

I thought some of you might be interested to know about a symposium focusing on early Christian apocrypha that will be taking place in the fall. The schedule for the event has just been sent. If any of you is near there, you should think about going! It looks terrific. It is being organized principally by Tony Burke, along with Brent Landau; they are two very active scholars in the field of apocrypha studies.

Here's what the lineup looks like.

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### **Fakes, Forgeries, and Fictions: Writing Ancient and Modern Christian Apocrypha**

The 2015 York University Christian Apocrypha Symposium will take place September 24-26 at Vanier College, York University. The specific objectives for the 2015 Symposium are: 1. to examine the possible motivations behind the production of Christian Apocrypha from antiquity until the present day, 2. to integrate medieval and modern apocrypha (composed in the 19th to 21st centuries) into the wider study of apocryphal literature, and 3. to reflect on what the reactions to the recently-published *Gospel of Jesus' Wife* can tell us about the creation, transmission, and reception of apocryphal Christian literature.

The highlight of this year's event is a keynote address by Bart Ehrman, author of *Forgery and Counterforgery: The Use of Literary Deceit in Early Christian Polemics* (2012), and most recently *How Jesus Became God* (2014).

The event is organized by Tony Burke (York University) in consultation with Brent Landau (University of Texas at Austin). It brings together 20 Canadian and U.S. scholars to share their work and discuss present and future collaborative projects.

The symposium is open to scholars, students, and interested members of the public; all may register for the event and take part in discussions. One of the goals of the symposium is to make the work of North American scholars on the Christian Apocrypha more widely known, not only to scholars in cognate disciplines (such as New Testament Studies or Medieval Studies) but also to students, who will be the future scholars in the discipline, as well as to the wider public who is interested in the texts but has been ill-informed about them through films, novels, and fringe scholarship.

The York University Christian Apocrypha Symposium Series was created in 2011. The first symposium gathered together experts on the controversial *Secret Gospel of Mark*, a text that many scholars consider a modern forgery. The papers from that event were published by Cascade in early 2013 as *Ancient Gospel or Modern Forgery? The Secret Gospel of Mark in Debate*. The 2013 symposium featured over 20 Canadian and U.S. scholars to reflect on the North American approaches to Christian Apocrypha. The papers from that event will be published by Cascade in September 2015 as *Forbidden Texts on the Western Frontier: The Christian Apocrypha in North American Perspectives*.

### **Registration**

Registration fees have been kept very low to encourage participation, particularly from students. Those who register receive advance draft copies of the papers and can enjoy free drinks and snacks throughout the event. To register, download the [REGISTRATION FORM](#) here.

## **Preliminary Program**

Thursday, September 24:

Evening reception for presenters

Friday, September 25:

9:00-9:15 Introductions: Tony Burke (York University) and Brent Landau (University of Texas in Austin)

9:15-12:00 – Session 1: Composing Apocrypha in Antiquity

Stanley E. Porter (McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, Ontario), “Lessons from the Papyri: What Apocryphal Gospel Fragments Reveal about the Textual Development of Early Christianity.”

Ross Ponder (University of Texas in Austin), “Reconsidering P. Oxy. 5072: Creation and Reception, Visual and Physical Features”

Paul Dilley (University of Iowa), “Post-Canonical Apocryphicity and the Homiletic Shift”

Pierluigi Piovanelli (University of Ottawa), “What Has Pseudepigraphy To Do with Forgery? Reflections on the Cases of the *Acts of Paul*, the *Visio Pauli*, and the Zohar.”

1:00-3:00 – Session 2: Apocryphal Apostolic Pseudepigraphy

Annette Yoshiko Reed, “Sub-Apostolic Pseudepigraphy and the Construction of the Apostolic Past: The Case of Clement of Rome”

Dominique Côté (University of Ottawa), “In the Name of James and Clement. The Brother of Jesus in the *Pseudo-Clementines*”

Caitlin Purcell, (Duke University), “The Letters of Paul and Seneca as Stoic Propaganda in Early Christian Writing”

Gregory P. Fewster (University of Toronto), “Paul as Letter Writer and the Success of Pseudepigraphy: Constructing an Authorial Paul in the Corinthian Correspondence”

4:00-5:00 – Session 3: Modern Apocrypha

Tony Burke (York University), “‘Lost Gospels’ of the Nineteenth Century”

Bradley Rice (Concordia University), “The Apocryphal Tale of Jesus’ Journey to India:

Nicolas Notovitch and the *Life of Saint Issa* Revisited”

8:00-9:30 – Keynote Address by Bart D. Ehrman (James A. Gray Distinguished Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), “Apocryphal Forgeries: The Logic of Literary Deceit”

Saturday, September 26:

9:00-12:00 – Session 4: Historical and Cultural Contexts of the Apocrypha.

Anne Moore (University of Calgary), “‘Days of Our Lives’: Female Friendship/Rivalry In the New Testament Apocrypha”

Brandon W. Hawk (University of Tennessee), “‘Cherries at command’: Preaching the *Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew* in Anglo-Saxon England”

Tim Pettipiece (University of Ottawa), “Manichaean Redaction of the Secret Book of John”

Pamela Mullins Reaves (Colorado College), “Pseudo-Peter and Persecution: (Counter-)

Evaluations of Suffering in Coptic *Apocalypse of Peter* (NHC VII,3) and *The Letter of Peter to Philip* (NHC VIII,2)”

1:00-3:00 – Session 5: Gospel of Jesus’ Wife

Carrie Schroeder (University of the Pacific), “Gender and the Academy Online: the Authentic Revelations of the Jesus Wife Fragment.”

James McGrath (Butler University), “Jesus’ Wife, Her Sister-in-Law, and the Bloggers”

Mark Goodacre (Duke University), “ Blogging Jesus’ Wife.”

Janet Spittler (University of Virginia), Respondent

3:00-4:00 Concluding Reception



[Misquoting Jesus Interview on WPSU](#)  
[BBC Clip on “The Lost Gospels”](#)