

The Nag Hammadi Library

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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

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

this important tool will greatly facilitate research into the relationship of biblical texts and the materials that make up gnosticism to date no exhaustive scripture index to nag hammadi has been prepared one of the significant features of this volume is that it fills this lacuna

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

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 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

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

a study of gnosticism examines the various ways early christians strove to define themselves in a pluralistic roman society while questioning the traditional ideas of heresy and orthodoxy that have previously influenced historians

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 writingas 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 thatshows knowledge and

creative combination of literary traditions that circulated in late ancient egypt

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

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