

***Imperial Prize and Japan Academy Prize to:***

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for *Martin Luther: Erfurter Annotationen  
1509-1510/11*



***Outline of the work:***

Having published a series of studies on Martin Luther (1483-1546) both in Japan and Germany, Prof. Jun Matsuura has recently brought out the voluminous work on the earliest texts of the Reformer. It is a text edition with thorough and detailed introductions and commentaries:

*Martin Luther: Erfurter Annotationen 1509-1510/11*. Herausgegeben von Jun Matsuura (Archiv zur Weimarer Ausgabe der Werke Martin Luthers 9), Köln/Weimar/Wien: Böhlau Verlag 2009. CCLX+727pp.

The comprehensive edition of Luther's works, the so-called Weimar edition (*Weimarer Ausgabe*, abridged *WA*), began to appear in 1883, the fourth centennial of his birth, as a national enterprise of the newly united Germany and was officially finished in 1983, the year of the 500th Jubilee. Anticipating the completion of the *WA* the new series *Archiv zur Weimarer Ausgabe der Werke Martin Luthers* (abridged *AWA*) was established mainly for compiling further discoveries and serves as its continuation. Prof. Matsuura's work was published as Volume 9 of this series. The *WA* and the *AWA* had been hitherto edited usually by scholars in Germany or those in German speaking countries; it is epoch-making that a scholar from the Far East brought out an entire volume.

The most significant contributions of this work containing all the extant autographic texts of Luther (marginal and interlinear notes) in his Erfurt years which made the first period of his theological development are as follows:

1. Here those texts are edited for the first time which Prof. Matsuura himself had found in 1983 by way of a systematic search for books surviving from the old library of the former Erfurt monastery of the Austin Hermits to which Luther belonged from 1505 to 1511 (notes to the works of the scholastics *Bonaventura* and *William of Occam* and of the humanist *Giorgio Valla*).
2. By means of paleographic analyses of all the extant Luther autographs up to 1516 (beside the Erfurt annotations later manuscripts for exegetical lectures and personal letters) Prof. Matsuura succeeded in pin-pointing a change of a letter form during the Erfurt period that coincides with the change of inks. Together with other indices like quotations or cross references it rendered not only possible to date the annotations to *Anselm of Canterbury* to the Erfurt period which were dated previously unto years around 1516 or left undated but also to establish the relative chronology of the entire Erfurt autographs. On the basis of this he edited them anew in the whole. Hereby it became e.g. clear that Luther had thrice annotated the paragraphs concerning the term faith (*fides*) in the Book III of the *Sentences* of *Peter Lombard*, the textbook of the scholastic theology: already around the very

beginning of his lectures on them, then during the lectures on the Book II, and finally during the preparation for the lectures on the Book III – a quite exceptional case which documents a remarkably intensive efforts of the young monk and beginning theologian on this term which was to become the key of his Reformation theology.

3. While the old edition in the *WA* (1893) reproduces in principle only the notes by Luther himself indicating the annotated text paragraphs only by references to 19th century editions, this edition regards the relation to them as a constitutive element of the notes; it identifies them precisely and offers them as exact transcriptions of the text printed in the volumes annotated by Luther. After careful investigations and considerations as to their authorship it reproduces further numerous text underlines, marginal lines or other markings which by principle didn't find way into the old edition. These markings are printed with the contexts in the same way as the verbal notes. This hitherto unknown rich material gives new insights into young Luther's interests as a reader.
4. Quotations from Church Fathers like Augustine or mediaeval theologians, references to their works or supplements to references printed in the volumes (mostly additions of chapter numbers) which make a large part of the annotations are collated in principle with all the printed editions of the respective work in the time from *Gutenberg* up to the year 1511 and extant manuscripts out of the Erfurt University libraries of the period; their accordance to and differences from those of Luther's annotations are noted each time in the commentary. The printings consulted amount to ca. 700, the libraries visited for this task to around 40 institutions in 7 European countries. By this vast work the conclusions of which are summarized in the introduction we obtain insight into the actual sources of quotations and references, in consequence into the extent of the young lecturers reading and knowledge as well.
5. Similarly the text-critical notes were analyzed by collating all relevant printings and Erfurt manuscripts (all extant manuscripts in the case of *Occam* annotations which include ca. 120 text corrections). Luther's text-critical activities were hitherto nearly unknown except for the Biblical text. The discovery and detailed analysis of this aspect of his work at the beginning of his theological career elucidates his strict philological attitude to the texts from the beginning and allows a new approach to his relations to the humanism of his time.
6. The annotations to the *Sentences* are compared with the commentaries by the scholastics *Bonaventura*, *Duns Scotus*, *Occam*, *Pierre d'Ailly* and *Gabriel Biel* the consultation of which by Luther can be clearly established. Hereby the annotations are put into the context of the history of theology. Finally, the dramatic itinerary of the annotated volumes through the post Reformation history, mainly that of the Erfurt convent of the Austin Hermits since the Reformation, is reconstructed using original documents as saved in several archives in Germany.

This work which has advanced the excavation and illumination of Luther's earliest autographic documents and their backgrounds with a great leap and laid a new fundament for the Luther research, especially for researches into the making of his thought, is thus the fruit of a "strictly historico-philological method" (*konsequent historisch-philologische Methode* – Preface) developed to bring out the utmost from short and shortest texts: marginal and interlinear annotations to works of others, quotations, references to other works, text corrections and so on. It enjoys highest estimations by book reviews in 9 professional periodicals in Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, the USA and Japan. Because of these reasons this work has been judged worthy of receiving the Japan Academy Prize.