Old Testament Textual Criticism

mation presented. A full list of these symbols may be found in *BHS* (xliv–l). For the purposes of this book, an abbreviated list of these symbols can be found in table 9.

TABLE 9 SYMBOLS USED IN BHS

Symbol	Meaning
ш	Samaritan Pentateuch
α΄	Aquila's Greek version
ε	Origen's Greek revision
θ΄	Theodotion's Greek version
ο εβρ΄	Origen's Hebrew text
σ΄	Symmachus's Greek version
น	Arabic version
в	Bomberg edition (ben Hayyim)
Bo	Bohairic version (Coptic)
С	Cairo Codex of the Prophets
¢	Hebrew fragments from Cairo Geniza
Ed(d)	Hebrew editions according to Kennicott, de Rossi, Ginsburg
Q	the Septuagint
Hier	Jerome
К	Kethiv
L	Leningrad Codex
Ľ	Old Latin (Itala)
m	Masoretic Text
Mm	Masorah magna
Мр	Masorah parva
Ms(s)	Medieval Hebrew manuscript(s) according to Kennicott, de Rossi, Ginsburg
Occ	Western Masoretes
Or	Eastern Masoretes
Orig	Origen
Q	Qere
Q	Qumran manuscripts
5	Syriac (Peshitta)

Introduction to BHS

Symbol	Meaning	
Sa	Sahidic version (Coptic)	
C	Targums	
Tiq soph	Tiqqun sopherim	
υ	Latin Vulgate	
+	it adds, they add	
>	is omitted, is missing	

A second source of difficulty in reading the textual apparatus in *BHS* is that the text of the apparatus is written in an abbreviated form of Latin. Several works are available to help the beginning student deal with the Latin text of the *BHS* apparatus.¹²

Finally, it will be helpful to survey the general kinds of textual notes that appear in *BHS*. In the first place, many notes serve only to cite some peculiarity or idiosyncrasy of the Leningrad Codex. These notes may be of two types: those related to accents (Ps. 2:2, note b; Ps. 5:10, note c), and those related to differences in vocalization (Exod. 35:32, note a).

Next, there are notes about Hebrew manuscripts or ancient versions that offer an alternate reading. The simplest of these gives an alternate reading for a word or words in the text (Exod. 32:19, notes a and b; see figure 7).¹³ Others give a word or words that a manuscript or version adds to the text (Exod. 32:18, notes a and b; see figure 7). Yet others indicate that a word or words of the Hebrew text are missing in certain manuscripts or versions (Exod. 32:29, note c; see figure 7).

Finally, some notes give the editor's suggestion for a certain text (the editor in these cases is the individual who was

12. The least extensive is Hans Peter Rüger, *An English Key to the Latin Words and Abbreviations and the Symbols of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 1985). (An adaptation of Rüger's work is found in the appendix to this volume.) More extensive and helpful are Wonneberger, *Understanding BHS*; Scott, *Simplified Guide to BHS*; and Würthwein, *Text of the Old Testament*.

13. On occasion, these alternate readings represent mere grammatical variation. In other cases, the variants involve differences in meaning.