



The AGNT Project Report—Q2 2009

As a licensee or friend of AGNT or ANLEX, we would like to update you once a quarter about our continuing work to enhance and perfect these databases and about our plans for the future.



The Project. The Analytical Greek New Testament Project is now in its thirty-third year. Its purpose is to provide aids to translators, students, and scholars of the Greek New Testament.

The initial product was the *Analytical Greek New Testament* (AGNT), which was published by Baker Book House in 1981 and now offered by [Trafford Publishing](#). The second product was the *Analytical Concordance of the Greek New Testament*, published in two volumes (lexical focus; grammatical focus) by Baker Book House in 1991. These two volumes are out of print and are not to be reprinted. Due to advances in computing between 1980 and 1990—to say nothing of those through the present time, there was no need to represent electronically the exact form of the concordances, since their content and more were available through user-initiated interactive searches in the Greek text enabled through several good software packages. The third output of the project was the *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament* (ANLEX), published in 2000 by Baker Book House and reissued by [Trafford](#) in 2005.

The AGNT Project Report—Q3 2008 introduced the team, outlined ongoing tasks, and discussed potential tasks.



Revising the Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament. In this issue, Timothy Friberg explains how he is revising the Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament (ANLEX).

Revising the Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament

In an earlier newsletter (fourth quarter, 2008) we discussed our AGNT revision project, in particular, the addition of a “fourth line,” specifically an English reference gloss (ERG) assignment. Here we summarize our parallel efforts to revise the Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament (ANLEX).

The parallel revisions of AGNT and ANLEX are inextricably tied. Adding ERGs to AGNT, which themselves come from the definition write-ups of ANLEX, we are presented a unique opportunity to revise various deficiencies found in ANLEX itself.

First and foremost then, we are looking at the definitions of ANLEX themselves to make sure that each gives optimal information to the user. Although Neva Miller’s work as primary contributor to the definitions was excellent, in fact not every GNT

reflex is adequately handled in ANLEX for every lemma. Our current efforts at providing ERGs for every next AGNT reflex are providing the ideal situation to make sure that each write-up covers the breadth of reflex usage. Although we are indeed seeking to account for *breadth* of reflex usage, as editors of a more popular-directed lexicon of New Testament Greek, we gladly leave the presentation of the *depth* of reflex usage to others, for example, BDAG.

Included in definition revisions are occasional reorderings of the presentation outline for whatever good purpose, usually to show the material more logically or clearly.

Further pursuant to the close interaction of AGNT and ANLEX, we are actually designating a pointer at each assigned ERG to the specific sub-definition location in the definition write-ups of ANLEX. This will necessarily be available only in electronic versions of ANLEX.

Additionally, we are adding a morpheme breakdown of each listed lemma, based on and in cooperation with Harold Greenlee's "A New Testament Greek Morpheme Lexicon." We recognize both the dangers of morpheme-based meaning assignments and the advantages of learning when the cognate relationships among several lemmas are known.

Among other definition-level changes, we are identifying the particular sense (intensifying or otherwise) of the preposition morpheme in compound verbs (and their derivatives). Furthermore, we are strengthening what we perceive as an ANLEX weakness, now more fully indicating the transitivity status of verbs. Where predicates function transitively, we are identifying whether their oblique arguments are accusative, dative or genitive, or whether also the verb, although transitive in sense, is used absolutely.

In the revision of ANLEX there will be more references given, illustrative of usage. Our hope is to give at least one reference for every subtype of definition, more for difficult or complicated ones, leaving unreferenced only those cases where for the completeness of fuller Greek usage of our discussion, a particular notation is not specifically found in the Greek New Testament.

There are still a few items unsubscribed on our "wish list" for which we would be happy to engage volunteer scholarly help. For example, one of these is to conduct a study of compound verb usage and its interaction with free standing prepositional phrases and then to comment, as appropriate, in those definitions of ANLEX where we observe differences in emphasis among the functions of the possible combinations. For example, what are the relative emphasis differences among εἰσέρχομαι plus noun versus εἰσέρχομαι plus εἰς + noun versus ἔρχομαι plus εἰς + noun?

The form of our lemmas varies in some places from those of other lexicons and that by design. For example, for us verb-ω versus verb-ομαι choices are based on first-century usage. It is our intention, consistent with our commitment to represent every extant form, to show lexical variation in ANLEX. Our treatment of such is generally found in listing alternate forms parenthetically following the lemma. We hope that ANLEX ultimately gives the best of presentations possible. We are always alert to improve here and elsewhere.

We are always attentive to correct wrong or incomplete analysis tags in ANLEX. Furthermore, we are adding in all known reflexes from whatever manuscript (for

ANLEX there is no variant reading status in our definition treatments, for we take every manuscript occurrence as an expression of New Testament Greek). Again, the ongoing revision will make a good lexicon better.

To earn the analytical designation for our lexicon, we present an as-exhaustive-as-possible listing of every form known to us, for we never know which reader of what facility in Greek will open ANLEX to seek help concerning what form. We are happy to do that. However, we are happier when readers move from novice status to expert by whatever means, although we hear even from a few experts that they occasionally open ANLEX. To aid that upward movement for every user, we are currently exploring adding a “grammatical sketch” that would show both extensive conjugations and inflections, on the one hand, and carefully phrased linguistic rules of formation, on the other, that would put generalizations on paper for pedagogical reasons. Some recent discussions encourage us, although we might have to depend on successors to implement all that is helpful and hoped for.

As always, we are ever ready to field input from friends of AGNT and ANLEX. If you have ideas that will make our contributions better for their intended audiences, please let us hear from you.

The Passing of a Friend. We are saddened to inform you of the death of Robert Merz, longtime AGNT project contributor. Bob succumbed to an acute infection on June 30, which his body's immune system, weakened by extended treatment for leukemia, could not fight off. Among other project tasks, Bob contributed a sharp eye to checking ANLEX definitions for theological bias. He checked one 300-lemma set for appropriateness of reference gloss assignments and at the time of his death was doing a thorough check of prepositions for the same. Most missed of all Bob's contributions was his cheerful readiness to receive a research request and thoroughly work it through for inclusion in the project.

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As always, we remain open to developing AGNT and ANLEX in ways that are most useful to the needs of students and readers of God's Word.

Thank you for your continued support of *The AGNT Project*, for faithfully marketing the AGNT and ANLEX databases, and for making these state-of-the-art tools for studying the Greek New Testament available to students, scholars, pastors, and laypeople worldwide.

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