Nag Hammadi Library After Fifty Years

The Nag Hammadi Library after Fifty YearsThe Nag Hammadi Library in EnglishWhat Happened to the Ancient Library of Alexandria? The Gnostic Discoveries The Non-Canonical Gospels The Cambridge History of Ancient Christianity Snapshots of Evolving Traditions Lire Descartes aujourd'hui Mary Magdalene Coptic Studies on the Threshold of a New Millennium Historical Dictionary of the Coptic Church Religious Diversity in the Graeco-Roman World Flora Tells a Story The Biblical Archaeologist The Nag Hammadi Library in English A Bibliography of Pseudepigrapha Research 1850-1999 The Middle East, Abstracts and Index The Journal of Library History After the New Testament St. Irenaeus of Lyons Against the Heresies Turner James James McConkey Robinson Mostafa el-Abbadi Marvin W. Meyer Paul Foster Bruce W. Longenecker Liv Ingeborg Lied Maurice F. Wiles Robin Griffith-Jones Mat Immerzeel Gawdat Gabra Dan Cohn-Sherbok Michael Kaler James McConkey Robinson Lorenzo Di Tommaso Bart D. Ehrman Saint Irenaeus (Bishop of Lyon.)

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this volume contains 22 papers originally delivered at the society of biblical literature s 1995 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the nag hammadi library of these papers five focus on the theme past present and future research on the nag hammadi codices j m robinson s emmel b a pearson h m schenke e m yamauchi thirteen stem from three seminars respectively devoted to the apocryphon of john m waldstein f wisse k l king and s laporta the gospel of thomas and the thomasine tradition p h poirier p h sellew j m sevrin i dunderberg s r johnson a deconick and the gospel of philip e pagels e thomassen m turner and two deal with the valentinian school c markschies l painchaud t janz

first published in 1978 the nag hammadi library was widely acclaimed by critics and scholars alike containing many of the writings

of the gnostics since the time of christ this was the work that launched modern gnostic studies and exposed a movement whose teachings are in may ways as relevant today as they were sixteen centuries ago although some of the texts had appeared in other translations the 1978 edition was the first and only translation of these ancient and fascinating manuscripts to appear in one volume this new edition is the result of ten years of additional research and editorial and critical work every translation has been changed or added to many have been thoroughly revised unearthed in 1945 near the town of nag hammadi in upper egypt the texts literally begin where the dead sea scrolls end their discovery is seen as equally significant bringing to light a long hidden well of new information sources and insights into early judaism and the roots of christianity each text is accompanied by a new and expanded introduction also included are a revised general introduction and an afterword discussing the modern relevance of gnosticism from voltaire and blake through melville and yeats to jack kerouac and science fiction writer philip k dick the translations and introductions to the nag hammadi texts are by members of the coptic gnostic library project which includes such scholars as helmut koester george mcrae and elaine pagels

this book aims at presenting a new discussion of primary sources by renowned scholars of the long disputed question of what happened to the ancient library of alexandria the treatment includes a brilliant presentation of cultural alexandrian life in late antiquity

the gnostic discoveries opens with a thrilling adventure story the discovery of the ancient papyri at nag hammadi hidden in sealed jars and lost for centuries the papyri have revealed much about early christianity including alternative views that were suppressed by the early church author marvin meyer traces the history and impact of this great find on the church right up to our current beliefs and popular cultural fascination with this officially suppressed secret knowledge about jesus and his followers marvin meyer is one of the foremost scholars on gnosticism the nag hammadi library and texts about jesus outside the new testament he is griset professor of bible and christian studies and director of the albert schweitzer institute at chapman university orange california among his more recent books are the gospels of mary the gospel of thomas the hidden sayings of jesus the gnostic bible and secret gospels essays on thomas and the secret gospel of mark the author's concise presentation will appeal to many readers meyer writes clearly bringing both the people and the times of the early gnostic writings to life and making them accessible to scholar and layperson alike publishers weekly

this book brings together a collection of chapter length treatments on the most significant of the non canonical gospels a particular strength of the volume is that it draws upon the research of leading experts in the field and clearly and concisely communicates the most hotly contested issues surrounding each text while a key function of each chapter is to make the current academic debates accessible to a wider audience these treatments are not simply overviews or survey articles they also present fresh perspectives on a number of points and critically assess the most recent trends in scholarship as such they will provide an ideal entry point for advanced undergraduate courses and taught masters programmes the structure of the book is divided up in an easily useable format there is an introduction which underscores the significance of the non canonical texts both for the

original readers and for contemporary audiences this chapter by keith elliott also traces important moments in the reception of a number of these texts both in art and literature next follows the main sequence of chapters dealing with individual texts texts such as the gospel of thomas the gospel of peter and the gospel of mary are treated first due to the impact they have had to varying degrees on historical jesus research other texts are grouped in various subgroups the two infancy gospels follow each other and the more fragmentary texts are also closely linked in the arrangement the book presents one of the most comprehensive and up to date discussions of a range of texts that continue to be of interest to scholars and wider readers the discussions should clarify a number of popular misconceptions and allow for a more informed debate the scholars who contribute to this collection represent an eclectic range of views and theological outlooks no attempt has been made to impose a prescribed perspective rather the leading experts have been consulted to produce fresh and stimulating treatments the book will include contributions from andrew gregory oxford christopher tuckett cambridge april deconick rice and simon gathercole aberdeen among others

the first three hundred years of the common era witnessed critical developments that would become foundational for christianity itself as well as for the societies and later history that emerged thereafter the concept of ancient christianity however along with the content that the category represents has raised much debate this is in part because within this category lie multiple forms of devotion to jesus christ multiple phenomena and multiple permutations in the formative period of christian history within those multiples lie numerous contests as varieties of christian identity laid claim to authority and authenticity in different ways the cambridge history of ancient christianity addresses these contested areas with both nuance and clarity by reviewing synthesizing and critically engaging recent scholarly developments the 27 thematic chapters specially commissioned for this volume from an international team of scholars also offer constructive ways forward for future research

scholars of early christian and jewish literature have for many years focused on interpreting texts in their hypothetical original forms and contexts while largely overlooking important aspects of the surviving manuscript evidence and the culture that produced it this volume of essays seeks to remedy this situation by focusing on the material aspects of the manuscripts themselves and the fluidity of textual transmission in a manuscript culture with an emphasis on method and looking at texts as they have been used and transmitted in manuscripts this book discusses how we may deal with textual evidence that can often be described as mere snapshots of fluid textual traditions that have been intentionally adapted to fit ever shifting contexts the emphasis of the book is on the contexts and interests of users and producers of texts as they appear in our surviving manuscripts rather than on original authors and their intentions and the essays provide both important correctives to former textual interpretations as well as new insights into the societies and individuals that copied and read the texts in the manuscripts that have actually been preserved to us

the figure of mary magdalen has fascinated and perplexed people for centuries she is portrayed in the gospels as a neurotic woman possibly with a past yet she is the first to encounter the risen christ and he charges her with the responsibility of proclaiming the resurrection she is therefore christianity s first evangelist a difficult concept for churches with exclusively male

hierarchies who prefer to think of her as just a reformed prostitute the belief that mary magdalen was married to jesus and that the church has tried to suppress this truth was not invented in recent years but is almost as old as christianity itself this gives a grand tour through 2000 years history art and tradition with surprises and discoveries all the way

the congresses organised every four years under the auspices of the international association for coptic studies iacs are the main forum for scholars of egyptian christian life and culture through the ages the proceedings of the seventh congress which was held in leiden in 2000 comprise ninety nine papers reflecting the growth and diversification of coptic studies worldwide they include valuable and sometimes groundbreaking essays in topics of for example coptic language literature monasticism and archaeology a particularly noteworthy and important feature of the present proceedings are the state of the art reviews of current trends and achievements in the main fields of the discipline written by invited experts and accompanied by extensive bibliographies these review articles cover aspects of coptic studies as diverse as papyrology gnosticism liturgy copto arabic and art history they turn these two volumes into real reference books indispensable for every scholar of early church history late antiquity and near eastern christianity

the coptic church is based on the teaching of saint mark who brought christianity to egypt during the first century copts members of the coptic church comprise the largest christian community in the middle east the coptic church is more than nineteen centuries old and has produced thousands of texts and biblical and theological studies today there are more than one million members of the coptic church but the majority lives abroad in north america and australia most left egypt primarily because of economic and political discrimination historical dictionary of the coptic church through its chronology introductory essay bibliography and more than 400 cross referenced dictionary entries on important people organizations structures theological practices of the church literature and liturgy and monasteries and churches details the history of this fascinating institution and its followers book jacket

this pioneering study by leading scholars in the field surveys a century of scholarship and seeks to untangle the complexities of religious interactions and conflict in the first century ce over the last hundred years there has been a great deal of interest in the nature of religious diversity in the graeco roman world a wide variety of scholars have attempted to untangle the complexities of religious interaction and conflict that characterized it in every phase students of this period now have a convenient and authoritative introduction to recent work in this vast field of scholarship the volume comprises philip esler on palestinian judaism in the first century john barclay on diaspora judaism charlotte hmpel on the essenes donald hagner on historical jesus studies james dunn on paul thomas o loughlin on the early church graham anderson on greek religione robin mc l wilson on gnosticism and john court on mithraism

in early christianity many people were inspired to write gospels treatises letters and stories celebrating the new faith but not all of these writings are found in the new testament one such story from an unknown author is the coptic gnostic apocalypse of paul a tale of the apostle paul s ascent to the heavens that was lost for millennia and rediscovered at nag hammadi in 1945 in flora tells

a story michael kaler discusses the apocalypse of paul and how it was shaped by its literary environment the book takes a behind the scenes look at early christian literary production analyzing the ways in which various literary traditions such as apocalyptic writings gnostic thought and understandings of paul influenced the author of the apocalypse of paul and helped to shape the text it also includes a new annotated english translation of the apocalypse of paul and a fictional account of how it might have come to be written this work is the most in depth study of the apocalypse of paul to date and the only full length discussion of it in english it provides a detailed but accessible account of the literary environment in which its author worked and integrates this little known work into the broader stream of early christian writings this book will be of interest to specialists in nag hammadi and gnostic studies and early christian literature but will also appeal to the general reader interested in christianity mysticism and gnosticism

the remarkable diversity of christianity during the formative years of the first three centuries has become a plain even natural fact for most ancient historians however until now there has been no source book of primary texts that reveals the many varieties of christian beliefs practices ethics experiences confrontations and self understandings to help readers recognize and experience the rich diversity of the early christian movement after the new testament provides a wide range of texts both orthodox and heterodox it includes such works as the apostolic fathers the writings of nag hammadi early pseudepigrapha martyrologies anti jewish tractates heresiologies canon lists church orders liturgical texts and theological treatises in addition rather than including only fragments of texts this collection provides substantial sections entire documents wherever possible organized under social and historical rubrics

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Introduction

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