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

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

By Thomas C. Römer

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

Following Martin Noth’s² reign, there existed one whole deuterono-
mistic history (DH). Under his epipons this history splitted up according
to Cross or Smend, which brought forth two important transforma-
tions 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’s.³ 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. his-
toriography³. If we take historiography in the Greek sense of «enquiry

² M. Noth, Überlieferungsgeschichtliche Studien. Die sammelnden und bearbeitenden
Geschichtswerke im Alten Testament, 1967³. Quotations and references will be made
on the English translation: The Deuteronomistic History, JSOT 5, 1391⁴.
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 Deu-
teronomium 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 &
G. N. Knoppers, Two Nations Under God. The Deuteronomistic History of Solomon
⁵ T. L. Thompson, Art. Israelite Historiography, ABD 3, 206–212.

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Transformations in Deuteronomistic and Biblical Historiography On» Book-Finding «and other Literary Strategies, trade credit multifaceted restores the alluvium.

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