

Newsletter “Beyond Canon” – December 2018

Dear Fellows and Friends,

Shortly before the end of the year, we’d like to give you a brief update about our “Beyond Canon” project:

1. Relocation of our office

Our project finally found a “home” at the Universität Regensburg: In the first days of December, we moved into our **newly refurbished rooms** (Sammelgebäude, Rooms 319-321). Additionally to our coordination office, the rooms provide working space for eight Fellows, small conferences – and a small kitchen for coffee and tea. Please note the impressive World Heritage view from our windows!



2. Publications

Our Fellow Professor Stephen Shoemaker has just published a book exactly matching our project topic; Tobias Nicklas and Jan Bremmer have accompanied the publication:

Stephen J. Shoemaker, *The Dormition and Assumption Apocrypha* (Studies on Early Christian Apocrypha 15), Leuven: Peeters, 2018.

This volume gathers a dozen essays by the author on the ancient traditions of Mary's Dormition and Assumption, all of which expand on the work published in his major study on this topic, *The Ancient Traditions of Mary's Dormition and Assumption* (Oxford, 2002). The essays were originally published between 1999 and 2011 and cover a broad range of topics in relation to traditions about the end of Mary's life, from ancient gnostic Christianity to Christian anti-Judaism to the beginnings of Marian veneration. Although each of these items was previously published in another venue, for the first time this volume makes these writings on the Virgin's Dormition available together, offering an important supplement and in some cases update of the earlier monograph. While its chapters remain largely faithful to the original publications in their content, when appropriate, they have been selectively updated to account for more recent research.

Publisher's website: <http://www.peeters-leuven.be/boekoverz.asp?nr=10638>

Also freshly printed and edited by our Fellows Jens Schröter and Joseph Verheyden as well as by our Director general Tobias Nicklas:

Jens Schöter, Tobias Nicklas, Joseph Verheyden (eds.), *Gospels and Gospel Traditions in the Second Century. Experiments in Reception* (Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft 235), Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter 2019.

The second century CE has often been described as a kind of dark period with regard to our knowledge of how the earliest Christian writings (the gospels and Paul's letters) were transmitted and gradually came to be accepted as authoritative and then, later on, as "canonical". At the same time a number of other Christian texts, of various genres, saw the light. Some of these seem to be familiar with the gospels, or perhaps rather with gospel traditions identical or similar to those that found their way into the NT gospels. The volume focuses on representative texts and authors of the time in order to see how they have struggled to find a way to work with the NT gospels and/or the traditions behind these, while at the same time giving a place also to other extra-canonical traditions.

It studies in a comparative way the reception of identifiably "canonical" and of extra-canonical traditions in the second century. It aims at discovering patterns or strategies of reception within the at first sight often rather chaotic way some of these ancient authors have cited or used these traditions. And it will look for explanations of why it took such a while before authors got used to cite gospel texts (more or less) accurately.

Publisher's website: <https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/488036>

3. Project website in development

We are currently working on **our project website** <https://www.uni-regensburg.de/forschung/beyond-canon/> which is to be filled with content in the course of the next few months. Inter alia, we want to dedicate a small **microsite to each of our Fellows**.

If you would like to claim your web space, **please send us the following documents** and we will take care of the online publication:

- short introduction text about yourself (100-200 words) and dates of your Fellowship
- license-free image (at least 200 + 266 px)
- current CV and publications list (.pdf or .docx).

4. Forthcoming events

Our **Regensburg conference** "Extracanonial Traditions and the Holy Land: Texts, Rituals, and Material Culture in Late Antique Palestine" is to take place from **July 2-5, 2019**. Most of the papers have already been confirmed, you'll find the draft programme attached to this newsletter.

In the meantime, we are busy filling the timetable of **our research colloquium**. We are looking forward to some interesting lecture groups with

- **Prof. Dr. Maren Niehoff** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) on January 31, 2019, 10 – 12 a.m. (Psalm homilies of Origen in context of rabbinic literature)
- **Dr. Predrag Bukovec** (Universität Wien) on January 31, 2019, 1.30 – 2.30 p.m. (*Ter Unus. Die drei Erstbelege für die baptismale Salbung im 2. Jahrhundert*)
- **Dr. Tudor Andrei Sala** (Ruhr Universität Bochum) in March 2019 (Manichaean texts).

5. Newsletter issues welcome

If you have issues of interest for the research group, publications or events to be announced in this newsletter etc., please send a **short message to our coordinator** (stephanie.hallinger@ur.de); she will include them in the next newsletter.

Wishing a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2019 to you and your families,

Tobias Nicklas, Harald Buchinger, Andreas Merkt,

Ulrike Linder-Windbichler and Stephanie Hallinger

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