

Dr. David Jorgensen (Colby College) Announced as the Winner of the 2015 SBL– De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History

In partnership with the Society of Biblical Literature, De Gruyter is delighted to announce Dr. David Jorgensen as the winner of this year’s SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History. Dr. Jorgensen’s manuscript, “Treasure Hidden in a Field: Early Christian Exegesis of the Gospel of Matthew,” was selected as the 2015 winner by the prize committee. The prize includes publication of the manuscript and \$1,500. The prize will be officially presented at the De Gruyter Reception at the upcoming SBL-AAR Annual Meetings in Atlanta.

“Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the discovery of the Nag Hammadi Codices,” Jorgensen said, “this award represents an important watershed; namely, the full inclusion of these heterodox texts into the study of the reception history of biblical literature. I hope that this recognition,” he added, “stimulates further research that integrates patristic studies with Nag Hammadi and gnostic studies, so that we may gain a richer understanding of the history of early Christianity, both in its unity and its diversity.”

Dr. Anke Beck, Managing Director of De Gruyter, notes that De Gruyter has supported publishing in the field of reception history from the start and has played a major role in the current visibility of this rapidly growing research area. “Now in its second year,” she said, “the SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History demonstrates the growth and vitality of this important field. Dr. Jorgensen’s monograph will be in good company with other exciting work published in this important program area at De Gruyter, which now includes a journal, a handbook series, and the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. We congratulate Dr. Jorgensen and also thank the prize committee for the invaluable time and effort spent reviewing the submissions.”

Dr. Jorgensen is a self-described “power adjunct,” currently teaching courses in religions of late antiquity at Colby College and the University of Maine, biblical studies at Meadville Lombard Theological School, and patristics at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He plans to do future research on the role played by Valentinian biblical exegesis in the long parting of the ways between Judaism and Christianity.

The De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History promotes the study of the reception history of the Bible and aims to highlight the broad impact of the Bible in a wide variety of historical contexts and cultural settings. SBL is grateful to De Gruyter for investing in this growing area of research and teaching, one that also cultivates interdisciplinary studies in the humanities. It is a service to SBL and its members, and we congratulate Dr. Jorgensen on receiving the award.

The 2016 Call for Papers for the SBL—De Gruyter Prize is currently open. More information on deadlines and eligibility can be found on the [SBL website](#).