

*SNSF MARK16 second international conference – 2-3 June 2022, online
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The Shorter Ending: reconsidering the enigma of Mark's endings

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Abstract

This second MARK16 online conference opens obviously a Pandora box: the multiple traditions of the so-called shorter ending. As listed in a [2021 article](#), it can be found at least in six different languages, with 20 witnesses in Greek, Latin, Coptic, Syriac, and Arabic and 131 Ethiopic attestations. Often neglected as a marginal element, the shorter ending demonstrates a very early and large spreading. In a [1970 article](#), Kurt Aland was already convinced that this *merkwürdiges Phänomen* had to be explained.

Starting from the complex and fascinating Latin attestation of the Codex Bobbiensis, with its four main particularities in Mk 16, this paper will underline the main features of this plural tradition and try to suggest what was at stake around the so-called shorter ending. The presence of an early and various spreading of the shorter ending could lead to reconsider research viewpoint about Mark's endings.