

LONG JOB ACCOMPLISHED

Portland Man Had Hand In Preparing New Bible

By JACK OSTERGREN

A Portland man celebrated with the rest of Christendom when the Revised Standard version of the Bible was released to the public September 30 and, in addition, he must have felt a sense of achievement.

But it was a quiet sort of satisfaction, for Dr. Otto F. Linn of 1102 SE 51st avenue is a quiet sort of man. His modesty is apparent. The fact that he helped in preparation of the new Bible is something he discusses only when pressed to do so.

Dr. Linn, minister of the Church of God, professor of Greek and the New Testament, and dean of the Pacific Bible college in Portland, was a member of the advisory board chosen by the International Council of Religious Education to bring forth a "Bible for the 20th century."

LONG RESEARCH

Two groups carried out the 15-year-long research program for the Revised Standard edition. Translators made up one group. The other was a 50-member advisory board, representing various denominations, to which the translators referred questions and doubtful points.

Dr. Linn represented the Church of God on the board. He was chosen because of his aptitude in two languages, Greek and Hebrew. Most of his work concerned the New Testament.

He gave an idea of the scope of the job when he observed:

"There are about 4500 manuscripts, in whole or in part, on the New Testament, and no two are alike. They go back as far as the 2d century, A. D. Manuscripts are very few on the Old Testament, and they are more recent ones."

WORDS TRICKY

Translation was made difficult, he said, when some word would appear only once. Its meaning would have to be determined by context—the way in which it fitted into the meaning of the sentence.

"The King James version is in beautiful English," he conceded, "but they didn't know as much about Greek as we do now. We've had years to study it."

Dr. Linn was born in Salina, Kas., and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Phillips university, Enid, Okla. At the University of Chicago divinity school, he received his degree as doctor of philosophy with a dissertation on "textual criticism"—the same field involved in his work on the Revised Standard Bible.

For a time, he was with the Anderson (Ind.) college and theological seminary, and then he preached from a pulpit in Dundalk, Md. He moved to Portland in 1942.

Oregon Journal

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1952



HE CAN READ IT—Dr. Otto F. Linn, Portland minister and teacher who helped prepare recently issued Revised Standard version of Bible, displays part of New Testament written on leather scroll he got from Egypt. He said manuscript is not ancient, but is good example of Hebrew workmanship. He served on advisory board, answering knotty research questions.