

Scholars that like the NWT? Who are they?

I love the concise breakdown a blogger gives on the “scholars” referenced by the org, in their FAQ section on the NWT! ( jwfaq.blogspot.com)

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Edgar Goodspeed. This is reported to be a quote in a personal letter from Goodspeed to the WTBTs that appeared in the Awake! of March 22, 1987, page 14. However, the letter does not bear a written signature and appears to be a copy of the original, if such ever existed (to date, the Society has not produced a signed original). Also, though the letter was dated 1950, it was not used by the Society as an endorsement of the NWT until 1982. Goodspeed died in 1962 so when the WT started using this quote from a personal letter, Goodspeed was not alive to refute their claim.

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Dr. Allen Wikgren does not go on to define which “independent readings” of the NWT he finds to be “of merit.” We do not know what Dr. Wikgren thought about the NWT’s more controversial renderings, such as John 1:1 or Colossians 1:16.

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Alexander Thomson, it should be noted had no formal training in Greek or Hebrew. His articles on the NWT in The Differentiator, cannot be found and The Differentiator was not considered a scholarly publication.

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Charles Francis Potter was an Unitarian minister. He founded the First Humanist Society of New York and the Euthanasia Society of America. He also was Advisor to Clarence Darrow in his defense of John Scopes, a teacher charged with teaching evolution.

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Robert M. McCoy was so well known that I was unable to find any information on him using Google search.

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S. MacLean Gilmour was selectively quoted by the WT. He also said, “The New Testament translation was made by a committee whose membership has never been revealed. It is clear that doctrinal considerations influenced many turns of phrase. . .”

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Thomas N. Winter’s positive comments are almost all directed towards the literal translation in the KIT – very little is said of the NWT. The literal translation in the KIT is generally very good

and often may be used to demonstrate problems with the NWT. My series of blogs entitled Presto Change-O! (Part 1 is here) shows where the WT has deviated from the KIT.

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Benjamin Kedar received his PhD from Yale in 1969, but not in Hebrew. It will be noted that he limits his comments to the Hebrew Bible. Few scholars have complained about the Watch Tower inserting its dogma into the Hebrew Scriptures.

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Jason David BeDuhn received his Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. This degree requires an intermediate level of competence in Greek. BeDuhn's PhD from the U. of Indiana is in Comparative Religious Studies, not in Biblical languages. He is not recognized in the scholarly community as an expert in Biblical Greek.

4Larry Madigan and 3 others

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