"The Deuterocanon was Poorly Written"

Objection #2: "The writing quality of the disputed books are inferior to the undisputed books. Even the author of Second Maccabees acknowledged this when he wrote, 'If it is well written and to the point, that is what I wanted; if it is poorly done and mediocre, that is the best I could do' (2 Maccabees 15:38). How could the word of God be mediocre?"

Answer: A closer look at this passage reveals that the author did not believe his work to be "poorly done and mediocre" only that he believed that his work might not live up to everyone's expectations. He believed the work to be the fruit of his best effort and he commends it to the readers for their enjoyment, which he states in the following verse: "Just as it is harmful to drink wine alone or water alone, whereas mixing wine with water makes a more pleasant drink that increases delight, so a *skillfully composed story* delights the ears of those who read the work…"[1] This is what the author intended. The "mediocre" statement reflects the author's humility that Second Maccabees may not size up *literarily* with the other works.

But is it true that the Holy Spirit, when he inspires a writer, imposes only the highest literary skills upon the human author? Surely, not. When the Holy Spirit inspires writers, He respects their human qualities, skills and personality. This is why the books of the Bible read differently. The writings of Paul are a different style than that of James, or Jude or Luke. Likewise, the author of the Psalms has a different style than Esther or Ezekiel or Joel. Yet, the Holy Spirit is the primary author of all these books. Literary skill is the property of the secondary instrumental human author, and this skill varies from person to person.

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[1] 2 Maccabees 15:39 (emphasis mine)