

The Nag Hammadi Library

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The Gnostic Gospels of Jesus
Jung and the Lost Gospels
James James McConkey Robinson Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Böhlig C.A. Evans James McConkey Robinson John Dart David Scholer Charles River Charles River Editors Søren Giversen James M. Robinson Antti Marjanen Paul Linjamaa Charles W. Hedrick Turner Ulla Tervahauta Charles W. Hedrick Marvin W. Meyer Stephan A. Hoeller

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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 many 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

on the 60th anniversary of the discovery of ancient gnostic texts at nag hammadi a leading scholar explains the historical significance and continuing influence of these alternative views of christianity suppressed by the early church

a comprehensive english translation of the nag hammadi scriptures a group of ancient manuscripts uncovered in 1945 that are the basis of the mystical tradition called gnosticism

preliminary material foreword james m robinson preface alexander bölig and frederik wisse table of tractates alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib sigla alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib abbreviations alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib the manuscripts alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib the title alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib the content alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib the presentations of praise alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib the text and translation alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib commentary alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib bibliography alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib coptic words alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib greek words alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib proper names alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib references alexander bölig frederik wisse and pahor labib

this volume places in synoptic form parallel texts from nag hammadi and from the bible this will enable scholars of coptic gnosticism as well as scholars concerned with early christian biblical interpretation to make the comparisons necessary to determine relationships and what dependence if any there may be between these two bodies of material this volume should facilitate the discussion concerning the origin antiquity and relationship of gnosticism to christianity the volume also

contains an extensive bibliography of materials relevant to this topic finally a scripture index will make it possible for the reader to find quickly any desired passage

in december 1945 two egyptian fellahin digging for natural fertilizer in the Nile river valley unearthed a sealed storage jar the jar proved to hold treasure of an unexpected sort a collection of some fifty two ancient manuscripts most of which reflect the teachings of a mystical religious movement we call gnosticism from the greek word gnosis knowledge the texts are also with few exceptions christian documents and thus they provide us with valuable new information about the character of the early church and about the gnostic christians within the church in this volume Marvin W. Meyer has produced a new english translation for general readers of four of the most important and revealing of these early christian texts the secret book of James the Gospel of Thomas the book of Thomas and the secret book of John

this is a sequel to the immensely useful Nag Hammadi bibliography 1948 1969 which was the first volume to appear in the Nag Hammadi studies series the volume provides a complete integration of supplements i xxiv to the bibliography as published in *Novum Testamentum* 1971 1997 with additions and corrections in total the update contains over 6092 entries Nag Hammadi and gnostic studies continue to be of critical importance for the study of ancient religions in the Graeco Roman world and for the study of the world of early christianity and the present bibliography provides an indispensable reference tool for work in these fields

includes excerpts from the texts includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading many people interested in biblical themes know about the Dead Sea scrolls and their guardians the mysterious Essenes the sect of Judaism that hid its priceless library in caves before marching against the Romans in an end time war certain that God would intervene at the decisive moment the ancient texts found in their rock cabinets have produced tons of literature fewer people know about an equally fascinating finding in the same region of the planet made only a few months apart a collection of hitherto unknown christian codices buried in the 4th century AD and found accidentally by peasants near the city of Nag Hammadi Upper Egypt among the old codices was the Gospel of Thomas lost for sixteen centuries and other unfamiliar titles such as the Gospel of Philip and the Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles in this case it was not Essenes who had entrusted them to the protection of the caves and the centuries but monks who followed a now forgotten variant of christianity called gnosticism the gnostics were mystics who had no real use or hope for the world their writings became forbidden when the church defined the canon of the books authorized to be read in the congregation for some reason instead of burning them the monks

of nag hammadi decided to entrust them to posterity perhaps waiting for better times the library of nag hammadi egypt is as significant in the study of early christianity as the writings of the essenes to the understanding of judaism during the time of the roman occupation considering the history of religions they were composed at the opposite sides of that watershed that was the 1st century ce which witnessed the birth of christianity and the destruction of the temple of jerusalem the dead sea scrolls belonged to a community that lived before the traumatic destruction of holy city and its temple at the hands of the romans the library of nag hammadi was produced and buried by a group of christians whose ancestors had left their place of origin many years before although all the titles of the nag hammadi library are not known many people have heard about its most famous components the gospel of thomas at one time it was discussed whether it should be included in the new testament and the gospel of philip which tried to revive the debate around the identity of mary magdalene why do you love her more than all of us asks a disconcerted peter to jesus finally the nag hammadi texts have led many scholars to reconsider the rigid canons imposed by the early church and the readers to find a more intimate religion that turned upside down many postulates of christian orthodoxy along with the history of their discovery in 1945 the analysis of the main texts that form this collection the exposition of their most important beliefs and the reasons for their suppression in the 4th century ce you will learn about the unknown gospels and the gnostic texts of nag hammadi like never before

the collection of thirteen codices found in upper egypt near nag hammadi in 1946 is one of the major archaeological discoveries of our time apparently the library of a gnostic community in late antiquity the codices are a repository of important spiritual materials from throughout the ancient world hence a thorough analysis of this new material is indispensable for any proper understanding of the history of religions in this period the rich documentation which the codices add to early coptic text material promises to raise to a new precision the historical analysis of that language this edition presents collotype reproductions in natural size of all folios of the thirteen codices as well as reproductions of the covers and photographs previously taken of fragments that are now lost

this is the first comprehensive study on mary magdalene in those second and third century gnostic texts in which jesus most famous female follower gains a prominent position special attention is paid to the way mary is presented in relation to other disciples and to how her portrait pertains to gender imagery used in the writings detailed text analyses based on a careful philological study show that no uniform picture and use of the figure of mary can be traced contrary to a common supposition the book also demonstrates that the positive view of mary displayed in the

texts does not automatically imply a positive attitude towards women in general the work provides a basis for all further discussion of mary magdalene in the nag hammadi and related documents

paul linjamaa s study explores the way in which fourth century egyptian monks produced read and studied the nag hammadi codices

this volume presents critical editions of three of the most fragmentary codices in the nag hammadi library their nine tractates are presented in an english translation with critically edited transcriptions of coptic texts including introductions and notes a complete set of indices is provided for coptic and greek words proper names ancient texts and authors and modern authors the contents of these three ancient books reflect the rich diversity of the library as a whole they include a fragmentary and apparently non christian revelation descent narrative hypsiphrone a non christian sethian text reflecting heavy platonizing influence allogenenes hellenistic greek wisdom literature sentence of sextus a non christian sethian text secondarily christianized trimorphic protennoia valentinian gnosticism a valentinian exposition a christian gnostic tractate with valentinian affinities the interpretation of knowledge a christian gnostic perhaps valentinian homily on the gospel the gospel of truth the first page of on the origin of the world completely preserved in nhc ii and an identified fragmentary tractate with ethical content there are also five valentinian liturgical supplements appended to allogenenes the publication of these religious philosophical materials from nag hammadi provides the scholar and interested reader with critical editions of texts that help to fill in background and context of gnostic origins and that shed light on the interaction among early christianity and gnostic movements in antiquity

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 sellow 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 janzen

authentikos logos nhc vi 3 also known as authoritative teaching is a little studied story of a soul s descent and ascent in the nag hammadi library with her book ulla tervahauta fills a gap in the scholarship and provide the first monograph length study that has this writing as its primary

focus the aim is to find a place and context for authentikos logos within early christianity but tervahauta also adds new insight into the scholarship of the nag hammadi library and study of early christianity contrary to the usual discussion of the nag hammadi writings from the viewpoint of gnostic studies she argues that authentikos logos is best approached from the context of christian traditions of late ancient egypt between the third and the fifth centuries tervahauta discusses the story of the soul's journey in light of various christian and platonic writings also she analyses the relationship of authentikos logos with the valentinian wisdom myth and suggests that no firm evidence connects the writing closely with valentinian traditions and although a platonic mind set can be assumed the writing combines motifs in a unique manner for example the four epithets used in the writing the invisible soul the pneumatic soul the material soul and the rational soul are not found thus combined elsewhere discussion of matter hyle is connected with christian scriptural allusions and the focus is on ethics and the evilness of matter the body on the other hand is the soul's place of contest and progress the pauline term pneumatic body 1 cor 15 44 is used allusively and from a platonic perspective with this book ulla tervahauta makes an important contribution to the study of early christianity in late ancient egypt by discussing a writing that shows knowledge and creative combination of literary traditions that circulated in late ancient egypt

this book acquaints the beginner with the topic of gnosticism and early christianity and presents to the specialist some of the new frontiers their colleagues are exploring for the beginner there is a concise introduction to gnosticism it covers the issues of origin literature leading ideas and possible links with early christianity each contributor has prepared a preface to his or her paper that points to its salient features and explains how the essay fits into the overall subject of the book from the preface

in the gnostic gospels of jesus world renowned gnostic literature expert marvin meyer presents every known gnostic gospel and jesus text gathered together in one book included are the gospel of thomas the gospel of philip and the gospel of mary along with lesser known texts like the secret book of john which some scholars regard as the second part of the new testament gospel of john detailed notes from meyer explain everything the reader needs to know to understand the text the texts in the gnostic gospels of jesus present an image of jesus as the ultimate wisdom teacher who scandalized listeners by his radical egalitarianism and his insistence on living the message he taught marvin meyer is the foremost expert on the nag hammadi texts and texts about jesus outside the new testament he is griset professor of bible and christian studies co chair of the department of religious studies and director of the albert schweitzer institute at chapman university orange

ca marv is one of the original secret gospels scholars who has done an enormous amount of work to bring these texts to light all of his research on the nag hammadi texts is having an incredible impact on our knowledge of early christian history it is virtually redefining it dr elaine pagels princeton university

the lost gospels refer to the dead sea scrolls and the nag hammadi library both discovered in the 1940s the nag hammadi library consists of writings found by two peasants who unearthed clay jars in 1945 in upper egypt these did not appear in english for 32 years because the right to publish was contended by scholars politicians and antique dealers the dead sea scrolls discovered in clay jars in palestine by a goatherder in 1947 weathered similar storms the first team of analysts were mostly christian clergy who weren't anxious to share material that frightened church leaders as dr hoeller shows they rightly feared the documents would reveal information that might detract from unique claims of christianity indeed the dead sea scrolls and nag hammadi library both contradict and complement accepted tenets of the old and new testaments

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