

Biblical commentaries offer fascinating insights into how the foundational texts of Christianity have been understood across the generations. The manuscripts of these commentaries, in Greek, Latin and the other languages of the early Church, shed light on the origins and transmission of these texts. In addition, ancient commentaries also provide some of the earliest surviving evidence for the text of the New Testament. Yet their witness has often been neglected or misrepresented because of the complexity of their presentation and textual tradition.

The COMPAUL project, funded by the European Research Council under the European Union Seventh Framework Programme, investigated the earliest commentaries on Paul as sources for the biblical text. Its work on early Greek and Latin commentary tradition is represented in several of the papers in this volume, including studies of Greek New Testament catena manuscripts and the interplay between Latin biblical commentators and their Greek forerunners. Related topics are treated in contributions from some of the world's leading scholars in this field, extending the range of enquiry from the first centuries of Christianity to the later reception and transmission of New Testament commentaries in both Byzantine and Western traditions, as well as introducing material in Gothic, Coptic and Arabic.

The result is a comprehensive volume of original research papers which represent the state of the art in the study of commentaries and catenae. The advances in knowledge provided by this collection will both inform and enable further scholarship on the text and transmission of the New Testament.