

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences

By Yii-Jan Lin

Download Read Online

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin

Since the New Testament's inception as written text, its manuscripts have been subject to all the dangers of history: scribal error, emendation, injury, and total destruction. The traditional goal of modern textual criticism has been to reconstruct an "original text" from surviving manuscripts, adjudicating among all the variant texts resulting from the slips, additions, and embellishments of scribal hand-copying.

Because of the way manuscripts circulate and give rise to new copies, it can be said that they have an "erotic" life: they mate and breed, bear offspring, and generate families and descendants. New Testament textual critics of the eighteenth century who began to use this language to group texts into families and genealogies were not pioneering new approaches, but rather borrowing the metaphors and methods of natural scientists. Texts began to be classified into "families, tribes, and nations," and later were racialized as "African" or "Asian," with distinguishable "textual physiognomies" and "textual complexions." *The Erotic Life of Manuscripts* explores this curious relationship between the field of New Testament textual criticism and the biological sciences, beginning with the eighteenth century and extending into the present.

While these biological metaphors have been powerful tools for textual critics, they also produce problematic understandings of textual "purity" and agency, with the use of scientific discourse artificially separating the work of textual criticism from literary interpretation. Yii-Jan Lin shows how the use of biological classification, genealogy, evolutionary theory, and phylogenetics has shaped-and limited-the goals of New Testament textual criticism, the greatest of which is the establishment of an authoritative, original text. She concludes by proposing new metaphors for the field.

Download The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Text ...pdf

Read Online The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Te ...pdf

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences

By Yii-Jan Lin

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin

Since the New Testament's inception as written text, its manuscripts have been subject to all the dangers of history: scribal error, emendation, injury, and total destruction. The traditional goal of modern textual criticism has been to reconstruct an "original text" from surviving manuscripts, adjudicating among all the variant texts resulting from the slips, additions, and embellishments of scribal hand-copying.

Because of the way manuscripts circulate and give rise to new copies, it can be said that they have an "erotic" life: they mate and breed, bear offspring, and generate families and descendants. New Testament textual critics of the eighteenth century who began to use this language to group texts into families and genealogies were not pioneering new approaches, but rather borrowing the metaphors and methods of natural scientists. Texts began to be classified into "families, tribes, and nations," and later were racialized as "African" or "Asian," with distinguishable "textual physiognomies" and "textual complexions." *The Erotic Life of Manuscripts* explores this curious relationship between the field of New Testament textual criticism and the biological sciences, beginning with the eighteenth century and extending into the present.

While these biological metaphors have been powerful tools for textual critics, they also produce problematic understandings of textual "purity" and agency, with the use of scientific discourse artificially separating the work of textual criticism from literary interpretation. Yii-Jan Lin shows how the use of biological classification, genealogy, evolutionary theory, and phylogenetics has shaped-and limited-the goals of New Testament textual criticism, the greatest of which is the establishment of an authoritative, original text. She concludes by proposing new metaphors for the field.

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1780473 in Books
- Published on: 2016-01-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.30" h x .80" w x 9.40" l, .95 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

Download The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Text ...pdf

Read Online The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Te ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin

Editorial Review

Review

"[A] fascinating read for biologists, shedding light not only on the relations between the 'two cultures,' but on the nature and limitations of cladistic reasoning...[Yii-Jan Lin] does a very competent job in presenting the nuances of 'speciation' in the study of manuscripts and how her field both resembles and differs from what evolutionary biologists do."--*The Quarterly Review of Biology*

"One of the strengths of her analysis is her even-handed approach Another valuable contribution is the extensive quotation of sources [T]he distinctive approach of this volume provides a new and potentially more creative way of approaching the question of self-definition [T]his engagingly humorous account of an alternative text of the Ten Commandments serves to assure the reader that, despite moments of earnestness of the preceding discussions, there is also a place for levity. Indeed, perhaps these verses should be read as a first step towards returning to a broader recognition of textual criticism as both an art and a science."--*Bryn Mawr Classical Review*

"Lin's unique description and insightful analysis of New Testament textual criticism breaths fresh air into our discipline by paralleling textual criticism and the biological sciences in their often similar nature, history, and methodologies-something genuinely innovative. Her clear focus on the bifurcation of text-critical methods during recent decades-the traditional but still contemporary approach, and the recent 'narrative textual criticism'-highlights the advances of both, but the latter has the edge in treating the text as an 'organic, living being." --Eldon Jay Epp, Harkness Professor of Biblical Literature and Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Emeritus, Case Western Reserve University; frequent adjunct professor, Harvard Divinity School (2001 to 2016)

"For nearly three hundred years, scholars engaged in New Testament manuscript studies have imagined that their work is theoretically innocent, objective, and untouched by the epistemological trends of their time. Yii-Jan Lin's book shows in compelling terms why this self-congratulatory objectivity is a complete myth. The goals, tools, and terms of textual analysis from the beginning have been thoroughly entrenched in broader ideological debates, particularly in relationship to the biological sciences. This smart, insightful, and altogether groundbreaking book is essential reading for anyone interested in textual studies." --Bart D. Ehrman, James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"This fascinating book explores the untold story of the relationship between New Testament textual criticism and the life sciences, from Linnaeus and Bengel, through Darwin and Hort, to the use of phylogenetic software today. Written from the standpoint of the history of ideas, it offers insightful and challenging critiques of the language and conceptual framework of textual scholarship. This book is necessary reading

for every philologist." --David Parker, Edward Cadbury Professor of Theology, University of Birmingham

About the Author

Yii-Jan Lin is Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. She received her PhD in religious studies from Yale University and an MA in English literature from the University of Chicago.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carroll Torres:

What do you consider book? It is just for students because they are still students or it for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that question above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great along with important the book The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences. All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Edwin Dulac:

The knowledge that you get from The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences may be the more deep you looking the information that hide inside the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by means of anyone who read that because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this particular The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences instantly.

David Wood:

The actual book The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences has a lot associated with on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research prior to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you will get the point easily after reading this article book.

Patricia Beall:

You can get this The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological

Sciences by browse the bookstore or Mall. Just simply viewing or reviewing it could to be your solve difficulty if you get difficulties for your knowledge. Kinds of this book are various. Not only by means of written or printed but also can you enjoy this book by e-book. In the modern era like now, you just looking of your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your current ways to get more information about your e-book. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still up-date. Let's try to choose proper ways for you.

Download and Read Online The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin #LT74V6GMZ9F

Read The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin for online ebook

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin books to read online.

Online The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin ebook PDF download

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin Doc

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin Mobipocket

The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences By Yii-Jan Lin EPub