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Transformations in Deuteronomistic and Biblical Historiography On »Book-Finding« and other Literary Strategies

Thomas C. Römer

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Transformations in
Deuteronomistic and Biblical Historiography
On «Book-Finding» and other Literary Strategies¹

By Thomas C. Römer

(Université, BFSH 2, CH-1015 Lausanne)

According to biblical tradition there was a united kingdom under David and Solomon. Under their epigons this kingdom splitted up into North and South.

Following Martin Noth's² reign, there existed one whole deuteronomistic history (DH). Under his epigons this history splitted up according to Cross or Smend, which brought forth two important transformations of Noth's original Deuteronomist. In the States the Deuteronomist mainly became josianic and was completed by some exilic additions, in Germany the Dtr. was multiplied by three or more authors and redactors working in the exilic and post-exilic period. The discussion between these two conceptions often came close to a sort of religious war, and only in the last years a few voices arose arguing for a conciliation, as for instance Lohfink's or McKenzie's³. So many histories of research have been written on this topic that I do not intend here to undertake a new one.⁴

We may mention Thompson's critics regarding the idea of dtr. *historiography*⁵. If we take historiography in the Greek sense of «enquiry

¹ Paper read on the SBL Meeting, 1994, Chicago, November 19–22.

² M. Noth, *Überlieferungsgeschichtliche Studien. Die sammelnden und bearbeitenden Geschichtswerke im Alten Testament*, 1967¹. Quotations and references will be made on the English translation: *The Deuteronomistic History*, JSOT.S 15, 1991².

³ S. L. McKenzie, Art. Deuteronomistic History, ABD 2, 1992, 160–168; N. Lohfink, in: *Die Botschaft und die Boten* (FS H. W. Wolff), 1981, 87–100 = *Studien zum Deuteronomium und zur deuteronomistischen Literatur II*, SBA. AT 12, 1991, 125–142; A. D. H. Mayes, *The Story of Israel Between Settlement and Exile. A Redactional Study of the Deuteronomistic History*, 1983; see also M. O'Brien, *The Deuteronomistic History Hypothesis*, OBO 92, 1989; E. Cortese, in: *Pentateuchal and Deuteronomistic Studies. Papers Read at the XIIIth IOSOT Congress Leuven 1989*, C. Brekelmans & J. Lust ed., 1990, 179–190.

⁴ For recent histories of research cf. H. D. Preuß, ThR 58 (1993), 229–264.342–395; G. N. Knoppers, *Two Nations Under God. The Deuteronomistic History of Solomon and the Dual Monarchies*, HSM 52, 1994, Vol. 1, 1–90.

⁵ T. L. Thompson, Art. *Israelite Historiography*, ABD 3, 206–212.

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