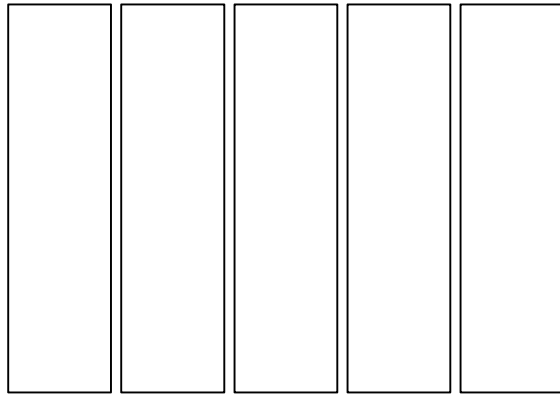


# Proposal

## *An International Targum Text Edition Project*



Version 3.6  
July 2004

Text Edition Exploratory Committee  
International Organization for Targumic Studies

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## Preface

Lectori salutem,

At the 2001 congress of the International Organization for Targumic Studies in Basel, the participants established a working group to explore the feasibility of creating a consistent set of text editions for all targums. This was called the Targum Edition Exploratory Committee (TEEC). Its first charge was to determine whether such a project was feasible, and if so, to set out specific goals and to design a process and an administrative structure to accomplish them.

The TEEC has determined that a text edition project is feasible, provided that enough funds can be raised and human power be recruited. The following draft document gives the response to its charge. It calls for the establishment of an International Targum Text Edition Project (ITTEP). Chapters 1 and 2 specify the project's two main goals, Chapter 3 lays out a general process for achieving those goals, and Chapter 4 outlines an administrative organization to assist the execution of the project. Chapter 5, finally, gives an outline of the start-up process.

On 29 July 2004, the proposal will be brought before the International Organization for Targumic Studies for a vote.

This proposal has benefited from previous proposals by a number of scholars, and I wish to acknowledge and thank them: Johannes de Moor, Chris Brady, Willem Smelik, and Paul Flesher.

The members of TEEC have worked on and discussed this proposal extensively, and they deserve our gratitude for their efforts to date. They are: Moshe Bernstein, Luis Díez Merino, Paul Flesher, Rimon Kasher, Stephen Kaufman and Willem Smelik.

Colleagues from Kampen and Barcelona have read previous drafts and commented upon them, and I thank them heartily for their contribution

On behalf of the TEEC,

Alberdina Houtman (chair)

Arnhem, July 2004

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## Abstract

To carry out research in the field of the targums, reliable scholarly editions are needed. Although for some biblical books there are recent scholarly editions available, the main part of the books has to make do with the edition of Alexander Sperber that was published almost half a century ago. A specially assigned committee has investigated how this situation can be improved and has concluded that an International Targum Text Edition Project is needed to produce scholarly editions of high scholarly standard for all biblical books. It has defined two goals and set out a way to reach them. Goal One would be the creation of a single text for each targum that forms the best scholarly approximation of the earliest form of the text that can be identified. This text will be as fixed as possible, with all necessary text-critical decisions made. Goal Two would be the creation of tools and textual data with which to study each targum as a living tradition over the centuries.

Since the technology advances rapidly, the actual way of working and the ultimate outcome cannot be foreseen in detail at this moment. It is necessary to set up the project in a way that allows adaptation to new developments in the field. Careful planning is therefore a necessity.

It will take patience, perseverance and good teamwork to achieve these goals. A well-considered organization must coordinate the planning, the working conditions and the funding. The organization must be democratically chosen to guarantee that the work is broadly based.

The status of this proposal is to serve as a base for the decision of the International Organization for Targumic Studies to either reject the plans as unfeasible, or to give the go-ahead and appoint officers to work out the plans in greater detail.

## Introduction

At the third meeting of the International Organization for Targumic Studies the following motion was put before the general assembly:

The International Organization for Targumic Studies wishes to investigate the feasibility of establishing an international project for the purpose of creating editions of all targums on the basis of all known manuscripts. This feasibility study will be carried out by a committee of five members, to be known as the Targum Edition Exploratory Committee (TEEC). It will report back to the IOTS at its next triennial meeting, in 2004, with a recommendation to establish such a project (accompanied by a concrete and detailed plan for doing so) or a recommendation to not carry out such a project.

The motion was adopted unanimously, but in order to realize a balanced representation of all fields of interest seven members instead of the proposed five were elected to form the committee:

Moshe Bernstein, Yeshiva University New York, USA  
Luis Diez Merino, University of Barcelona, Spain  
Paul Flesher, University of Wyoming, USA  
Alberdina Houtman, Theological University of Kampen, the Netherlands (chair)  
Rimon Kasher, Bar Ilan University, Israel  
Stephen Kaufman, Hebrew Union College Cincinnati, USA  
Willem Smelik, University College London, Great Britain

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The committee was charged to explore the following aspects and any other relevant issues:

- A more detailed specification of the goal(s) of the project.
- Delineation of the process for achieving those goals.
- The laying out of an organizational structure for governing and carrying out that process.
- Identification of personnel who could and would take part in the project.
- Funding.

The committee has done its work, and has concluded that it is certainly desirable to establish an International Targum Text Edition Project (ITTEP). The feasibility depends on how many scholars are prepared to put their shoulders to the wheel. The recommendation is worked out in the present proposal. It must be noted beforehand that the proposal uses inclusive language. Wherever there is mention of ‘he’, one should read ‘he or she’. Wherever there is mention of ‘we’ the Targum Edition Exploratory Committee is meant. When the abbreviation MS or MSS is used all relevant textual witnesses are meant including early printed editions.

## 1 Goals

The overall goal of this project is to make reliable text editions of the rabbinic targums to the books of the Hebrew Bible. This will be accomplished by evaluation and analysis of all textual information available in reliable manuscripts and relevant printed texts. We envision that editions of the targums will be used by scholars of different disciplines and fields who possess a wide variety of research interests. These will include: scholars of history, biblical studies, rabbinic studies, theology, religious studies, and narrative; scholars of linguistics and philology who will be interested in matters of phonology, lexicography, grammar (morphology, orthography, syntax), and dialectology; scholars of textual and manuscript history in terms of chronology and in terms of the development of regional text types; scholars interested in stemmatology and cladistics; and scholars interested in translation techniques. Some kinds of analysis need to work with ‘The Text’, i.e., a single, fixed text that constitutes the closest approximation of the text known at its earliest time of use. Other kinds of analysis require the ability to examine texts from different regions and different periods of time.

The project will focus exclusively on the so-called rabbinic targums. That is, it will work with the targums created within the Jewish community during the Rabbinic Period (second century to seventh century CE) and later centuries. This means that the project will not include the targums or Rewritten Bible texts found at Qumran (such as 11QtgJob and the Genesis Apocryphon), nor will it study the Samaritan Targum, the fragments of translations written in Christian Palestinian Aramaic, or the Peshitta.

Using the flexibility made possible by modern technology, we think we can meet this variety of needs through two different yet complementary goals, which will be undertaken as a single project called the International Targum Text Edition Project.

### 1.1 Goal One

Goal One will be the creation of a single text for each targum that forms the best scholarly approximation of the earliest form of the text that can be identified. This text will be as fixed as possible, with all necessary text-critical decisions made.

- This could be either a diplomatic or an eclectic text with a select set of apparatuses. Publication will initially be in electronic form with a final goal of a printed form. In the

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electronic form the apparatuses will possess the flexibility to display different types of information at the user's command.

- This text will be created using appropriate text critical approaches, which each executive team will choose for its book and/or targum, in cooperation with the relevant Section Committee (see below, 4.1.5).

## 1.2 Goal Two

Goal Two will be the creation of tools and textual data with which to study each targum as a living tradition over the centuries. This will constitute the platform for the traditional practice of text-criticism and analysis, and thus contain transcriptions of key manuscripts and their information.

- Goal Two will take the form of a database recording the texts of all relevant manuscripts, which could then be used to generate diplomatic texts with variants from all or selected manuscripts. In contrast to Goal One, the idea here would be to have as much information available as possible and to make as few decisions about the character of that text as possible. This would enable scholars to make the choices they wish in the course of their research. This flexibility would enable scholars of philology and text history to move easily between texts of different types and regions.
- The manuscripts to be included in the database will be chosen on the basis of carefully established criteria that will ensure the inclusion of manuscripts with important information and the exclusion of those without value. These criteria will be based on the study of each targum's textual history, traditional text critical practices, as well as new approaches such as stemmatology.

## 1.3 Remarks concerning Goal One

- The best scholarly approximation of the targum text, as envisioned in Goal One, would be used as the basis for different ways of publishing the text and for further studies when it is completed. For example, a student edition could be published with a number of reading helps, or a concordance aligned with the Hebrew text could be created. The different versions of the Palestinian Targum could be published in a format enabling synoptic comparison. And, of course, it could serve as the basis for new translations.
- The question of vocalization is notoriously problematic. Sometimes it is clearly secondary, added either from another *Vorlage* or based on the punctators insights. At other times it is illegible by wear. In many cases the vocalization is inconsistent or confused. The base text of Goal One will therefore initially be a consonantal text, without vocalization or accents. Some punctuation signs, such as *sof-pasuq*, should be included. This would not preclude this text from ultimately being published with a well-reasoned artificial vocalization as a reading aid for Targum students.

## 1.4 Remarks Concerning Goal Two

Goal Two, which aims to understand the targum as a living tradition, provides a reason to bring in vocalization, as well as accents and punctuation. Different manuscripts or text traditions may have completely different vocalization systems. The ability to indicate vocalization would better enable the understanding of how different communities or different regional traditions understood the words they read or heard.

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There are a number of practical problems with doing a proper text critical analysis of the vocalization:

- First, pointing is one of the first elements to become corrupted in a text and is often difficult or impossible to read.
- Second, some vocalization systems are imperfectly understood by modern scholars and clearly changed over time. Thus the meanings of the pointing signs are not the same across systems or even within systems.
- Third, if vocalization were studied alongside the consonantal text, the programming requirements of the database would increase enormously. For example, in the case of the Leiden Peshitta Project it turned out that the amount of variation in the pointing was so huge that it became impractical to record. When they decided to drop vocalization from the text, the number of variants dropped by more than 50%.

Given these observations, the TEEC recommends that the decision about including vocalization not be taken at this time. To enable a well-founded decision, a pilot project should be undertaken to explore the possibilities and impossibilities. The work that is presently done by Eveline van Staalduine-Sulman within the framework of the Kampen Project on Origin and History of Targum Jonathan to the Prophets can serve this goal for the case of Targum Jonathan. For details see Appendix I.

- Witnesses to the text recorded in the database will include not only manuscripts, but also early printed editions and testimonia from rabbinic and medieval Jewish literature and from margins of manuscripts. These would be drawn from the manuscripts and texts themselves and from scholarly studies of them, such as those by Moshe Goshen-Gottstein and Rimon Kasher.
- Although final decisions about published format and apparatuses do not need to be made at the start of the project, decisions concerning what kind of information to gather and encode in the database do need to be made. For example, if we think we may wish to distinguish between the base text of a manuscript and corrections and additions of a second hand, then the latter information needs to be encoded from the beginning. So we need to make decisions about what kinds of information we need to collect before work begins.
- Manuscripts will be entered in their entirety into the database. This will enable the examination and comparison of all their linguistic and scribal features. It will allow the postponement of some of the decisions referred to above, since all the information will be collected.
- It is envisioned that publication, especially of computer-based tools and information, will not wait until the final stages of the project. Instead, as new manuscripts are collated and new tools developed, they will be released via the Internet and made available to scholars.
- At this moment, details about final publication form will remain undecided, although options for both print and digital versions are left open.

## 2 Specification of the Results

With the two main goals of the project clearly specified, the next step is to describe the products that will fulfill these goals. In other words, we need to set out the details of the final text that will result from Goal One and the database that will be a product of Goal Two. These initial specifications may need to be altered over the course of the project on the basis of further information and evaluation.

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## 2.1 The Text Editions as Envisioned in Goal One

The text representing the best scholarly assessment of the earliest written version of each targum as envisioned in Goal One should be published in two forms:

1. The first form of the final text as envisioned in Goal One should be an electronic/digital version (i.e., computer-based, available via the Internet, or on a CD-ROM), which is searchable.
  - This would be comparable to a printed *editio maior*, which contains the relevant information for assessing the entire textual history in all its traditions. It would thus contain extensive apparatuses. The apparatuses would of course be searchable too.
  - We should remember that an apparatus is a format designed to contain a large amount of information in a small space. As such, it is often encoded in ways that can be confusing. In a digital format, space limitations are not an issue and therefore the information does not need to be so encoded. This enables us to rethink what a ‘digital apparatus’ could be.
  - Apparatuses could include variant readings in important manuscripts, indications of regional or stemmatological variances, orthography, interesting variations and additions, etc. We somehow need to identify interesting aspects of the manuscripts that could benefit from further study.
  
2. The second form should be a printed edition with the main text and a select number of apparatuses. This would be similar to a printed *editio minor*, done for the day-to-day use of scholars and students in various fields. The base text of this edition should be vocalized. The edition would contain only major variants.
  - This edition will be published at one of the last stages of the project, because once it is printed the costs of adaptations would be enormous. The printed edition will therefore appear only after the electronic version has been tested extensively.
  - Final decisions do not need to be initially made about which apparatuses will be included in this version. Discussion and preliminary decisions should be made, however, to ensure that the needed information is gathered.
  - This printed edition could be published as a ‘printable’ file, such as a PDF file created by *Adobe Acrobat* rather than actually printed. That way, scholars could choose whether they wished a printed version or not.

## 2.2 The Textual Database as Envisioned in Goal Two

There are four decisions that need to be made about a database. First, what kind of information goes into it (input)? Second, what kind of information do we want to get out of it (output)? Third, how must the information be coded to achieve this goal (tagging)? Fourth, how do we get the information out (user interface)?

### 2.2.1 Input

One key question that needs to be decided is whether to simply create a database that records all the words of every textual witness, or whether the database should take the format of a diplomatic edition, with a single complete manuscript and only variants of other manuscripts recorded. The former choice would require a larger database and thus greater effort to input and check all the information. The latter choice would enable a smaller database, but would require more decisions prior to MS transcription about what information would be desired.

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Also, if the list of different types of desired information were long enough, it would simply be easier to input each entire MS than it would be to select the desired information. The TEEC recommends that the project transcribes entire manuscripts. In order not to lose any possibly useful information, the manuscripts should be transcribed literally, i.e. leaving abbreviations unsolved, indicating corrections of the text and adding paratextual information where necessary.

### *2.2.2 Output*

Scholars studying regional text types or the manuscripts within a particular stemma would need the ability to: (1) display a selected set of manuscripts, (2) display those manuscripts in the form of a diplomatic text with variants or as parallel texts, (3) to be able to arrange the manuscripts hierarchically.

Scholars doing stemmatological analysis would need the ability to identify and export key readings for further analysis. For example, have the computer program search for words with more than a specified number of variants (or agreements).

### *2.2.3 Tagging*

Each word entered into the database will need to receive a number of encoding tags, such as XML, or the XML based OSIS (see <http://www.bibletechnologies.net/>). This will simplify certain kinds of information retrieval. Many of these tags will need to be decided upon beforehand, in light of the kinds of information scholars would like to get out of the database. For example, words will need to be encoded for book, chapter and verse. They will also need to be encoded in order within each verse to enable the presentation of parallel texts. To assist this, the Hebrew text to which a word or a span of words corresponds will be added to the tagging. For the case of Targum Jonathan to the Prophets the work done for the Bilingual Concordance to the Targum of the Prophets comes in helpful (see Appendix II).

### *2.2.4 User Interface*

The manuscript database ought to be a highly versatile source of information, with the option of displaying the textual information in every desired form, with the option of adding (if available) text, commentary and digitized information about the manuscripts. It should be accessible via the Internet in a way that is comparable to the Perseus project on Greek and Latin literature (see <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Texts.html>).

## **2.3 Other Products**

There are other kinds of products that will need to be considered and which we may see as important stages in achieving our goals.

### *2.3.1 Software*

For data entry, manipulation and digital publication, software will be an important consideration. If we cannot use off-the-shelf software, we may need to consider the creation of custom software. That will certainly need to be seen as a product.

### *2.3.2 Manuscript List*

Before one can start working on a new edition, the conditions must be created under which future editors can do their work efficiently. The most important of these is ready access to the

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primary sources. To that end first of all a computerised catalogue of all the known manuscripts and early editions that contain (parts of) the targums will have to be built. Existing catalogues must be scrutinized and libraries must be contacted for information. Of all the collected relevant material uniform digital records must be made to enable selection and combination of search criteria, such as class-marks, codicological and palaeographical data, and contents. In Kampen, within the current project of Origin and History of Targum Jonathan to the Prophets (see Appendix II), David Kroeze is working on a catalogue of all the manuscripts of Targum Jonathan, building on previous work of Willem Smelik. This catalogue and similar ones to be produced for the other Targums can be considered an important residual product.

### 2.3.3 Editions of Regional Text Types

Many targums exist in more than one regional variety, such as Western, Babylonian, and/or Yemenite. These regional text types may deserve publication as a fixed text in their own right. For example:

- the study of Ladino targums of different biblical books would benefit from having editions of the Sefardic text type of the Aramaic targums without information concerning the other text types;
- the creation of scholarly editions of a Western text type and a Babylonian text type may be important stages in the research needed to recreate the earliest written version of, say, Targum Onqelos.

## 3 Plan of Work

This paragraph outlines a general process to be followed in the development of the editions of each targum text. It constitutes a set of guidelines indicating the main course of the work, but which may be modified as necessary for different targums or books, under the guidance of the relevant Section Committee.

### 3.1 Preparation of a Manuscript List

The initial stage of work on each targum book will be to create a catalogue of all known Targum manuscripts. This list should be accessible on the Internet in a searchable form, perhaps on the IOTS or the CAL websites. While each book's list will serve primarily as the basis for further work on the targum, a secondary goal would be to create a searchable database of all targum manuscripts. This list would indicate all books included in each manuscript. Perhaps a preliminary list of all known manuscripts and their books could be drawn up first, to assist in the compilation of manuscript lists for each book. Information for the database would be based on the catalogue of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts, and augmented by information from published catalogues of libraries throughout the world. A bibliography of such catalogues should be assembled and made publicly available. As a start, Willem Smelik has published a selective bibliography of catalogues containing Targum manuscripts on the Internet (see <http://www.tulane.edu/~ntcs/catalogues.html>). For work in progress on a catalogue of manuscripts of Targum Jonathan, see 2.3.2.

Within this context it must further be remarked that, for the purpose of the ITTEP, it might be useful to work on a new system of sigils for the manuscripts. It would be handy if a system were developed in which the names of the MSS contain information about the general content. The TEEC advises that a committee be established that will work out a suitable system.

### **3.2 Manuscript Selection**

Once all the known manuscripts have been identified, they need to be evaluated for their relevance to text critical research, for example, through a sampling process. Thus a set of selection criteria for each targum book needs to be developed and then applied. The development of such criteria can take place through the study of text history (including study of rabbinic and medieval citations, etc.), traditional philological methods, and more modern approaches, such as computer-aided stemmatology.

### **3.3 Manuscript Transcription**

Chosen manuscripts should be transcribed from microfilms, and, where needed, actual study of the manuscripts themselves. The TEEC holds that the best way to accomplish this with the least number of errors is to transcribe entire manuscripts. To improve accuracy, this should be done twice, by two different people, and then collated.

### **3.4 Entry into the Manuscript Database**

Once an accurate transcription of a manuscript has been accomplished, it will be entered into the database, along with any necessary coding and tagging.

### **3.5 Collation**

After the selected manuscripts have been entered into the database, collation can take place. This may be done by means of off-the-shelf software like TUSTEP (see <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/zdv/tustep/>) or Collate (see <http://www.cta.dmu.ac.uk/projects/collate/intro.html>) for preliminary investigation, to study a manuscript family (for example, Babylonian or Western), or to create a 'final' version of a targum by selecting a base text and adding the variants into an apparatus.

### **3.6 Assessment of the Variants**

Any new project should not only employ the technological advances of the past twenty-five years, but also represent a genuine advance in textual criticism. An active assessment of the different readings, aimed at inferring the base from which variants were generated and the genealogical relationship among the variants, should be the principal goal of the project. For that reason, documentary assessment, Targum by Targum, would need to be coordinated with an evaluation of the criteria of adjudication. In that way, the project would offer a basis for the study of the history of interpretation as well as textual and linguistic study. On the basis of the assessment of the variants, it can be decided whether they should be incorporated in the apparatus and what place and value they should be given.

### **3.7 Publication**

Publication can take place at any stage. It can amount to a single manuscript, a manuscript database, a text family, or a final edited text of a targum. Publication can potentially take any form. While ITTEP anticipates that most of its publications will be done electronically, there may be some scope for print publication, especially of final edited texts. These choices can be made as the project progresses. Final texts, and in some cases pre-final texts (such as a regional text type), may serve as the basis for further publication or study. This could include parallel publication with translation or the study of vocalization. For this stage probably off-the-shelf software like Anastasia (<http://www.sd-editions.com/anastasia/index.html>) or

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Critical Edition Typesetter (<http://homepage.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/bernt.karasch/cet/>) could be used.

## 4 Organization

The purpose of ITTEP's administrative organization is threefold. First, it will provide a support structure to assist scholars doing the work. Second, it will work to ensure as much uniformity as possible across all the targumic books. Third, it will serve as the official representative of the project in matters such as publishing and to support activities such as fund raising. The guiding interest for all work on ITTEP will be teamwork; that is, the willingness of all participants, whatever their role, to work together with each other to move the project forward.

### 4.1 Administrative Structure

#### 4.1.1 *Committee of Recommendation*

The Committee of Recommendation is composed of representatives of various governments, international organizations (e.g. EU, UN), large donors and religious denominations. The primary function would be as an association of interested parties who could assist with publicity, grant applications, and fund raising.

#### 4.1.2 *Governing Board*

- The Governing Board will consist of approximately nine members, and will be chaired by one of the members.
- The Board should be a mix of senior scholars and junior scholars to warrant its continuity. It should also consist of scholars from several different countries, continents, and religions. Its members will include the four Section Editors and the Publication Editor.
- The Board will have a Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- The Board may make changes in its internal organization (permanent and temporary) as deemed necessary, including the creation of an executive committee.
- The Board may establish sub-committees for specific tasks, and appoint to them scholars who are not members of the Board. It may be wise to establish a Publication Committee or a Technology Committee. All matters of the project are ultimately subject to the Board's approval.
- The Board has ultimate authority over all personnel appointments and matters in the Section Committees, although usually these matters will be left to the Committees and their Editors.
- The International Organization for Targumic Studies will hold oversight of the Board. If there is dissatisfaction with the performance of the Board, a motion of no-confidence can be put before the general assembly, signed by at least ten members.

#### 4.1.3 *Editor in Chief*

- The Editor in Chief will function as the chief executive officer of the project.
- He will be responsible for coordinating policies and activities among the different Section Editors and Committees. In matters of dispute, he will make final decisions, subject to the approval of the Governing Board.
- It will be his responsibility to ensure that the project continues to move forward and to take steps to ensure that it does so, when necessary.
- The Editor in Chief may also serve as a Section Editor.

#### 4.1.4 *Publication Editor/Technologist*

Because of the nature and the extent of the tasks, it is foreseen that for this function a professional expert must be engaged who can serve all parties involved.

- The Publication Editor/Technologist will have primary responsibility of all matters of publication of texts and other products of the ITTEP project, in both paper and electronic form.
- He will ensure as much consistency as possible in all publications.
- He will take the lead and/or advise in the selection of software and hardware.
- He organizes training when necessary.
- He helps to solve technological problems when needed.

#### 4.1.5 *Section Editors and Section Committees*

A Section Committee will be established for each of the different groups of targums of the rabbinic period, i.e. (1) Targum Onqelos; (2) Palestinian Targums to the Pentateuch and Targum Pseudo-Jonathan; (3) Targum Jonathan to the Prophets; (4) Targums of the Writings. Each committee will be in charge of the targums of its assigned area and may organize itself and its work in keeping with their character. The Onqelos committee, for example, might decide to organize itself as a single project, while the Writings committee might chose to establish a subcommittee for the Megillot. There will be an Editor in charge of each section who will chair the Section Committee.

- The Section Committee will consist of all scholars assigned to work on the books in the section's purview. The Publication Editor will be *ex officio* member of all section committees. Other members may be added if deemed relevant. The Section Committee is chaired by the Section Editor.
- The Section Committee may organize itself and the work on its targums as it sees fit.
- The Section Committee will be in charge of setting standards, policy and guidelines for the section.
- The Section Committee will be in charge of facilitating the work of the scholars involved in the section.
- Each Section Committee will work as a team, identifying the work to be done, assigning tasks to different members, sharing information and advances, helping with setbacks, and in general helping move the work forward.
- The Governing Board may review decisions of the Section Committee.

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#### 4.1.6 *Management Center*

- ITTEP should have a Management Center for shared aspects of the project. The office would serve as the official headquarters of the project.
- The Management Center would serve as a repository for manuscript microfilms and other shared resources of the project, as well as a repository and backup site for all work and computer resources.
- Preferably (but not necessarily), the Management Center should be associated with the editor in chief and the publication editor/technologist.
- The Management Center employs a 0.2 fte secretary/archivist.
- The scholars at the two major current research centres of targumic studies (Kampen and Cincinnati) are active participants in this proposal. Preliminary thoughts are that Kampen could be the administrative center while electronic text data and digital images will be coordinated and accessed through the CAL.

## 4.2 **Staffing**

### 4.2.1 *General Staff*

The general staff is responsible for the central facilities, such as the microfilms of the manuscripts and the archive. It streamlines the regular communication between all parties. The following positions are anticipated: a secretary/archivist, a cataloguer and a publication editor/technologist.

- The secretary/archivist serves as secretary for the board, but is not necessarily a member of the board. He is responsible for the general administration of the project and for the archive.
- The cataloguer searches catalogues and contacts librarians for information on Targum manuscripts. He compares the description in catalogues and if necessary checks the manuscript anew. He makes uniform descriptions of the manuscripts for insertion in the Manuscript List.
- The publication editor/technologist is a specialist in the field of electronic publishing and – if possible – Targum literature and Aramaic. He gives technical guidance and assistance to the editors and is responsible for the layout of the final product (see 4.1.4).

### 4.2.2 *Section Editors*

The Section Editors should be scholars with large experience in the specific field of Targum for which they are appointed. They should also have clear managerial and organizational talents. The TEEC appeals to the members of the IOTS to nominate candidates for the following sections:

Targum Onqelos to the Pentateuch;  
 The Palestinian Targums to the Pentateuch;  
 Targum Jonathan to the Prophets;  
 The Targums to the Writings.

### 4.2.3 Editors

The editors prepare the material for the printed editions. They deliver material relevant for the central database, such as commentaries and translations.

In Appendix II the scholars are listed who presently work on the text of one of the Targums. It goes without saying that editors should be recruited foremost from this list. Moreover, it has a high priority to interest young scholars (Ph.D., postdoctoral) all over the world for this project. Scholars who are interested in working as an editor for one of the biblical books, are invited to make themselves known to the TEEC.

## 5 Start-up Process

- The first step in the creation of the International Targum Text Edition Project was the appointment of the Text Edition Exploratory Committee at the third congress of the International Organization for Targumic Study in Basel on August 3, 2001.
- The project plan designed by the TEEC will be put to the general assembly of the International Organization for Targumic Study at the fourth congress in Leiden in July 2004. The assembly will approve the project plan, appoint a General Board, and approve nominations for Section Editors.
- During 2004, the Section Editors will be responsible for putting together the members of the Section Committees. These will consist of scholars who commit themselves to working on a targum text.
- By the fifth IOTS congress in 2007, Section Committees should have set plans, standards, policies, and settled any organizational matters for the targum books in their purview. A report from each Section Editor will be given at the congress to the General Board. Plans from each section will be evaluated, coordinated and approved.
- Actual work on each targum can begin as soon as the Section Editor(s) can organize the wherewithal to do so.

### 5.1 Time Schedule

- The goal for completion of this project—for all the targums to all the books—will be 20 years.
- It is assumed that different targums to different biblical books will move at different paces. Some projects will begin immediately, while others will not start for several years. Texts and databases of shorter books with fewer important manuscripts will be completed more quickly than those of longer books with more relevant manuscripts.
- Given this, publication will take place as the material or texts are available and will not wait until all targums are completed.

### 5.2 Budget

It is expected that the scholars involved in the ITTEP will be paid either by their home universities or by national Organizations for Scientific Research. There is, however, also need for some permanent staff to support the workers in the field. Moreover, there are travel expenses and material investments that have to be covered. These costs will have to be financed by a general fund.

- Permanent staff

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| <b>Position</b>     | <b>Volume</b> | <b>Cost p.a.</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Secretary/Archivist | 0.2 fte       | € 8.500          |
| Cataloguer          | 0.6 fte       | €27.500          |
| Publication Editor  | 1.0 fte       | €70.000          |

- Traveling expenses

| <b>Goal</b>        | <b>Cost p.a.</b> |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Board meetings     | €10.000          |
| Publication Editor | €10.000          |
| Cataloguer         | €5.000           |

It is advisable to combine meetings of the General Board as much as possible with scholarly conferences in order to minimize the costs and strain of traveling. In this way the employers of the board members could probably cover part of the costs. The sum of €10.000 that is adduced here is meant to cover expenses that cannot be covered in other ways.

- Microfilms

| <b>Goal</b>             | <b>Cost p.a.</b> |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Purchase microfilms     | €2.000           |
| Distribution microfilms | €500             |

Since there is overlap in the films needed (many MSS cover more than one biblical book), a lending system has to be organized. This will turn out much cheaper than that each university involved has to buy its own copies. Nevertheless money is needed for the purchase of the necessary films. Part of the costs could probably be defrayed by the universities (in which case they would become the legal owners of the films), but that may not be sufficient. A fund must be established from which the purchase of films can be paid as well as the costs of the distribution.

### 5.3 Funding

Since central funding of such a large-scale project will be extremely difficult, it is hoped that most of the expenses can be charged to the employers of the scholars involved. However, given the difficult financial situation of many faculties, and allowing also scholars who do not yet have a university position to participate, it will be necessary to find as much external funding as possible. This may have several forms: individual subsidies, project subsidies, travel subsidies or contributions to investments. Many governments have at the moment special funds for digitalizing large text corpora. These funds should be called upon for the digitalization of the manuscripts.

The Section Committees are responsible for the fundraising necessary for their respective tasks. The General Board is responsible for the fundraising necessary for the overhead, such as the salaries of the permanent staff (secretary/archivist; cataloguer; publication editor/technologist), and the travel expenses necessary for the cooperation of the different groups.

## Conclusion

Given the present state of scholarship as well as the state of technology, it is possible to produce scholarly editions that surpass the editions of the last century by far. Notwithstanding these opportunities, there is one serious impediment that should not be left unmentioned, namely a shortage of means and manpower. This undertaking can only succeed if a number of key scholars put their shoulders to the wheel, participating in the scholarly work, enthusing and coaching students to follow their ways, and generating financial support to keep the project going.

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## Appendix I: A Preliminary Study for an Edition of Targum Samuel

Within the framework of a research project on ‘Origin and History of Targum Jonathan to the Prophets’, a preliminary study for an edition of Targum Samuel is carried out. This includes a stemmatological study and an editorial design.

Although we know now of 25 continuous MSS of Targum Samuel and hundreds of fragmentary manuscripts and collections of haftarot, their mutual relations are still largely unknown. Sperber published some witnesses of the Yemenite and the Western tradition, but without evaluating the significance of the variants (Sperber 1959). The Babylonian tradition has lately been published (Martínez Borobio 1987). Important as this publication is, it does not clarify the relation between this tradition and the other traditions. A reliable stemma of all the material remains therefore a desideratum.

A feasible start of the stemmatological research is to begin with the continuous text tradition. For this part of the collation, all the available continuous MSS and early editions will be used. Also the Babylonian fragments will be included to provide a point of comparison with a markedly different tradition. Because of the abundance of the material, one must look for a way to create a reliable stemma without having to scrutinise all the textual material first. A possible way to do this is a sample survey (Houtman 1999). For this project a sample was composed of five theologically ‘neutral’ verses from each cluster of five chapters of the Books of Samuel. The sample includes a representative selection of haftarah readings.

At the next stage, care must be taken of the drawbacks of this initial choice of textual material. Firstly, there is the chance factor of tradition. An inferior text may have survived as a whole in a well readable manuscript, whereas a major ancient text tradition may have survived only in a badly damaged fragment. Therefore, if a variant reading were found in a fragment, we must try to place this fragment in the provisional tree on the basis of the recorded characteristics of the branches. Secondly, we must reckon with the possibility that the haftarot had an independent history related with their liturgical function. Therefore the haftarot will be first examined as a corpus and then compared with the continuous tradition. For the actual collation the program Collate will be used (Robinson 1994).

For the building of a stemma a specially designed computer program is used to calculate the affinity between text witnesses (Wattel 1996). The resulting chain of relationships serves as the base for the actual stemmatological work.

After the stemma is established, smaller samples may be used to experiment with an edition program to try and find the best way of editing the targumic texts: which apparatuses, which text as the base text, a selected or a diplomatic text, perhaps a synoptic edition, how many variants, which variants, etc.? An important subject of consideration is also whether or not it is advisable and feasible to include vocalisation. The present pilot study includes therefore experiments with the collation and presentation of vocalised texts.

This pilot project can function as a useful test piece for ITTEP, providing information on problems encountered on the way towards an edition and possible solutions. The research is carried out by Eveline van Staaldoune-Sulman, who will present the first results of the project during the IOTS congress of July 2004.

## Appendix II: Overview of Recent Research

Many scholars and scholarly projects have already undertaken tasks that could be helpful at the start of ITTEP. These include the Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon (CAL) directed by Stephen Kaufman, the Bilingual Concordance to the Targum of the Prophets (BCTP) directed by Johannes de Moor, and The Aramaic Bible, directed by Martin McNamara. A new project has started in 2002 in Kampen (the Netherlands) that is meant as a pilot study for the new edition project. Willem Smelik initiated publication on the Internet of a list of sources for manuscripts of targumic Literature in public collections.

**CAL:** The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon project, headquartered at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, aims to bring together all lexical information concerning Aramaic. Current editors are Prof. Stephen A. Kaufman of Hebrew Union College and Prof. Joseph A. Fitzmyer of Catholic University of America (emeritus), with Prof. Michael Sokoloff of Bar Ilan University as associate editor. They are publishing a series of dictionaries, concordances, bibliographies and other linguistic and text-related scholarly tools. Ultimately, this work will cover all dialects and periods of ancient Aramaic.

**BCTP:** The bilingual (Aramaic-Hebrew) concordance to the Targum of the Prophets is the product of an international project based in the Theological University of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, Kampen (ThUK) and supported by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). With this publication a major research tool becomes available to those engaged in research in Biblical and Jewish studies. The concordance will be an indispensable tool for the textual criticism and the history of interpretation of the Hebrew Bible. To facilitate consultation on the basis of the Hebrew, every concordance per book contains a Hebrew-Aramaic index. The final volume will contain a cumulative Hebrew-Aramaic index.

**The Aramaic Bible Project:** In 1982 a project was started to publish translations of all the traditional Targums into modern English under the directorship of Martin McNamara. The translations were originally published with Michael Glazier Press, but, now appear as 'Michael Glazier Books' with The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota. In 1987 the first translations were published, and by now the project has almost reached completion. The manuscript of the volume containing the Targum of Psalms (as usual Introduction, Translation, apparatus and notes) by David Stec is with the publishers, and should be published in 2004. The final volume, 'The Targum of Lamentations', eds. Philip Alexander and Christian M.M. Brady, is in an advanced stage of preparation and should soon be with the publishers. It is hoped that this, too, will be published in 2004 or 2005.

**HISTOR:** In Kampen and Leiden a small group of scholars has begun a pilot project that deals with several questions that have to be answered before beginning a large scale edition project of the targumim. The pilot project consists of a theoretical part and a technical part. The theoretical part focuses on the reconstruction of the textual history of TJ to the Prophets. The technical part regards the production of a scholarly edition of a part of Targum Samuel.

**Sources for Manuscripts of Targumic Literature in Public Collections:** Recently Willem Smelik published on the Internet a valuable bibliography of catalogues that can be used to locate targumic manuscripts (<http://www.tulane.edu/~ntcs/catalogues.html>).

This is an eclectic list of catalogues of libraries and private collections housing Hebrew and Aramaic manuscripts, as found in library collections. It goes without saying that the *primus inter pares* of catalogues is the catalogue at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Nonetheless, older catalogues remain valuable. The present list has made extensive use of earlier guides and compilations, mainly Pearson's *Oriental Manuscripts* and Gabrieli's *Manoscritti e carte orientali*, and it should be updated in view of Richler's *Guide to Hebrew Manuscript Collections* as it was compiled in 1992. However, it is only intended as a source of information to be used alongside Richler's invaluable guide.

Apart of these projects, several new editions have been published during the last decennia. It is our hope that part of the material collected there can be reused in the planned new edition. In the following table you find the editions that have been published during the last decennia (the date of 1970 is based on the presumption that from that time onwards material may have been stored electronically). The names in the last columns are of scholars who are presently working on the Targum text of the one of the biblical books. Books that have not been newly edited during the last decennia are marked by XXX.

Modern Targum editions from about 1970 onwards

|                                  |  |                           |                                  | <b>Work in progress</b> |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Torah, Onqelos</b>            | XXX  |                           |                                  | L. Díez Merino et al.   |
| <b>Torah, Neofiti</b>            | A. Díez Macho, Madrid-Barcelona 1968-79      |                           |                                  |                         |
| <b>Torah, Genizah fragments:</b> | M.L. Klein, Rome 1980; Idem, Cincinnati 1986 |                           |                                  |                         |
| <b>Torah, Pseudo-Jonathan:</b>   | T. Ayuso et al. Madrid 1965-80               | D. Rieder, Jerusalem 1974 | E.G. Clarke et al., Hoboken 1984 |                         |
| <b>Prophets:</b>                 | R. Kasher, Jerusalem 1996                    |                           |                                  |                         |
| <b>Former Prophets:</b>          | A. Díez Macho, Jerusalem 1974                |                           |                                  |                         |
| Joshua:                          | E. Martínez Borobio, Madrid 1989             |                           |                                  |                         |
| Judges:                          | E. Martínez Borobio, Madrid 1989             |                           |                                  | W.F. Smelik             |

|                         |                                   |          |  |                          |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--|--------------------------|
| Samuel:                 | E. Martinez Borobio, Madrid 1987  |          |  | E. van Staalduine-Sulman |
| Kings:                  | E. Martinez Borobio, Madrid 1998  |          |  | W.E. Aufrecht (?)        |
| <b>Latter Prophets:</b> | J. Ribera Florit, Barcelona 1977  |          |  |                          |
| Isaiah:                 | J. Ribera Florit, Madrid 1988     |          |  | A. Houtman, B. Chilton   |
| Jeremiah:               | J. Ribera Florit, Madrid 1992     |          |  |                          |
| Ezekiel:                | J. Ribera Florit, Madrid 1997     |          |  |                          |
| <b>Minor Prophets:</b>  | XXX                               |          |  |                          |
| Hosea:                  | J. Ferrer I Costa, Barcelona 1989 |          |  |                          |
| Joel:                   | XXX                               |          |  |                          |
| Amos:                   | XXX                               |          |  | E. Giralt-Lopez          |
| Obadiah:                | XXX                               |          |  |                          |
| Jonah:                  | E. Levine, Jerusalem 1975         |          |  |                          |
| Micah:                  | XXX                               |          |  | E. Giralt-Lopez          |
| Nahum:                  | J. Ribera Florit, 1981            |          |  |                          |
| Habakkuk:               | XXX                               |          |  |                          |
| Zephaniah               | J. Ribera Florit, 1983            |          |  |                          |
| Haggai:                 | J. Ribera Florit, 1978            |          |  |                          |
| Zechariah:              | XXX                               |          |  | P. Casanellas            |
| Malachi:                | J. Ribera Florit, 1990            |          |  |                          |
| <b>Writings:</b>        | XXX                               |          |  |                          |
| Psalms:                 | L. Díez Merino, Madrid 1982       | E. White |  | M. Bernstein             |

|                  |                                       |   |  |                |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| Proverbs:        | XXX                                   |   |  |                |
| Job:             | D. Stec,<br>Leiden 1994               | F.J. Fernández<br>Vallina,<br>Madrid 1980 | L. Díez<br>Merino,<br>Madrid 1984        | D. Shepherd    |
| Chronicles:      | R. Déaut & J.<br>Robert, Rome<br>1971 |   |  |                |
| <b>Megillot:</b> | E. Levine,<br>Jerusalem<br>1977       |   |  |                |
| Song of Songs:   | C. Alonso<br>Fontela,<br>Madrid 1987  |   |  | P.S. Alexander |
| Ruth:            | E. Levine,<br>Rome 1973               | D.R.G. Beattie,<br>Leiden 2002            |  | D.R.G. Beattie |
| Lamentations:    | E. Levine,<br>New York<br>1976        | A. van der<br>Heide, Leiden<br>1981       | J.J. Alarcón<br>Sainz, 1991              | C. Brady       |
| Ecclesiastes:    | E. Levine,<br>New York<br>1979        | L. Díez<br>Merino,<br>Madrid 1987         | M. Taradach-J.<br>Ferrer, Genève<br>1998 |                |
| Esther:          | B. Grossfeld,<br>New York<br>1983     | B. Grossfeld,<br>New York<br>1996         |  |                |

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