

Can we Trust the Text of the Bible?

Exhibition and presentations by Dr Trevor R Allin

Session 2: Codex Sinaiticus

Locations of Sinaiticus pages:

- St Catherine's Monastery ("New Finds" of 1975)
- The Russian National Library in St Petersburg (since 1850/1862)
- Leipzig University (Tischendorf, 1844)
- The British Library (Tischendorf, 1859, London since 1933)

Codex Sinaiticus Original checking & correction process

- Three copyists
- Correcting own work & work of other copyists
- Shows that the copyists aimed to produce a copy that was highly accurate.

"Codex Friderico-Augustanus" – 86 pages from Codex Sinaiticus, Leipzig 1846

"Bibliorum Codex Sinaiticus Petropolitanus" – Sinaiticus facsimile, St Petersburg, 1862

Parker, D. C., "Codex Sinaiticus, The Story of the World's Oldest Bible", London: The British Library and Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 2010 The latest "official" account, covering also the digitisation of the Codex.

McKendrick, Scot; Parker, David; Myshrall, Amy & O'Hogan, Cillian, editors, "Codex Sinaiticus, New Perspectives on the Ancient Biblical Manuscript", London: The British Library and Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 2015 More details from a wide range of specialists.

Porter, Stanley E., "Constantine Tischendorf, The Life and Work of a 19th Century Bible Hunter", London: Bloomsbury, 2015 A very accessible light read.

For more information on Codex Sinaiticus, the following lightly-revised version of Dirk Jongkind's Ph.D. thesis is recommended: "Jongkind, D, "Scribal Habits of Codex Sinaiticus", Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2007

Still relevant is Milne & Skeat's magnificently-produced but hard-to find book published in 1938 by the British Museum: Milne, H. J. M. and Skeat, T. C., "Scribes and Correctors of the Codex Sinaiticus, including contributions by Douglas Cockerell", London: British Museum Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1938. It also contains beautiful colour reproductions of the artwork at the end of each Biblical book (the colophons) in Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Alexandrinus and Appendix I contains a small amount of information on Codex Vaticanus.

A Fraudulent Manuscript: "The Gospel of Jesus's Wife"

A revealing conspiracy theory is based on the fraudulent manuscript fragment that was given the name "The Gospel of Jesus's Wife" by a Harvard researcher whose claims were subsequently demonstrated to be totally false (although apparently sincerely believed by her at the time). An account of this event can be found in "Veritas: A Harvard Professor, A Con Man and the Gospel of Jesus's Wife" by Ariel Sabar, New York: Doubleday, 2020. However, potential readers must be warned that it tells the story of some extremely unpleasant people, none of whose vulgarities or bad language is edited out by the author, so some may prefer not to read it, and definitely not to recommend it without a suitable warning.

Trevor R Allin 2026

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