

150 YEARS OF TEUBNER TEXTS

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the "Bibliotheca Teubneriana", the oldest and most comprehensive collection of Classical editions now available. In 1823, Benedictus Gotthelf Teubner decided to establish his own printing house, in Leipzig. Wilhelm Dindorf, at the age of 21, was chosen to design the programme for a new "selection of Greek and most widely read Roman authors." Together with his younger brother, Ludwig, he prepared the earliest volumes for the series. The first appeared in mid-1824, the *Anabasis* of Xenophon, edited by young Ludwig.

Teubner and his colleagues, in particular the Dindorf brothers, Johann Jahn and Franz Passow, were faced with the task of critically revising Classical texts for scholarly use, and of providing them with a concise apparatus criticus. Standards of textual criticism were as yet rudimentary, with no systematic investigation into the manuscript tradition, and no systematic new collations; however, the early texts well satisfied the needs of the period.

In 1842, Lachmann's introduction to his edition of the New Testament established a new theory of philological criticism, and led to a reworking of the Teubner series. From 1850 on there was a steady output of revised texts in the new series "Bibliotheca scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum Teubneriana" (BT). With the help at first of Classical scholars like Fleckeisen, Halm, Schneidewin, Ribbeck and Ritschl, the BT grew into the present scholarly and comprehensive collection. By 1911 it included about 250 authors and 550 volumes, and despite loss of stocks in the 1943 air-raids over Leipzig, the totals have steadily increased. From 1950-1974, a total of 130 separate volumes have been published, edited by 82 scholars from 17 countries. During 1974 to 1983, another 130 editions from 25 countries (including 2 from Australia) are due to appear; these include several major authors at present outdated or unavailable in the series.

There is also a growing output of Byzantine, Middle-Latin and Neo-Latin texts, and a high percentage of first editions (such as the astrological works of Albumasar, Hephaestio, Heliodor and Ptolemaeus). For 150 years, Teubnerbücher aus Leipzig have been leaders in providing scholarly source material for our Humanistic inheritance.

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