received were that they would be heard only if they acknowledged that the Council of Trent represented the whole church and that all who did not

submit to its decisions would have to be regarded as heretics and schismatics. Despite this verdict Lutheran theologians arrived at Trent on March 19, 1553, but they were not permitted to take part in the business of the council, and so the Lutherans had to return home. This incident, the writer suggests, might be considered in connection with the Ecumenical Council of Pope John.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

BRIEF ITEMS FROM THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL

Winnipeg, Manitoba.—Additional steps toward the formation of an autonomous Lutheran Church by the three Canadian Districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod were taken at a two-day meeting here. It was announced that the Ontario, Manitoba-Saskatchewan, and Alberta-British Columbia Districts have been granted a charter by the Canadian government for the Lutheran Church—Canada. The three Districts include 75,000 baptized members, 321 congregations, 184 pastors.

The 25 delegates voted to establish a Commission on College and University Work as well as an Armed Services Commission to parallel the work done by these two commissions for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the United States. The group also asked the Board of Control of Concordia College, Edmonton, Alta., to permit its acting president, Dr. Albert H. Schwermann, to use his current sabbatical leave to serve as full-time President of the forming organization.

Further steps in the formation of the new church body will be discussed by the officers of the three Districts and leaders of the Missouri Synod in 1960. Time and place of the meeting has not yet been set.

Geneva.—Editorial work on the Lutheran World Federation's projected universal Lutheran encyclopedia is proceeding at a pace that permits hope for its completion in time for the federation's Helsinki assembly in

1963, LWF officials disclosed at headquarters here.

They said the editor, Dr. Julius Bodensieck, theology professor at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, reported that he had 100,000 words ready for the printer when he visited Europe recently for a two-day conference with his chief collaborators. He stated that the encyclopedia will be a work of four simultaneously published volumes, and he expressed optimism that it would be out in time for presentation at the Helsinki assembly.

Dr. Bodensieck, who has directed the undertaking for the past several years, stressed that the encyclopedia's more than 700 contributors include not only about 200 Americans and over 200 Germans but also numerous theologians from the younger churches of Asia and Africa. After conferring with his collaborators at Hamburg, he announced that the number of separate articles and key words had been reduced, but that the size of such articles had been increased, and that they had been made more complete by additional cross references.

Chicago.—Dr. Malvin H. Lundeen was installed here as the 11th president of the century-old Augustana Lutheran Church. The impressive ceremony took place at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel of the University of Chicago, on Sunday, Oct. 11, preceded by a solemn processional of church dignitaries, pastors, and laymen from the United States and Canada.

Dr. Lundeen, 58, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange, Ill., for the past five years, will probably be the last president of the 600,000-member denomination in view of the prospect of its merger with three other bodies during his four-year term of office. Augustana is currently engaged in union negotiations with the United Lutheran Church in America, the Suomi Synod, and the American Evangelical Lutheran Church. The merger would result in a three-million-mem-

ber church, the largest Lutheran group in America.

Nuriootpa, South Australia.—The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia, at its 13th triennial convention here, officially declared altar and pulpit fellowship with the American Lutheran Church in the United States. The reciprocal relationship was requested by the ALC in a petition adopted at its last biennial convention in San Antonio, Tex., in 1958. Historically the ALC and UELCA have had an unofficial fraternal relationship that had never been formally declared.

Action was deferred on a proposal for a similar declaration in regard to the new church body that will be established next year by merger of the ALC, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church. This will be decided when that church has been constituted next April 22—24 in Minneapolis.

Detroit.—Provision has been made for only one theological seminary in The American Lutheran Church, but the school will consist of four separate units on as many campuses. The unified program of theological education is delineated in the constitution and bylaws of the new denomination that will be established next year through union of the Evangelical, American, and United Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

The constituting convention of the ALC will be held at Minneapolis April 22—24, 1960, and the church will begin to function officially on Jan. 1, 1961. With 2,200,000 members it will be the third largest of 14 Lutheran bodies in America.

The four units of the seminary in the new church will be composed of the present institutions of the uniting bodies—the ELC's Luther Seminary at St. Paul, Minn., Luther Seminary at Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, the ALC's Evangelical Lutheran Seminary at Columbus, Ohio, and the Wartburg Seminary at Dubuque, Iowa. The UELC's Trinity Seminary, which moved from Blair,

Nebr., to Dubuque in 1956, will be merged with Wartburg. The schools, have a combined annual enrollment of 900 to 1,000 students.

Theological education in the new church will be planned and directed by a Board of Theological Education, but each unit of the seminary will be governed by its own Board of Regents and will have its own administration. What the various units of the seminary will be called and whether each will be assigned to train students in some special phases of the ministry has still to be determined. It seems likely that specialized programs, provided for in the constitution of the ALC, will eventually be developed.

Presidents of the seminaries are Dr. Alvin N. Rogness at St. Paul, Dr. Edward C. Fendt at Columbus, Dr. Alfred H. Ewald at Dubuque, and Dr. George Evanson at Saskatoon.

At a meeting here of the Joint Union Committee for the three-way merger it was learned that steps are being taken to create a flow of pastors across the former historical lines of the uniting churches. The plan calls for the crisscrossing of internship assignments of students in congregations of one of the church bodies other than their own. It is expected that 40 young men from the St. Paul, Columbus, and Dubuque campuses will be assigned for 1960—61 internships according to this pattern.

Among the duties and responsibilities of the board, as defined in the bylaws of the new church, will be to "assure itself that the doctrine and life of the Theological Seminary are in harmony with the Confession of Faith of The American Lutheran Church, and that high spiritual and academic standards are maintained."

The board's approval is required for possible specialization in the several units of the seminary. It must approve recommended curricula and "in general provide the best possible preparation for the future clergy of the Church."

It will also hold annual joint meetings of

the faculties, prepare reports and resolutions, including budget requests, recommend necessary expansion of faculties and facilities, and fix remuneration of faculty and staff. In these areas there will be a close working relationship between the board and the regents of the various units.

Detroit.—Dr. Edward W. Schramm of Columbus, Ohio, will edit the official periodical of the Lutheran body that will be organized next year by a three-way merger. Dr. Schramm for 30 years has been editor of the *Lutheran Standard* of the American Lutheran Church. Both the name of the paper and of the church are being taken by the new denomination, which will hold its constituting convention in Minneapolis April 22—24, 1960.

Dr. Schramm was elected to a six-year term as the first editor of the new *Lutheran Standard* by action here of the Joint Union Committee of the three bodies and the Board of Publication of the new church. His editorial assistants are to be appointed by the board in consultation with the editor.

The new *Standard* will be launched when the American Lutheran Church begins to function officially on Jan. 1, 1961. It is expected that the magazine will have an initial circulation in excess of 250,000. Its format and frequency of issue are still to be determined.

The present *Standard* is the oldest of the five periodicals published by the uniting churches, tracing its history over a period of 117 years. The paper was started in 1842 by the former Joint Synod of Ohio, now merged in the ALC. This long record of continuity influenced the Joint Union Committee in its choice of the name of the publication of the new church.

Destined to go out of existence are the weekly *Lutheran Herald* of the ELC, the weekly *Ansgar Lutheran* and the Danish bi-weekly *Luthersk Ugeblad* of the UELC, and the German biweekly *Kirchenblatt* of the ALC. They and the weekly *Standard* will

cease publication, and their subscription lists will be consolidated on Dec. 31, 1960.

Edward Weisman Schramm was born on Jan. 1, 1898, in Pittsburgh, Pa., where his father, the late Rev. William E. Schramm, was pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, North Side, for 25 years. The future editor graduated from Capital University at Columbus in 1921 and from its Theological Seminary in 1924. He obtained an M.A. from Ohio State University in 1943. Ordained by the Joint Synod of Ohio in 1924, he served as pastor in Lakewood, Ohio, for two years; as assistant pastor and sanatorium chaplain in San Antonio, Tex., for two years; and as associate professor of Bible at Capital University for one year. While teaching at Capital, he also edited a department on missions in the Ohio Synod's *Lutheran Standard*. In 1929 he was called as editor of the paper and was re-elected to the post in 1930, when the present ALC was formed by merger of the Ohio, Buffalo, Iowa, and Texas Synods.

Dr. Schramm's interest in missions also led to his election to the Board of Foreign Missions of the ALC, and he served as a board member for 18 years from 1930 to 1948. In recognition of his outstanding service as a church editor he was honored with a D.D. from Capital University in 1942 and with a Litt.D. from Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, a school of the ELC, in 1951.

Dr. Schramm has been president of the National Lutheran Editors' Association and is a member of the Associated Church Press. He is the author of *What Shall I Do With Jesus?* (1928), *The Evening Sacrifice* (1929), and *At Jesus' Feet* (1938), all published by the ALC's Wartburg Press.

Marking his 30th anniversary as editor of the *Standard*, he traveled abroad last summer to attend international church meetings and interview church leaders in the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Greece, Rhodes, Italy, Switzerland, and England.

BRIEF ITEMS FROM RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

Washington, D. C.—Church construction in August, totaling \$89 million, set an all-time high, topping the previous record-high set in July, the Departments of Commerce and Labor announced here.

The August total was an increase of \$4,000,000 over July, and exceeded August, 1958, by \$10,000,000. It was the largest volume of church construction in a single month in U.S. history. Total construction for the first eight months of 1959 is now estimated at \$601,000,000, an increase of 11 per cent over the same period last year.

Construction by nonpublic schools and colleges, many of which are church-related, totaled \$46 million in August, an increase of \$2 million over July, but \$7 million less than the same month a year ago. Building activity by private schools and colleges is 4 per cent below the level for the first eight months of last year.

Private hospital and institutional construction amounted to \$50 million in August, a gain of \$1 million over July, but \$2 million less than the same month a year ago. Building activity in this field is 8 per cent below last year's level.

Private social and recreational construction has continued to boom, however. This type, which includes parish halls, summer camps, YMCA's, etc., showed \$55 million worth of construction activity in August, against only \$42 million during the same month in 1958. For the first eight months of 1959 the level of building activity in this field was 32 per cent higher than a year ago.

Hannover, Germany.—The first portions of a revised version of Martin Luther's translation of the Old Testament will be submitted shortly for approval to all member churches of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKID) and to other leading EKID bodies, it was announced here.

The announcement was made by a special EKID commission which started work on the revised version last year. Officials said they expected the work to be completed before 1962.

Headed by Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin, chairman of the EKID Council, the commission comprises 15 prominent theologians. Ten are clergymen in active pastoral work, and five are Old Testament scholars who are taking special care to see that the peculiarities of Luther's translation and his typical language are preserved as much as possible.

The commission is aiming at a new version of the translation that will take into account the developments of modern language as well as recent findings of theological research.

The version of the Luther translation currently in use was issued

more than 60 years ago and only minor changes have been made since then.

A revised version of Luther's translation of the New Testament was completed in 1957. Launched about 30 years ago, this translation will go into print shortly.

New York.—An ancient caravan route in Israel's Negev desert has been identified as the major east-west link between the Mediterranean and the Biblical King's Highway in Jordan in the times of Abraham and even before.

Dr. Nelson Glueck, noted Biblical archaeologist and president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion here, announced the discovery upon his return from summer explorations in the Negev, which comprises about half of Israel's 8,000 square miles.

The 25-mile road, known in Arabic as Darb es-Sultani (the Road of the Sultan), said Dr. Glueck, consists of four or five separate tracks which converge to form almost a broad highway and is still used by Bedouins. Previously archaeologists had thought the artery of importance only in the 16th and 17th centuries, he said.

Dotting its length, he noted, were sites of former large permanent camps, some of which, he said, "could be dated by pottery finds as early as the Chalcolithic period, more than 5,000 years ago."

Other camp sites belonged to the period of Abraham, some 4,000 years ago; some were of the 10th—6th centuries B. C., Judaeen Kingdom times, and one was of the Nabataean and the Byzantine periods, he added.

Dr. Glueck said he knew of the existence of the road earlier "and had actually crossed it once very hurriedly and had not paid much attention to it." The Biblical mention of the King's Highway (Num. 20:17) and Dr. Glueck's observation that "the Bedouin tracks always follow ancient ones" led him "to re-examine and discover this ancient route once more."

The archaeologist also said new evidence found during his latest expedition enabled him to pinpoint part of the exact route traveled by the Israelites in their historic mass movement from Egypt, chronicled in the Books of Exodus and Numbers. This route was discovered by Dr. Glueck several years ago.