

Sunday, September 11, 2022— Grace Life School of Theology—*From This Generation For Ever*
 Lesson 179 Pre-1611 Evidence for the Text: The General Meeting & The Notes of John Bois

Introduction

- When this class last met on Sunday, May 15 we concluded our discussion of the primary work-in-progress document known as Bod 1602. Please recall that Bod 1602 is a copy of a 1602 Bishops Bible in the possession of the Bodleian Library with the handwritten notations of the translators in the margin.
- In Lessons [162](#) and [163](#) we began analyzing the pre-1611 evidence for the text of the Authorized Version by looking at surviving primary work-in-progress documents that had been discovered in British libraries in the middle of the 20th century. These documents included:
 - MS 98—handwritten MS prepared by the 2nd Westminster Company that worked on the New Testament Epistles.
 - Bod 1602—complete 1602 Bishops Bible containing handwritten annotations for much of the Old Testament and the Gospels.
 - Notes of John Bois—handwritten notes of John Bois from the General Meeting covering the New Testament Epistles and the book of Revelation.
- In Lessons 162 and 163 I said that we would consider each of these documents in terms of the following three categories. The first of these categories were discussed in Lessons 162 and 163.
 - Scholarly Awareness & Published Access
 - Physical Description & Contents
 - Impact on the readings found in the King James Bible
- Then, in Lesson [164](#) and [165](#), we deviated from my original plan to talk about two additional primary work-in-progress documents that were unknown to me prior to January of this year (2022). These documents included the following:
 - MS Ward B—Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge
 - Samuel Ward's personal draft work on I Esdras and Wisdom 3-4 from the Apocryphal section. This is the earliest known draft work on the KJB.
 - MS Burney 363—British Library
 - Three unpublished letters between Frenchman Isaac Casaubon and King James translator John Bois. These letters date from late 1610 or early 1611, i.e., very late in the process utilized by the translators, possibly during the General Meeting itself.

- In [Lesson 166](#) we resumed our study of MS 98 by looking at its Physical Description & Contents. Then in Lessons [167](#), [168](#), [169](#), and [170](#) we discussed the impact of MS 98 upon King James readings by looking at Romans 1, I Corinthians 13, other miscellaneous passages, and the question of printer errors.
- Then in Lesson 171 we began our consideration of Bod 1602. All told, we studied the following regarding this important document.
 - Physical Description & Contents (Lesson [171](#))
 - Impact on King James Old Testament Readings (Lessons [172](#), [173](#), & [174](#))
 - Impact on King James New Testament Readings (Lessons [175](#), [176](#), & [177](#))
 - Final Thoughts on the Impact of Bod 1602 on the King James Bible (Lesson [178](#))
- In the current Lesson we will begin an examination of the notes of John Bois, the third and final primary work-in-progress document from where we left off in Lesson 163.

Review—The Notes of John Bois: Scholarly Awareness & Published Access

- Notes of John Bois—had been lost to history. F.H.A. Scrivener noted in his 1884 book *The Authorized Edition of the English Bible (1611)* that Bois and he alone had taken notes at the General Meeting at Stationers Hall during the years of 1610-1611. Gustavus Paine also included a photograph and some remarks on John Bois and his notes in his 1959 work, *The Learned Men*.
 - Scholarly Awareness—Ward S. Allen in the mid-1960s working with the library of Corpus Christi College, Oxford was able to locate and confirm a copy of Bois’ lost notes. Allen published a preliminary description of the document in the Winter, 1969 edition of the *Renaissance News*.
 - Published Access—in 1969 Allen granted public access to the document via the publication of *Translating for King James: Notes Made by a Translator of the King James’s Bible*. Allen’s book contained images of the document along with an English translation of its entirety. In 1966 Professor David Norton announced the discovery of a second copy MS Harl. 750 in the British Library in his piece for *The Library* titled “John Bois’s Notes on the Revision of the King James Bible New Testament: A New Manuscript.”
- This story is best told by Ward S. Allen, the original publisher of the document, in the Preface to his 1969 publication *Translating for King James: Notes Made by a Translator of the King James’s Bible*.
 - “The story of the publication of John Bois’s notes is a simple one. Some years ago, I learned through Dr. F.H.A. Scrivener’s book, *The Authorized Edition of the English Bible*

(1611) (Cambridge: the University Press, 1884), that John Bois, one of the translators of the Authorized Version, had made notes while the company of review, of which he was a member, prepared the final edition of their translation at Stationers' Hall during the years 1610-1611. Bois, and he only, had made notes as the company deliberated over the final version. From time out of memory the notes have been lost.

For one who had beguiled leisure hours in puzzling over the revision that the translators of the Authorized Version had formed in their edition out of previous translations, the dream of recovering the lost notes floated as an unbodied joy. Dr. Scrivener nourished that dream with the conjecture that someday lost notes would perhaps turn up in a private collection.

Long after I had abandoned hope of glimpsing the notes for ever, it happened that they fell my way, full-bodied. A photograph and some remarks on John Bois and his notes in Gustavus S. Paine's book, *The Learned Men* (New York: Thomas, y. Crowell, 1959), gave me hope that a true copy of the notes rested in the Bodleian Library. Mr. T.H. Aston, the librarian of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was kind enough to furnish me with a photographic copy of the manuscript which Mr. Paine had described. A close study has convinced me that MS. C.C.C. 312 exhibits substantially a section, at least, of the notes which John Bois made at Stationers' Hall. The notes appear on thirty-nine manuscript pages, 61'-80', and are concerned with problems of translating biblical passages from Romans through Revelation, with addenda covering First Corinthians through Revelation.

I published a preliminary description of these notes in the *Renaissance News*, Winter 1966, with the hope that if any scholars doubted the authenticity of the notes, they would make their doubts known. Several scholars, biblical, literary, and classical, were kind enough to write to me expressing their conviction that the notes which I had described and argued were, indeed, a good copy of the lost notes. The introduction to this book adds to the evidence in that article an elaborate study which has as its single end to demonstrate that the notes which are reproduced in this book are a good copy of those notes which John Bois made at Stationers' Hall." (Allen, vii-viii)

- A second, copy of Bois' Notes was discovered in the mid-1990s in the British Library by Dr. David Norton. Norton wrote about it in his 1996 essay for *The Library* titled "John Bois's Notes on the Revision of the King James Bible New Testament: A New Manuscript." Therefore, there are two copies of Bois's Notes known to historians:
 - Fulman MS—discovered by Ward S. Allen in the mid-1960s and reproduced in his 1969 book *Translating for King James*.
 - MS Harley 750 (MS Harl. 750)—discovered by Dr. David Norton in the mid-1990s and discussed in his 1996 piece for *The Library*.

- The following is an image of the Fulman Transcript utilized by Ward S. Allen in his 1969 book *Translating for King James: Notes Made by a Translator of the King James's Bible*.

Cap. 13. 1. $\tau\epsilon\lambda\alpha\gamma\eta\sigma\iota\alpha\iota$] $\gamma\epsilon\gamma\epsilon\tau$ Scholia. Beza, ordinatae,
i. e. per gradus disposita et distributa. Versionem probo,
explicationem et glossam non probo. A.D. the "abuli-
ments of light."

Cap. 14. 5. I. 8. Unusquisque certam sibi scientiam parat ex Verbo
Dei, ut sine dubitatione intelligat quae sit voluntas Dei.
Ibid. v. 17. is not eating and drinking. A.D.

Cap. 15. 31. That my service to the saints may be acceptable etc.
 $\tau\omega$ $\theta\epsilon\omega$, vel $\pi\alpha\tau\epsilon\rho$ $\tau\omega$ $\theta\epsilon\omega$. A.D. et Gr. Scholia. negat
proprie $\epsilon\pi\alpha\gamma\alpha\gamma\epsilon\iota\sigma\theta\epsilon\iota$ aliquid dici debere, nisi quod
Deo acceptum sit. Gr. Scholia insuper addunt, $\chi\epsilon\iota$ $\iota\psi\alpha$
 $\alpha\upsilon\tau\omega\iota$ $\mu\epsilon\tau\alpha$ $\pi\epsilon\gamma\epsilon\upsilon\sigma\mu\alpha\varsigma$ $\alpha\iota$ $\epsilon\upsilon\chi\alpha\iota\sigma\tau\alpha\varsigma$ $\delta\iota\epsilon\chi\omicron\upsilon\tau\alpha\iota$ $\tau\alpha$ $\pi\alpha\tau\epsilon\rho$
 $\epsilon\upsilon\sigma\theta$.

1. Corinth.

Cap. 1. 2. our Lord, both theirs, and ours.
Ibid. v. 22. Whereas, or, for as much as both Jewes.
Cap. 2. v. 4. $\epsilon\iota$ $\pi\epsilon\sigma\theta\omega\iota\varsigma$] i. e. $\pi\epsilon\sigma\theta\alpha\upsilon\sigma\iota\varsigma$, persuasibile. of the
Spirit and power, vide 1. Thess. 1. 5.
Ibid. v. 13. At accipiendo, $\sigma\upsilon\gamma\chi\epsilon\iota\sigma\theta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$ pro $\sigma\upsilon\gamma\chi\epsilon\iota\sigma\theta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$
preparing spiritual things for them that are spiritual.
alioqui $\tau\omega$ $\pi\epsilon\sigma\theta\alpha\upsilon\sigma\iota\varsigma$ est neutrius generis.

Cap. 4.

Cap. 4. 6. $\upsilon\pi\epsilon\rho$ δ' $\gamma\epsilon\gamma\epsilon\tau\alpha\iota$] i. e. Supra, initio huius Capituli,
et fine praecedentis. remittit Corinthios non ad id
quod ab alijs, sed quod a semetipso Paulo scriptum
fuit. $\gamma\epsilon\gamma\epsilon\tau\alpha\iota$, sub. $\upsilon\pi'$ $\epsilon\upsilon\sigma\theta$, $\iota\psi\alpha$ $\mu\alpha'$ etc. that for
some one ye be not puffed up, i. e. $\mu\epsilon\tau\alpha$ $\upsilon\tau\omega\iota\varsigma$ $\upsilon\pi\epsilon\rho$
 $\delta\iota\delta\alpha\sigma\chi\epsilon\iota\varsigma$, or who maketh thee to excell above
others. Loquitur ad eos qui Doctorum officio fun-
gebantur, et doctrina exercebant.

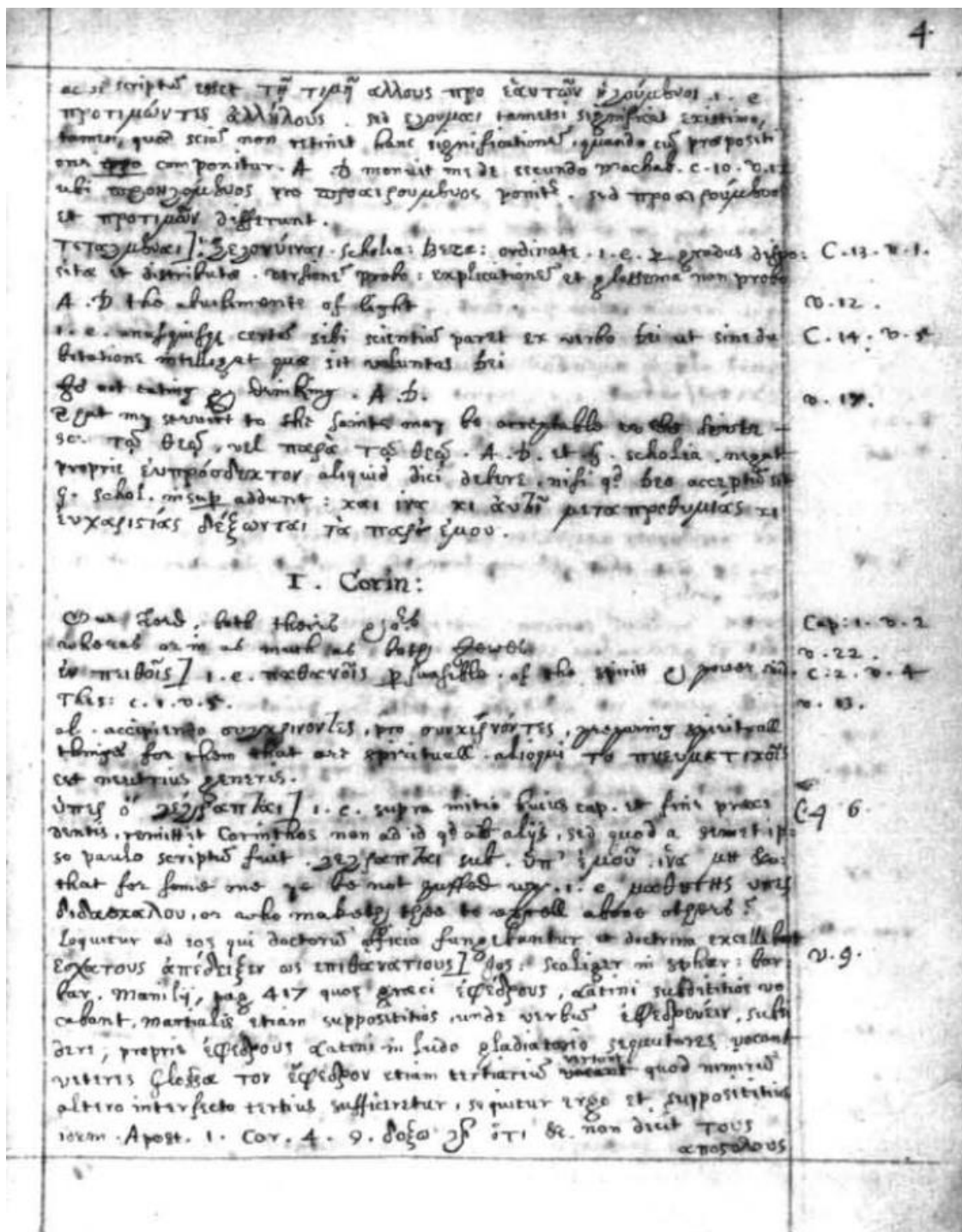
"For v. 5.

Ibid. v. 9. $\epsilon\gamma\omega$ $\alpha\pi\epsilon\delta\epsilon\chi\epsilon\upsilon$ $\omega\varsigma$ $\epsilon\pi\epsilon\delta\alpha\upsilon\alpha\tau\iota\varsigma$] Ios. Scali-
 $\text{g. in Sphaer. Barbar. Manilii, p. 417. quos Graeci}$
 $\epsilon\pi\epsilon\delta\epsilon\sigma\varsigma$, Latini in ludo Gladiatorio sequutores
vocant. Veteres Glossae $\epsilon\pi\epsilon\delta\epsilon\sigma\varsigma$ etiam Tertiarium
vertunt, quod nimirum altero interfecto tertius
sufficeretur, sequitur ergo et suppositivus. idem
Apost. 1. Cor. 4. 9. $\Delta\omicron\upsilon\delta\alpha$ $\gamma\alpha\rho$ $\delta\tau\iota$ etc. et non dicit

"ut

(Norton, 332)

- The following is an image of the second known copy of Bois's notes (MS Harl. 750) discovered in 1996 by Dr. David Norton. The document is in the possession of the British Library and is discussed in Dr. Norton's essay "John Bois's Notes on the Revision of the King James Bible New Testament: A New Manuscript".



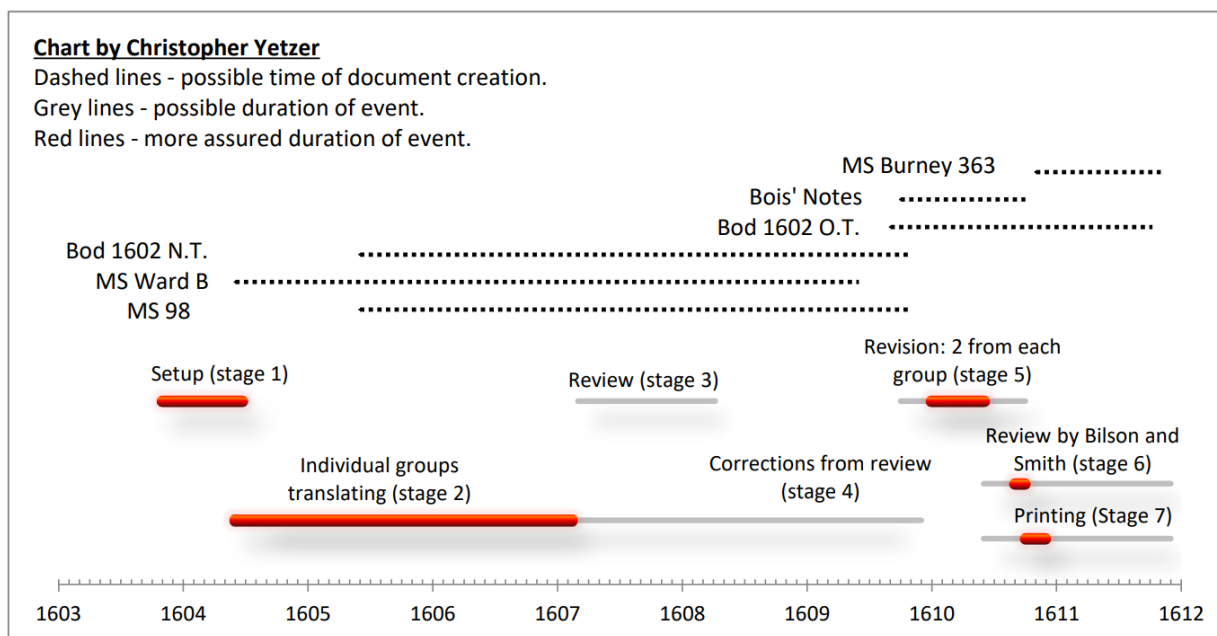
(Norton, 333)

- It is important to note that neither the Fulman MS nor MS Harl. 750 are the original copy of Bois's notes. They are both copies of Bois's original work.
- Subsequent to granting published access to the Fulman MS via the publication of his 1969 work *Translating for King James: Notes Made by a Translator of the King James's Bible*, Ward Allen published a paperback edition in 1993. Dated August 1993, the paperback edition contains its own Preface. In this Preface Dr. Allen discusses the impact the original 1969 publication had upon scholarly works by authors on the KJB in the intermittent twenty plus years.
 - "Since the original print of *Translating for King James*, many studies of the notes have suggested their various uses. An important examination of Bois's record from one chapter is Irena Doruta Backus's *The Reformed Roots of the English New Testament* (Pickwick Press, 1980). The section on Bois's notes in Muneharu Kitagakis' *Principles and Problems of Transition in Seventh-Century England* (Yamaguchi Shoten, 1981) has as subject the link between exactness and ambiguity in biblical translation. Olga S. Opfell's *The King James Bible Translators* (McFarland & Co., 1982), a detailed survey of the progress of the translation, describes the work of the General Meeting. In *The Making of the English Bible* (Carcanet New Press, 1982; Philosophical Library, 1983) and in "English Translation of the Bible," in *The Literary Guide to the Bible*, edited by Robert Alter and Frank Kermode (Harvard University Press, 1987), Gerald Hammond points out by way of examples of the translators' literary skills. Stephen Prickett brings the notes into clear focus in developing his challenging ideas in *Words and the Word* (Cambridge University Press, 1982), as does David Norton, in his magisterial work, *A History of the Bible as Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 1993). Samuel Hornsby's essay on minute points of punctuation and diction unlock secrets of the notes. And in *The Bible and the Literary Critic* (Fortress Press, 1991), Amos N. Wilder's concise description of what the notes reveal also suggest their many uses." (Allen, Preface to the Paperback Edition, v)
- Many scholarly works have been written since the 1993 release of Allen's paperback edition of *Translating For King James*. It is important to note that between 1969 and 1993 I can find no pro-King James author covering the impact of Bois's notes upon the production of the KJB. This serves to accent and underscore a point I have been making for quite a while now - the King James Only movement as it has been constituted since the 1950s enunciated a position on the KJB with zero input from the surviving primary work-in-progress documents. This has led to the propagation of information about the KJB that is not true and contrary to historical fact.

Review: Work-In-Progress Timeline

- Please recall the following work-in-progress timeline from Lesson 165.
 - Stage 1 (1604-1608)—Six companies produce draft translations.
 - MS Ward B (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge)—first draft work of Samuel Wade on 1 Esdras and Wisdom 3-4.

- MS 98 (Lambeth Palace Library)—represents the Stage 1 work of the Second Westminster Company on the New Testament Epistles.
- Bod. 1602 (Bodleian Library, Oxford)—annotated 1602 Bishops Bible with handwritten annotations of the translators. Bridges the gap between MS 98 and what was reviewed at the General Meeting(s).
- Stage 2 (1609-1610)—General Meeting(s) review the company drafts and establish the text to be printed.
 - Notes of John Bois (Corpus Christi College, Oxford-Fulman MS & British Library-MS Harl. 750)—contain Bois’s notes on the discussions of the General Meeting on Romans through Revelation.
 - MS Burney 363 (British Library)—Bois-Casaubon Correspondence from late 1610 or early 1611.
- Stage 3 (1611)—Two men, Thomas Bilson and Myles Smith, work with the King’s printer Robert Barker to see the text through to the press.
 - Two printings of the 1611 bear witness to the final decisions of the translators.
- Completeness dictates that we also note the following yet under-studied/unclassified works that could one day need to be added to our list of primary work-in-progress documents pending further study.
 - Greek Old Testament at the Bodleian Library with copious marginal notes by John Bois.
 - Isaac Casaubon’s notebooks, also at the Bodleian Library, recording conversations that he had with another translator, Andrew Downes.
- Lastly, Facebook friend and fellow researcher Christopher Yetzer furnished me with the following horizontal timeline for your consideration. Please note that Brother Yetzer’s timeline divides the Bod. 1602 Old and New Testament into two different sections on the timeline.



Works Cited

- Allen, Ward S. *Translating for King James: Notes Made by a Translator of the King James's Bible*. Vanderbilt University Press, 1969.
- Allen, Ward S. *Translating for King James: Notes Made by a Translator of the King James's Bible* [Paperback]. Vanderbilt University Press, 1993.
- Norton, David. "John Bois's Notes on the Revision of the King James Bible New Testament: A New Manuscript" in *The Library*. 6th ser., 18 1996.