Decoding the Gospel of Judas

Professor Garry Trompf
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2–3:30 pm, Friday November 3, 2006
Conference Room, Cowell

The existence of a Gospel of Judas is known since Irenaeus of Lyons (ca. 180) who says that it was used by a group called the Cainites. Its interpretation of Judas’s role in Jesus’ death is positive, contrary to that of other Gospels. A Coptic version of this gospel, called Ps.Gospel of Judas (Iscariot), was found/stolen in Egypt in the seventies and became the object of frantic negotiations in the antiquities world. It surfaced recently and became a hot media topic last April 2006.

Professor Trompf’s interests are in the history of ideas, the history of Christianity, Pacific and Australian Religion Studies, Aboriginal Studies, and Melanesian Religions. He has written numerous articles on those topics and is the author of, inter alia, Early Christian Historiography: Narratives of Retributive Justice (Continuum, 2000) and Melanesian religion (Cambridge University Press, 1991). He is one of the editors of the Gnostica series that publishes critical editions of texts as well as works of scholarly interpretation belonging to the field of Gnostic, hermetic, theosophical and related traditions in religious and cultural history.

Presented by: the Language Program, the History Department, the Literature Department, Cowell College

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