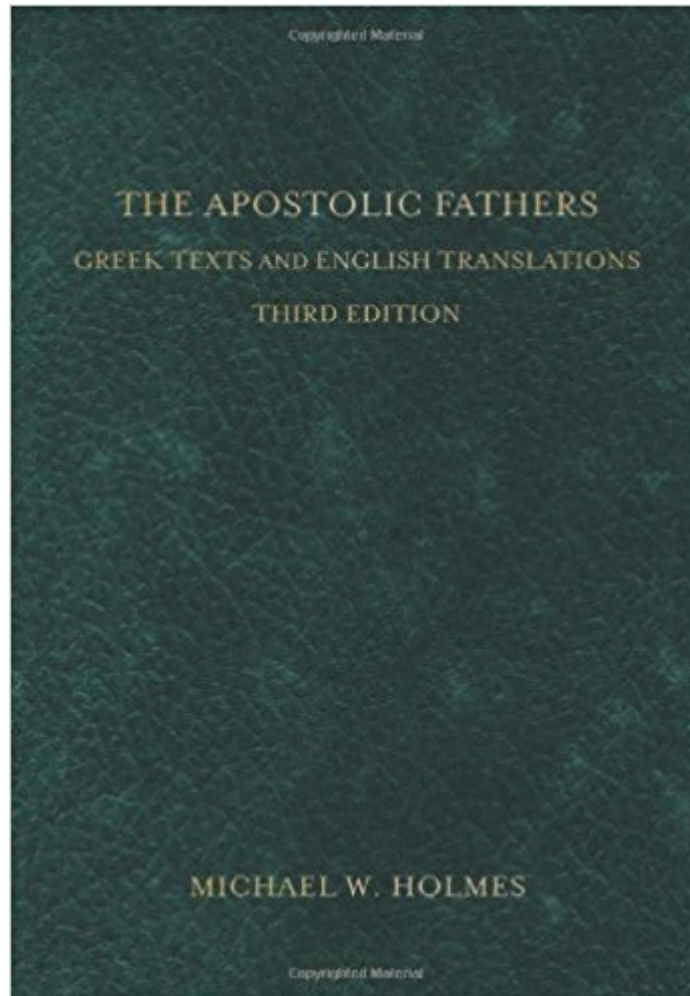




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# **The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts And English Translations**



## Synopsis

Following the publication of his revised translations in *The Apostolic Fathers in English*, 3rd ed., Michael Holmes, a leading expert on these texts, offers a thoroughly revised and redesigned bilingual edition, featuring Greek (or Latin) and English on facing pages. Introductions and bibliographies are generous and up to date. In the textual apparatus, existing notes have been revised and expanded, and well over 200 new notes have been added. This handsome and handy one-volume, thin-paper edition will be an essential resource for students and scholars and a joy to book lovers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael W. Holmes (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is professor of biblical studies and early Christianity at Bethel University and the author or editor of several books, including a commentary on 1 and 2 Thessalonians. A leading scholar of the Apostolic Fathers, he is currently writing a major critical commentary on Polycarp's Letter to the Philippians and The Martyrdom of Polycarp.

This was everything I wanted in terms of the books it contained (Barnabas, 1 & 2 Clement, the letters of Ignatius, the Shepherd, and others). Holmes makes good use of the available greek texts for the textual criticism. The only problem I have with his use of textual evidence is that he, for some reason, only thought the Shepherd of Hermas was preserved in Codex Sinaiticus in chapters 1-31:6. If you go to <http://codexsinaiticus.org/> you'll see that parts of chapters 65-68 and 91-95 of the Shepherd were also preserved in the codex. (But quite frankly, those chapters were fragmented

and leaving them out of the criticism isn't really that big of a deal in the grand scheme of things anyway). Nevertheless, this is still the best interlinear/textual-criticism compilation of the apostolic writings on the market that I know of. If you know of a better one, please let me know.

First the overall content: The Greek on one page and English on the other is very nice. The flow of the English is very nicely done. The notes are helpful for both the Greek and the English texts. These writings (inspired or not) are very insightful to the Christian faith. If nothing else, it is practice applied and good advice from a time that is far gone but still with us today. Read it and you'll understand what I mean. The Third Edition: I have a second edition paperback print and was very happy to discover this hard covered edition. The chapter-verse style layout is improved and the pages are bible thin so it sits open easily.

Excellent source to read more of the Church Fathers' wisdom and teachings. Writings provide insight and different perspectives into the issues and thinking of those early days. Some of writing were remarkable right on point with today's Church which thanks to our beloved Pope Francis is calling us to live a simpler life, loving God and spreading the Gospel. Much of material is easier to read than many of modern texts. Although I do not read Greek, it also provides the text in Greek as well as English for those that do. My favorite work was "The Epistle to Dignetus" with both Holmes introductory material and the actual epistle. I was loaned a copy of book and after reading parts I had to get my own copy so I could underline and make notes.

Kudos to Holmes and Baker House for giving us a hard cover of texts New Testament Greek learners need! Nothing else in koine Greek, besides maybe the LXX, is as helpful to NT Greek students because the vocabulary and the syntax of most the Apostolic Fathers is extremely similar to the NT. This means if you know the NT vocab, you can read large blocks of this text without having to look up words. Of course, having the English on facing sides is essential since we want to be able to check our translation and not have to refer to other books. Hermes and Didache in this book are probably EASIER than say the Gospel of John, so this book is helpful even to beginners, while other texts like Ignatius and 2 Clement provide some challenges for advanced students. And the format of this book is near perfect. I panned the second edition simply because my paperback fell apart and was hard to hold open. This edition lays flat and feels great in your hand. It uses thin paper so the book is small and portable and yet the font size is still fairly large. The only thing I don't like about the third edition is that the font is a little smaller than the second edition, whose font was

perfect, and this font is a little different, not quite as pleasing on the eye. Also, the second edition had pure white paper whereas this edition is somewhat yellow. Still, you can't have everything. The font on this text is probably bigger and nicer than say the Loeb Classical Library, and here you get all the texts in one volume which is only a little bit bigger than Loeb. This is a must have for NT Greekers!

Michael Holmes has a classic here. It is a wonderful translation of the Apostolic Fathers, and has some great introductions to the specific works. The book itself is a beauty as well. Anyone who loves reading the Apostolic Fathers and desires a Greek-English parallel, some intro but not overly extensive and also has an appreciation for a great looking/feeling book is sure to be impressed with this copy.

Many years ago, I found electronic copies of Lightfoot's English translation of the Apostolic Fathers, but did not have the Greek texts to verify his translations. With this hard copy, which I prefer to electronic copies anyway, I can now check the English on my own. The readability of the pages is very good and I like the layout - the Greek is on the left page and the English translation is on opposite facing page. The binding is good and the page size is the same as the copy of Rahlfs's Septuaginta that I bought as well.

Anyone studying the Apostolic Fathers will want to use this resource. Great layout with Greek and English on the same opening. Helpful text-critical notes, translator notes, and cross-references.

I have been very happy with this collection of texts. Holmes has done an excellent job with the concise introductions, and eloquent translations of the Greek, (etc.) works. The indices in the back are also very helpful for research. I would recommend this book to anyone that wants an English translation of the great patristic texts. I would also recommend it to Greek students who are looking for a little more exercise and learned Greek readers who would like a more wieldy collection of patristics. The book is compact, the font is very legible, the binding is solid and I couldn't be happier with my purchase.

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