

EDITOR'S NOTE

Walter Bauer, who died on 17 November 1960, was one of the great New Testament *Gelehrten* of this century. His lexicon of New Testament Greek has become a standard work and is now available in English translation (*A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, translated by William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, Cambridge University Press, 1957).

The suggestion that tribute might be paid to the life-work of this great scholar in *New Testament Studies* was first made by Professor C. F. D. Moule, and I am grateful to him, to Dr Bammel, Lecturer in Divinity in Cambridge, and to the late Dr Peter Walters, for their co-operation and advice, and to the contributors of the articles on Dr Bauer as New Testament and patristic scholar: Dr Gingrich has contributed a short biographical note and Dr W. Barclay of Glasgow a review of the English edition of the lexicon.

30 June 1962

ST MARY'S COLLEGE, ST ANDREWS

WALTER BAUER 1877–1960

Walter Bauer was born on 8 August 1877 in Königsberg, Prussia, the son of a professor in the university of that city. He studied theology and philology (both classical and oriental) at the universities of Marburg, Berlin, and Strassburg with such scholars as Jülicher, Johannes Weiss, Harnack, Pfeiderer, Holtzmann, Nöldeke, and F. Spitta. He began his teaching career as Privatdozent at Marburg in 1902. The title of his inaugural dissertation as Licentiat der Theologie in that year was 'Mündige und Unmündige bei dem Apostel Paulus': at this early date he showed keen competence in New Testament lexicography, which became his major work.

He remained at Marburg until 1913, when he became professor at Breslau. In 1916 he removed to Göttingen, where he remained until his death. He formally retired for reasons of health on 31 December 1945, but accomplished some of his best work after that date.

Among his outstanding publications are *Das Leben Jesu im Zeitalter der Neutestamentlichen Apokryphen* (1909): his volumes on the Gospel of John (1912; third edition 1933) and on the Letters of Ignatius (1920) in the *Handbuch zum Neuen Testament*, and *Rechtgläubigkeit und Ketzerei im ältesten Christentum* (1934).

In 1920 Professor Bauer was entrusted with the task of revising and augmenting Erwin Preuschen's *Griechisch-Deutsches Handwörterbuch zu den*

Schriften des Neuen Testaments und der übrigen urchristlichen Literatur (1910). In four successive editions, the second 1925–8, the third 1937, the fourth 1949–52, and the fifth 1957–8, Bauer established himself as the outstanding scholar in the four-hundred-year history of New Testament lexicography. Especially in the fourth and fifth editions of his lexicon he incorporated many thousands of parallels to New Testament words which he found in a systematic reading of Greek literature from the fourth century B.C. to Byzantine times.

When the fourth edition appeared in 1952, the scholarly world was astounded at the material contained in its 1634 columns. Five years later the fifth edition began to appear, and this time it had 1780 columns, with all sorts of significant new material. The fact that these two last editions were completed under the handicap of poor eyesight, and amid the frustrating delays of the post-war period, makes this publication one of the outstanding scholarly feats in biblical study during this century.

Yet Professor Bauer insisted that he had only scratched the surface in discovering these parallels. Those who direct New Testament research would do well to study carefully the revised edition of his *Zur Einführung in das Wörterbuch*, published in 1955, and available in the English translation of Bauer's fourth edition. The last paragraph is especially significant.

Professor Bauer was a member of the Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen since 1925; he was made an honorary member of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis in 1933. The degree of Dr. phil. h. c. was bestowed on him by the University of Hamburg in 1952, and he was awarded the Grosses Verdienstkreuz by the Federal Republic of Germany in 1954. His death occurred on 17 November 1960: he was eighty-three years old. He is survived by his widow, the former Lotte Kükenthal, a son, Dr Klaus Bauer, and a daughter, Dr Margarete Bauer; another son, Hans, preceded him in death.

April 1961

F. W. GINGRICH

CORRIGENDUM

Volume VIII, number 4 (July 1962):

substitute *fides qua* for *fides quae* on

page 347, second line of (a)

second line of (c)

second line of (f), and on

page 349, last line of the page.