

The Nag Hammadi Library

The Nag Hammadi Library in English
The Gnostic Discoveries
The Nag Hammadi Scriptures
Nag Hammadi Codices III, 2 and IV, 2
Nag Hammadi Texts and the Bible
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Nag Hammadi and the Gospel Tradition
The Nag Hammadi Codices and their Ancient Readers
The Monastic Origins of the Nag Hammadi Codices
The Coptic Gnostic Library
Nag Hammadi Codices V, 2-5 and VI with Papyrus Berolinensis 8502, 1 and 4
The Woman Jesus Loved
A Story of the Soul's Journey in the Nag Hammadi Library
Nag Hammadi Codices IX and X
James James McConkey Robinson Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Böhlig C.A. Evans James McConkey Robinson Charles River Charles River Editors Søren Giversen James M. Robinson John Dart Charles W. Hedrick Christopher Mark Tuckett Paul Linjamaa Hugo Lundhaug James McConkey Robinson Parrott Antti Marjanen Ulla Tervahauta Birger Albert Pearson

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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

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

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

the nag hammadi scriptures edited by marvin meyer is the most complete up to date one volume english language edition of the renowned library of gnostic manuscripts discovered in egypt in 1945 which rivaled the dead sea scrolls find in significance it includes the gospel of thomas the gospel of mary and the recently discovered gospel of judas as well as other gnostic gospels and sacred texts this volume also includes introductory essays notes tables glossary index etc to help the reader understand the context and contemporary significance of these texts which have shed new light on early christianity and ancient thought the compilation of ancient manuscripts that constitute the nag hammadi scriptures is a discovery that challenges everything we thought we knew about the early christian church ancient judaism and greco roman religions

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

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 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 religio 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

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

Paul Linjamaa's study explores the way in which fourth century egyptian monks produced read and studied the Nag Hammadi codices

Hugo Lundhaug and Lance Jenott offer a sustained argument for the monastic provenance of the Nag Hammadi codices they examine the arguments for and against a monastic *sitz im leben* and defend the view that the codices were produced and read by christian monks most likely Pachomians in the fourth and fifth century monasteries of upper egypt eschewing the modern classification of the Nag Hammadi texts as gnostic the authors approach the codices and their ancient owners from the perspective of the diverse monastic culture of late antique egypt and situate them in the context of the ongoing controversies over extra canonical literature and the theological legacy of Origen through a combination of sources including idealized hagiographies travelogues monastic rules and exhortations and the more quotidian details revealed in documentary papyri manuscript collections and archaeology monasticism in the thebaid is brought to life and the Nag Hammadi codices situated within it the cartonnage papyri from the leather covers of the codices which bear witness to the monastic culture of the region are closely examined while scribal and codicological features of the codices are analyzed and compared with contemporary manuscripts from egypt special attention is given to the codices scribal notes and colophons which offer direct evidence of their producers and users the study ultimately reveals the Nag Hammadi codices as a collection of books completely at home in the monastic manuscript culture of late antique egypt

the gnostic library continues where the dead sea scrolls left off it is based on the Nag Hammadi codices which were unearthed in 1945 a discovery considered as significant as the dead sea scrolls themselves the coptic gnostic library contains all the texts of the Nag Hammadi codices both in the original coptic and in translation it sheds an invaluable light upon early judaism and the roots of christianity now available in paperback

preliminary material foreword james m robinson preface douglas m parrott table of tractates in the coptic gnostic library douglas m parrott abbreviations and short titles douglas m parrott textual signs douglas m parrott introduction douglas m parrott codicological analysis of nag hammadi codices v and vi and papyrus berolinensis 8502 james m robinson nhc v 2 the apocalypse of paul william r murdock and george w macrae nhc v 3 the first apocalypse of james william r schoedel nhc v 4 the second apocalypse of james charles w hedrick nhc v 5 the apocalypse of adam george w macrae nhc vi 1 the acts of peter and the twelve apostles r mcl wilson and douglas m parrott nhc vi 2 the thunder perfect mind george w macrae nhc vi 3 authoritative teaching george w macrae nhc vi 4 the concept of our great power frederik wisse and francis e williams nhc vi 5 plato republic 588b 589b james brashler nhc vi 6 the discourse on the eighth and ninth peter a dirkse james brashler and douglas m parrott nhc vi 7 the prayer of thanksgiving peter a dirkse and james brashler nhc vi 7a scribal note douglas m parrott nhc vi 8 asclepius 21 29 peter a dirkse and douglas m parrott bg 1 the gospel of mary r mcl wilson and george w macrae bg 4 the act of peter james brashler and douglas m parrott word indices douglas m parrott references to ancient works and authors douglas m parrott

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

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

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