

It was claimed that the documents, as now rearranged by Graf, Kuenen, and Wellhausen, showed exactly how this development took place. Thus it came about that an anachronistic approach to the interpretation of ancient documents was preserved because of its connection with a philosophic theory of origins.

For forty years Wellhausen reigned supreme. Then a new approach, which had long been gradually coming forward, began to make itself felt in Old Testament studies. This I shall call the factual approach.