

AMADOR ÁNGEL GARCÍA SANTOS, *Diccionario del griego bíblico: Setenta y Nuevo Testamento* (Instrumentos para el estudio de la Biblia 21; Estella: Verbo Divino, 2011). Pp. 936. €60.

This is a one-volume Greek–Spanish dictionary of the LXX and the NT, compiled by Dominican Friar García Santos, and is billed as unique, in that there is no other dictionary (according to a Spanish Dominican website) that contains “all the words of the Old and New Testament[s] that appear in this Greek Bible.” G.S. teaches OT and biblical languages in the Valencia Theological Faculty in Spain and has previously published an introductory grammar of Biblical Greek for Verbo Divino. G.S. spent seven years on this work, meant in the first place for his students. In a recent review (*Revista Agustiniana* [April 2012] 231–33), J. Gutiérrez says that despite the neglect of classical languages in Spanish secondary education, this dictionary shows that classical philology in Spain is in good health.

The dictionary is very nicely bound and easy to read. After the title page, there are some five pages of “Preliminary Observations” followed by three pages of abbreviations and little more than a page of “Sources Used.” The author thus has kept to a minimum what other, like dictionaries provide more information on, such as the basic approach to LXX lexicography, textual criticism and variants, and so on (as, e.g., in Takamitsu Muraoka’s *Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint: Twelve Prophets* [Leuven: Peeters, 1993]) or the fifty-plus pages of introductory material in the *Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint* by Johan Lust, Erik Eynikel, and Katrin Hauspie (2 vols.; Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1992, 1996). G.S. has provided entries only on the “base text” (p. 7) as found in Rahlfs’s 1935 edition of the LXX and Aland’s 1966 Greek New Testament (United Bible Societies). G.S. refers to these two editions as “the biblical text”; in each entry, he gives the number of times that the word appears in the LXX and then in the NT, stating that variants have not been taken into account (although G. does give variants of names).

As G.S. explains, each entry comprises (1) the Greek word with its “morphological indications” (if it is a noun, the nominative singular is given, followed by the genitive if it exists and the gender, indicated by the corresponding article; if it is an adjective, the masculine, feminine, and neuter forms are given; if a verb, it is given in the first person singular of the present indicative [or middle form, if it is a deponent], followed by the contracted form if it has one); (2) in parentheses, the number of times the term appears, as mentioned above; (3) identification of the word as adjective, adverb, demonym or gentilic (i.e., regarding a tribe, race, or nation), conjunction, proper name, preposition, pronoun, noun, toponym, transcription or verb; (4) the “commonly accepted etymology” (p. 7); (5) in parentheses, “pertinent morphological indications,” such as irregular forms for nouns, adjectives, or verbs; (6) finally, the equivalent of each word in Spanish (putting first, if deemed desirable, in italics, an explanation of the meaning of the word based on its etymology, in order to facilitate the choice among the various Spanish equivalents, synonyms, and like terms which are given, without pretense to being exhaustive).

The different meanings are separated by numbers or letters. Each different meaning is identified with a biblical citation, preferably where the meaning is clear, favoring the LXX over the NT where possible; sometimes a question mark will indicate a doubt. Biblical citations are given according to the LXX, and, where different from the MT, the citation of the latter is given in brackets. In his preliminary observations, G.S. offers various examples, stating that he does not give all the meanings of the words and that some meanings could be questioned, in which case he recommends recourse to a more general Greek dictionary.

Reviews of other dictionaries of the LXX have pointed out that it is better to use a critical edition of the LXX rather than Rahlfs, as Muraoka did using the Göttingen LXX, which is not yet complete. But this dictionary is meant for students and for a handy reference in Spanish. For more technical linguistic issues, readers can turn to other sources in other languages. Regarding the use of the 1966 first UBS edition of the Greek NT, one should note that the preface to the third UBS/Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft edition (1975) states that there were few—though in some respects quite significant—textual changes between the first and second editions, but that the third edition “contains a more thorough revision of the Greek text,” so that as a result “more than five hundred changes have been introduced into this Third Edition.” If G.S. began compiling this dictionary seven years ago, it is hard to understand why he would not have used the 1975 third edition of the Greek NT.

Muraoka’s highly praised LXX dictionary is said to contain 9,550 “headwords”; G.S.’s dictionary, which includes the NT, contains 17,800 entries. Unlike Lust-Eynikel-Hauspie, which gives one-word translation equivalents, G.S., like Muraoka, gives very useful definitions. Muraoka’s dictionary has been praised for its “full analysis of prepositions and conjunctions” (review by Stephen D. Ryan, O.P., *CBQ* 72 [2010] 809-11, here 811), the reviewer pointing out that grammar will have to play an increasingly important part in dictionaries of the future. G.S. the Greek grammarian has followed this tendency in an excellent manner, devoting as much space to *apo* and *kai* as does Muraoka (but obviously much less than the coverage in *BDAG*; strangely, G.S. cites only the fifth, 1971, German edition of Walter Bauer’s dictionary, and not Danker’s great revisions of Bauer’s sixth edition). But overall, G.S. has produced a wonderful tool, especially for the Spanish-speaking student, but also for anyone who knows Spanish and wants a one-volume easy-to-use Biblical Greek dictionary that contains most of the information one would want to be readily at hand. ¡Felicidades, fray!

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