

The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Apocrypha addresses issues and themes that arise in the study of early Christian apocryphal literature. It discusses key texts including the *Gospel of Thomas*, the *Gospel of Mary*, the *Gospel of Peter*, letters attributed to Paul, Peter, and Jesus, and acts and apocalypses written about or attributed to different apostles.

Part One consists of authoritative surveys of the main branches of apocryphal literature (gospels, acts, epistles, apocalypses, and related literature) and Part Two considers key issues that they raise. These include their contribution to our understanding of developing theological understandings of Jesus, the apostles, and other important figures such as Mary. It also addresses the issue of the value of these texts as potential sources for knowledge of the historical Jesus, and for debates about Jewish-Christian relations, the practice of Christian worship, and developing understandings of asceticism, gender and sexuality. The volume also considers questions such as which ancient readers read early Christian apocrypha, their place in Christian spirituality, and their place in contemporary popular culture and theological discourse.

Andrew Gregory is Chaplain and Fellow of University College, Oxford.

Christopher Tuckett is Emeritus Professor of New Testament Studies at the University of Oxford and Emeritus Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford.

Consultant Editors

Tobias Nicklas is Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Hermeneutics at the University of Regensburg.

Joseph Verheyden is Professor of New Testament at the University of Leuven.

Oxford Handbooks offer authoritative and up-to-date surveys of original research in a particular subject area. Specially commissioned essays from leading figures in the discipline give critical examinations of the progress and direction of debates, as well as a foundation for future research. *Oxford Handbooks* provide scholars and graduate students with compelling new perspectives upon a wide range of subjects in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

The Oxford Handbook *of* EARLY CHRISTIAN APOCRYPHA

- Features twenty-five authoritative essays by leading scholars in the field
- Surveys the main branches of early Christian apocryphal literature, including gospels, acts, epistles, and apocalypses.
- Discusses questions such as which ancient readers read early Christian apocrypha, their place in Christian spirituality, and their place in contemporary popular culture and theological discourse

Contributors

Richard Bauckham, François Bovon, Harald Buchinger, Tony Burke, Claire Clivaz, J. K. Elliott, Paul Foster, Jörg Frey, Simon Gathercole, Andrew Gregory, Judith Hartenstein, L.W. Hurtado, Robin M. Jensen, Outi Lehtipuu, Petri Luomanen, Candida R. Moss, Tobias Nicklas, Stephen J. Patterson, Pheme Perkins, Richard I. Pervo, Jens Schröter, Yves Tissot, Charlotte Touati, Christopher Tuckett