

Preface

THE PAPERS IN THIS volume were presented at the York Christian Apocrypha Symposium, “Forbidden Texts on the Western Frontier: The Christian Apocrypha in North American Perspectives,” held from September 24–25, 2013 at York University in Toronto, Canada. The Symposia Series began in 2011 with the goal of strengthening the field of Christian Apocrypha Studies in North America through fostering collaboration between scholars and raising awareness of the results of their investigations. The 2011 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 Books in early 2013 as *Ancient Gospel or Modern Forgery? The Secret Gospel of Mark in Debate*.

The 2013 Symposium, organized by Tony Burke and Brent Landau, examined the past, present, and future of Christian Apocrypha Studies in North America—looking back at the defining moments and voices in scholarship, looking around at what makes our approaches unique and what has come to define us on the world stage, and looking forward at new methodologies and new opportunities for collaboration. The gathering was made possible by a generous grant from the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council of Canada and by contributions from several funding bodies within York University. We wish to thank Martin Lockshin and Savitri Ramjattan in the Department of the Humanities, the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. Particular thanks go to Janet Friskney, Research Officer for the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, who patiently guided us through the grant-writing process.

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For information on future symposia in the York Christian Apocrypha Symposium Series, look for announcements on the Apocryphicity blog (<http://www.apocryphicity.ca>) or visit the Symposium's web page (www.apocryphicity.ca/york-christian-apocrypha-symposium-series/).

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Tony Burke