

Newsletter “Beyond Canon” – November 2020

Dear Fellows and Friends,

It has been quite a while since you last heard of us. However, this newsletter issue is brimful of exciting news and information – news fellows, news publications, and, most of all: a very rich SBL *Beyond Canon_* panel is waiting for you.

This makes up at least a bit for the ongoing COVID situation, which forced us to schedule all lectures for the winter semester as Zoom seminars – to the great advantage of those who are not present in Regensburg at the moment.

We are already working on our summer semester programme from March onwards. If you would like to read a paper, please write an e-mail to stephanie.hallinger@ur.de – and for more news, [follow us on Facebook!](#)

1. New Fellows in Regensburg

It has been quite some time since we welcomed new fellows in our Centre. The new academic year, however, brought two of them to us – both are staying for a full year. A heartfelt welcome to

[Prof. Dr. Jens Schröter](#) (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Lehrstuhl für Exegese und Theologie des Neuen Testaments sowie die neutestamentlichen Apokryphen), who many of you might know – amongst others – as Managing Editor of *Early Christianity*, Main Editor of the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, and many monographs on Jesus and apocryphal gospels, as well as co.editor of *Antike christliche Apokryphen in deutscher Übersetzung* (together with Christoph Marksches).

[Dr. Benedek Kruchió](#) moved from Cambridge to Regensburg right after his Viva. He studied Classics in Vienna, at the Humboldt University (Berlin), and in Cambridge (UK). His PhD thesis focuses on Heliodorus' *Aethiopica* and analyses the author's handling of his readers' and characters' states of knowledge. It also discusses the influence of movements such as Neoplatonism and Christianity on Heliodorus' work under epistemological aspects.

2. Preview: Zoom lectures from November 2020 – February 2021

Struggling with the same uncertainties each and every one of us faces at the moment, we finally decided to have our whole lecture series for this semester online. One of the advantages of the digitalization, however, is the internationalization of our Zoom participants. We thus had to coordinate different time zones and could not stick to our usual 10 am slot any more. Please find an overview of all lectures in attachment and the latest version [in our events calendar](#).

What's new: We are now offering a number of lecture series (all in English), such as

- Our Fellows' Brunch,
- The Kommentare zur Apokryphen Literatur,
- The Novum Testamentum Patristicum, and
- Open talks (with somewhat wider topics than our project).

3. SBL Beyond Canon_ Panel

Our Fellow Janet Spittler presides the *Beyond Canon Session S3-205* (Christian Apocrypha – December 3, 2020, 7:00 pm CET) with the following papers:

- Tobias Nicklas, Universität Regensburg: “An Introduction to the Beyond Canon Collaborative Research Group”
- Garrick V. Allen, Dublin City University: “Manuscripts Beyond the Canon”
- Thomas Kraus, Universität Zürich: “Senator Marcellus as an Early Christian Role Model: The Destruction and Restoration of a ‘Statue of Caesar’ in Acta Petri 11”
- Lily Vuong, Central Washington University: “Visual Representations of Early Marian Apocryphal Texts as Reception History”
- Cosmin Pricop, University of Bucharest: “Retelling Apocryphal Stories through Liturgical Texts”
- Mari Mamyán, Universität Regensburg: “St. Thomas the Apostle in Armenian Church Tradition”.

The papers for this session are being successively published online beforehand via <https://www.ancientjewreview.com/read>

4. Beyond Canon_ Summer School

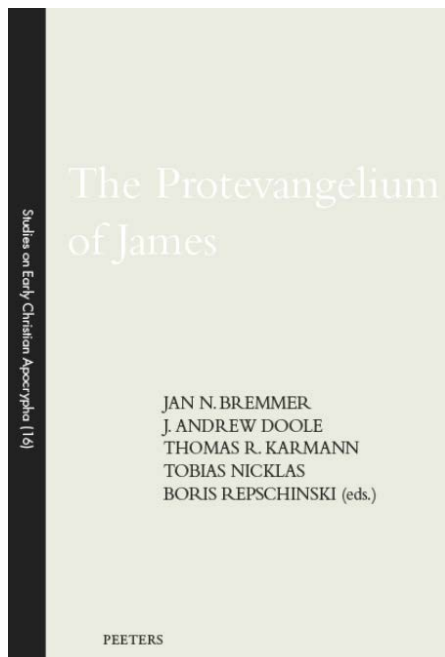
If the situation allows it, our 2021 Summer School will take place in Rome at the KNIR (Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut Rome). It will explore the stupendous importance of extra-canonical traditions and the complex interplay between texts, rituals, and material culture in the formation and development of the Christian memorial landscape in late antique Rome. It shall investigate the literary heritage of extra-canonical writings, trace their influence in archaeology, iconography, and art, and explore how they reverberate even in the Roman liturgy, which, on its surface, appears extremely biblical. Although the primary focus will be on Late Antiquity, the long-term reception history in later periods with their magnificent rituals, art, and architecture will not be neglected.

We shall spend ca. half of the time in the classroom and half of the time on-site, visiting the monuments. Lectures by the instructors, common reading of extracts from key sources, and contributions by the participants will alternate with and be informed by visits to outstanding monuments, some of which are not regularly open to the wider public. Instruction language will be English.

For more details on participation and registration, please see the attached flyer.

5. Publications related to our “Beyond Canon_” project

BREMMER J.N., DOOLE J.A., KARMANN T.R., NICKLAS T., REPSCHINSKI B. (ED.S), *The Protevangelium of James* (Studies on Early Christian Apocrypha, 16), Leuven: Peeters 2020.

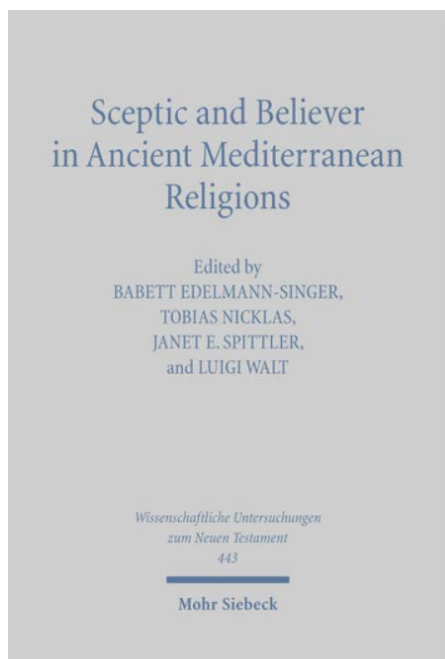


This book is the first modern collection of studies on important aspects of the Protevangelium of James. The

volume opens with three chapters on introductory questions, such as the canonical or apocryphal status of the Protevangelium in early Christianity, its date, author and provenance, and the way it adapted and developed earlier traditions about the birth of Jesus. The subsequent chapters first focus on the protagonists Mary and Joseph, after which they discuss the Jewish aspects of the Protevangelium, Salome's manual inspection of Mary, the place and nature of space in the Protevangelium, and the question of the text's consistency and coherence. The final two chapters discuss a series of annunciation scenes in Christian and Islamic literature, which are often heavily dependent on the Protevangelium, and the latter's reception in the Armenian Gospel of the Infancy. The Appendix looks at the Armenian apocryphal text entitled Script of the Lord's Infancy, a witness to the great popularity enjoyed in Armenia by the early Syriac apocryphal stories of Christ's birth and childhood. As has become usual, the volume concludes with an extensive bibliography and a detailed index.

[Publisher's website](#)

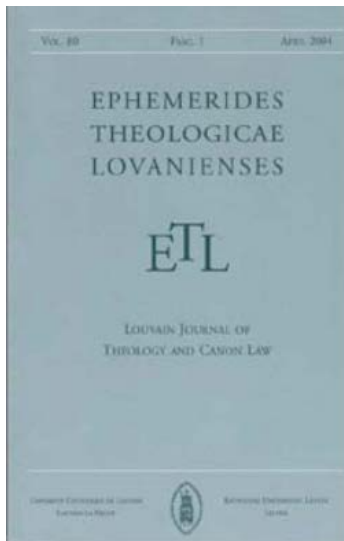
BABETT EDELMANN-SINGER, TOBIAS NICKLAS, JANET E. SPITTLER, AND LUIGI WALT (ED.S), *Sceptic and Believer in Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 443), Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2020



Was ist die Rolle der Skepsis in der religiösen Umwelt des Mittelmeerraums? Wie wird Zweifel innerhalb einer religiösen Gemeinschaft ausgedrückt? Worin unterscheidet sich der »Zweifel des Zugehörigen« von der skeptischen Einstellung des Außenstehenden? Die Beiträge dieses Bandes untersuchen diese Fragen mit Bezug auf breitgefächerte religiöse Sinnzusammenhänge der Antike.

[Publisher's website](#)

BAR-ASHER SIEGAL, MICHAL, NICKLAS, TOBIAS (ED.S): Women in Biblical and Para-Biblical Jewish and Christian Literature (Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses 96.3/2020).



The contributions of the following volume go back to a workshop on women figures in ancient biblical and parabiblical Jewish and Christian literature. The meeting which took place between 27th and 29th of march 2019 at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), Beer Sheva, Israel, was organized as a cooperation between the Goshen-Goldstein International Center for Jewish Thought at BGU and the DFG financed Centre for Advanced Studies „Beyond Canon_“ at Universität Regensburg, Germany.

[Publisher's website](#)

Blick in die Wissenschaft 41: Apokryphe Traditionen / Forschungsmagazin der Universität Regensburg



Our university dedicated the latest issue of its research magazine to our project – featuring articles from Tobias Nicklas (introduction), Janet Downie, Janet Spittler, Predrag Bukovec, Andreas Merkt, and an interview with Mari Mamyran and Jan N. Bremmer by Stephanie Hallinger. If you would like to receive a PDF

of the magazine, please write an e-mail to Stephanie.hallinger@ur.de

Abstract: Schwerpunkt unseres aktuellen „Blick in die Wissenschaft“ sind Texte, Riten und Dinge, die mit apokryphen Traditionen in Verbindung stehen und eine besondere Wirksamkeit im kirchlichen Leben entfaltet haben. In fünf Beiträgen und einem Interview werfen Autorinnen und Autoren des Centre for Advanced Studies (Kollegforschungsgruppe FOR 2770) der Fakultät für Katholische Theologie einen Blick Jenseits des Kanons und auf den besonderen Reiz dieses Forschungskollektivs. Interessantes erfahren wir über Tocquevilles Mutmaßungen über die Zukunft der Demokratie und Creole City und Cajun Country sind unser Reiseziel. Wir gehen den Fragen nach einem Grundrecht auf Bundesligafußball, nach dem Rezept für gesundes Altern und nach der Steuerung eines Mitfahrnetzwerks auf den Grund. Lassen Sie sich am Schluss zeigen, wie in der Molekularen Paläontologie die „Auferweckung“ urzeitlicher Proteine von statten geht.

[Publisher's website](#)

Please take care and stay healthy! Best wishes,

Your “Beyond Canon_“ team

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