

# In Search of Truth in the Pseudo-Clementine Homilies

Edited by  
BENJAMIN M. J. DE VOS  
and DANNY PRAET

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# In Search of Truth in the Pseudo-Clementine Homilies

New Approaches to a Philosophical and Rhetorical  
Novel of Late Antiquity

Edited by

Benjamin M.J. De Vos and Danny Praet

Mohr Siebeck

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## Abbreviations

<i>ActAnt</i>	<i>Acta Antiqua Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae</i>
<i>AEPHE/SSR</i>	<i>Annuaire de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études (Section des Sciences Religieuses)</i>
<i>AGJU</i>	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
<i>AJA</i>	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
<i>AJEC</i>	Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity
<i>AJP</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>AN</i>	<i>Ancient Narrative</i>
<i>AnBoll</i>	<i>Analecta Bollandiana</i>
<i>ANM</i>	<i>Analecta Manichaica</i>
<i>ANRW</i>	Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt/Rise and Decline of the Roman World
<i>ANSup</i>	Ancient Narrative Supplementum
<i>AS</i>	<i>Aramaic Studies</i>
<i>ASE</i>	<i>Annali di Storia dell'Esegesi</i>
<i>AsJT</i>	<i>Asia Journal of Theology</i>
<i>ASR</i>	<i>Annali di studi religiosi</i>
<i>Aug</i>	<i>Augustinianum</i>
<i>AugStud</i>	<i>Augustinian Studies</i>
<i>BAH</i>	Bibliothèque archéologique et historique
<i>BAI</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Asia Institute</i>
<i>BCCS</i>	Brill's Companions to Classical Reception
<i>BEPHE</i>	Bibliothèque de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études
<i>BERG</i>	Beiträge zur Europäischen Religionsgeschichte
<i>BETL</i>	<i>Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium</i>
<i>BHT</i>	Beiträge zur historischen Theologie
<i>BibInt</i>	Biblical Interpretation Series
<i>BLE</i>	<i>Bulletin de Littérature Ecclésiastique</i>
<i>BLLS</i>	Bibliothek der lateinischen Literatur der Spätantike
<i>BN</i>	<i>Biblische Notizen</i>
<i>BSMEL</i>	Brill Studies in Middle Eastern Literatures
<i>BSOAS</i>	<i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i>
<i>BYU Studies</i>	<i>Brigham Young University Studies</i>
<i>ByzZ</i>	<i>Byzantinische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>BZNW</i>	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
<i>CRB</i>	Cahiers de la Revue Biblique
<i>CBP</i>	Cahiers de Biblia Patristica
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CCER</i>	<i>Cahiers du Cercle Ernest-Renan</i>
<i>CCT</i>	Corpus Christianorum in Translation

<i>CH</i>	<i>Church History</i>
<i>Chiron</i>	<i>Chiron: Mitteilungen der Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts</i>
<i>CJRT</i>	<i>Canadian Journal of Religious Thought</i>
<i>ClAnt</i>	<i>Classical Antiquity</i>
<i>ClQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>CMO</i>	Collection de la Maison de l'Orient méditerranéen ancien
<i>ColREJ</i>	Collection de la Revue des études juives
<i>CP</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CR</i>	<i>Classical Review</i>
<i>CRAI</i>	Comptes rendus de l'Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres
<i>CSCO</i>	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium</i>
<i>CSCP</i>	<i>Cornell Studies in Classical Philology</i>
<i>CUASEC</i>	Catholic University of America Studies in Early Christianity
<i>DCLY</i>	<i>Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Yearbook</i>
<i>DOP</i>	<i>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</i>
<i>DTC</i>	<i>Dictionnaire de théologie catholique</i>
<i>DWJ</i>	<i>Distant Worlds Journal</i>
<i>EAA</i>	<i>Enciclopedia dell' Arte Antica</i>
<i>EC</i>	<i>Early Christianity</i>
<i>ECCA</i>	Early Christianity in the Context of Antiquity
<i>EPRO</i>	Études préliminaires aux religions orientales dans l'empire romain
<i>ER</i>	<i>Entangled Religions – Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Religious Contact and Transfer</i>
<i>EUHO</i>	Euhormos: Greco-Roman Studies in Anchoring Innovation
<i>FRLANT</i>	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
<i>GCN</i>	Groningen Colloquia on the Novel
<i>GCS</i>	Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten [drei] Jahrhunderte
<i>GR</i>	<i>Greece and Rome</i>
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</i>
<i>GTA</i>	Göttinger theologische Arbeiten
<i>Hen</i>	<i>Henoch</i>
<i>HR</i>	<i>History of Religions</i>
<i>HthKat</i>	Herders Theologischer Kommentar zum Alten Testament
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
<i>Hug</i>	<i>Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies</i>
<i>ICS</i>	<i>Illinois Classical Studies</i>
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>IJCRB</i>	<i>Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business</i>
<i>IPM</i>	Instrumenta patristica et mediaevalia
<i>J.S.</i>	<i>Journal des Savants</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JEastCS</i>	<i>The Journal of Eastern Christian Studies</i>
<i>JECH</i>	<i>Journal of Early Christian History</i>
<i>JECS</i>	<i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>

<i>JEH</i>	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
<i>JESHO</i>	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JJMJS</i>	<i>Journal of the Jesus Movement in Its Jewish Setting</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JLA</i>	<i>Journal of Late Antiquity</i>
<i>JMR</i>	<i>Journal of Mosaic Research</i>
<i>JÖB</i>	<i>Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik</i>
<i>JR</i>	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>JSP</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
<i>JSQ</i>	<i>Jewish Studies Quarterly</i>
<i>JSRC</i>	<i>Jerusalem Studies in Religion and Culture</i>
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>LAHR</i>	<i>Late Antique History and Religion</i>
<i>LCL</i>	<i>Loeb Classical Library</i>
<i>LECTIO</i>	<i>Lectio. Studies in the Transmission of Texts &amp; Ideas</i>
<i>LTP</i>	<i>Laval théologique et philosophique</i>
<i>MAAR</i>	<i>Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome</i>
<i>MAS</i>	<i>Mainzer Althistorische Studien</i>
<i>MdB</i>	<i>Le Monde de la Bible</i>
<i>MMS</i>	<i>Münstersche Mittelalter-Schriften</i>
<i>MTSR</i>	<i>Method and Theory in the Study of Religion</i>
<i>Mus</i>	<i>Muséon: Revue d'études orientales</i>
<i>NedTT</i>	<i>Nederlands Theologisch Tijdschrift</i>
<i>NGG</i>	<i>Nachrichten von der Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen.</i> <i>Philologisch-historische Klasse</i>
<i>NHMS</i>	<i>Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies</i>
<i>NHS</i>	<i>Nag Hammadi Studies</i>
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NovTSup</i>	<i>Supplements to Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NPNF<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Series 2</i>
<i>NTOA</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus</i>
<i>NTD</i>	<i>Das Neue Testament Deutsch</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>OCP</i>	<i>Orientalia Christiana Periodica</i>
<i>OECS</i>	<i>Oxford Early Christian Studies</i>
<i>OLA</i>	<i>Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta</i>
<i>OrChr</i>	<i>Oriens Christianus</i>
<i>OrChrAn</i>	<i>Orientalia Christiana Analecta</i>
<i>OTP</i>	<i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha (edited by James H. Charlesworth)</i>
<i>ParOr</i>	<i>Parole de l'Orient: Revue semestrielle des études syriaques et arabes chrétiennes</i>
<i>PASCH</i>	<i>Papers of the American Society of Church History</i>
<i>PhA</i>	<i>Philosophia Antiqua</i>
<i>PIASH</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities</i>
<i>PIRSB</i>	<i>Publications de l'Institut Romand des Sciences Bibliques</i>

<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Modern Language Association</i>
<i>PMS</i>	<i>Patristic Monograph Series</i>
<i>PRR</i>	<i>The Presbyterian and Reformed Review</i>
<i>PRSt</i>	<i>Perspectives in Religious Studies</i>
<i>RAC</i>	<i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue Biblique</i>
<i>RCT</i>	<i>Revista catalana de teología</i>
<i>REA</i>	<i>Revue d'Études Augustiniennes et Patristiques</i>
<i>REJ</i>	<i>Revue des études juives</i>
<i>RevPhil</i>	<i>Revue de philologie</i>
<i>RGRW</i>	<i>Religions in the Graeco-Roman World</i>
<i>Rhein. Mus.</i>	<i>Rheinisches Museum für Philologie</i>
<i>RHM</i>	<i>Römische Historische Mitteilungen</i>
<i>RHPR</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses</i>
<i>RHR</i>	<i>Revue de l'histoire des religions</i>
<i>RMCS</i>	<i>Routledge Monographs in Classical Studies</i>
<i>RRE</i>	<i>Religion in the Roman Empire</i>
<i>RSB</i>	<i>Ricerche Storico Bibliche</i>
<i>RSE</i>	<i>Rassegna di Studi Etiopici</i>
<i>RSR</i>	<i>Recherches de Science Religieuse</i>
<i>SA</i>	<i>Studia Anselmiana</i>
<i>SAAA</i>	<i>Studies on the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles</i>
<i>SBL</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>SBLHBS</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature/History of Biblical Studies</i>
<i>SBLMS</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series</i>
<i>SBLTT</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations</i>
<i>SCI</i>	<i>Scripta Classica Israelica</i>
<i>SCO</i>	<i>Studi classici e orientali</i>
<i>SEC</i>	<i>Semitica et Classica, International Journal of Oriental and Mediterranean Studies</i>
<i>SECA</i>	<i>Studies on Early Christian Apocrypha</i>
<i>SHCT</i>	<i>Studies in the History of Christian Traditions</i>
<i>SMSR</i>	<i>Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni</i>
<i>SSN</i>	<i>Studia Semitica Neerlandica</i>
<i>ST</i>	<i>Studia Theologica</i>
<i>STAC</i>	<i>Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum</i>
<i>StPatr</i>	<i>Studia Patristica</i>
<i>StSin</i>	<i>Studia Sinaitica</i>
<i>SymSyr</i>	<i>Symposium Syriacum</i>
<i>TAPA</i>	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>
<i>TBl</i>	<i>Theologische Blätter</i>
<i>TCH</i>	<i>Transformation of the Classical Heritage</i>
<i>TENT</i>	<i>Texts and Editions for New Testament Study</i>
<i>ThKNT</i>	<i>Theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>ThSt</i>	<i>Theologische Studiën</i>
<i>ThT</i>	<i>Theologisch Tijdschrift</i>
<i>TLZ</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>TQ</i>	<i>Theologische Quartalschrift</i>

<i>TRev</i>	<i>Theologische Revue</i>
<i>TSAJ</i>	Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism
<i>TSEC</i>	Texts and Studies in Eastern Christianity
<i>TThSt</i>	Trierer theologische Studien
<i>TU</i>	Texte und Untersuchungen
<i>TUGAL</i>	Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literatur
<i>VC</i>	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
<i>VCSupp</i>	<i>Vigiliae Christianae Supplementum</i>
<i>WGRW</i>	Writings from the Greco-Roman World
<i>WGRWSup</i>	Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement
<i>WUNT</i>	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
<i>ZAC</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum/Journal of Ancient Christianity</i>
<i>ZDMG</i>	<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>
<i>ZKG</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte</i>
<i>ZNT</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Neues Testament</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>
<i>ZWT</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Theologie</i>



# The *Pseudo-Clementines*: Title, Genre and Research Questions

BENJAMIN M. J. DE VOS and DANNY PRAET

The work this collective volume discusses is known by many titles. Traditionally it is referred to as the *Pseudo-Clementine Homilies*, and we will continue to use this title for the sake of scholarly tradition but not without a critical *caveat*. The history of research on the *Pseudo-Clementines* extends over almost two centuries.<sup>1</sup> In these two hundred years of research, the date in which the *Homilies* are thought to have been composed has also moved two centuries: from the second to the fourth century. In 1831 Ferdinand Christian Baur discussed the *Homilies* as an important witness for his Hegelian view on the early stages of Christianity. He thought this text – in which, by the way, the words ‘Christ’, ‘Christian’ or ‘Christianity’ do not occur – allowed us to study the early dialectic between two factions. He interpreted the character of Peter as the ‘persona’ of the ‘Petrine’, Law-observant, Jewish-Christian party and recognised in the figure of

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<sup>1</sup> The history of research is discussed by F. Stanley Jones, “The Pseudo-Clementines: A History of Research.” *Second Century* 2 (1982): 1–33, 63–96. In this contribution we refer to the reprinted version in F. Stanley Jones, *Pseudoclementina Elchasaiticae inter Judaeochristiana: Collected Studies* (OLA 203; Leuven: Peeters, 2012), 50–113; Jürgen Wehnert, “Literarkritik und Sprachanalyse: Kritische Anmerkungen zum gegenwärtigen Stand der Pseudoklementinen-Forschung.” *ZNW* 74 (1983): 268–301; Pierre Geoltrain, “Le roman pseudo-clémentin depuis les recherches d’Oscar Cullmann.” In *Le judéo-christianisme dans tous ses états. Actes du colloque de Jérusalem – 6–10 juillet 1998*, ed. Simon C. Mimouni and F. Stanley Jones (Paris: Éditions du Cerf, 2001), 31–38; Frédéric Manns, “Les Pseudo-Clémentines (*Homélies et Reconnaissances*). État de la question.” *Liber Annus* 53 (2003): 157–184; Frédéric Amsler, “État de la recherche récente sur le roman pseudo-clémentin.” In *Nouvelles intrigues pseudo-clémentines. Plots in the Pseudo-Clementine Romance: actes du deuxième colloque international sur la littérature apocryphe chrétienne, Lausanne-Genève, 30 août–2 septembre 2006* (PIRSB 6), ed. Frédéric Amsler et al. (Prahins: Éditions du Zèbre, 2008), 25–45, here 28–29; Jan N. Bremmer, “Pseudo-Clementines: Texts, Dates, Places, Authors and Magic.” In *Maidens, Magic and Martyrs in Early Christianity: Collected Essays I* (WUNT 379), ed. Jan N. Bremmer (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2017), 236–249. One can also refer to the information in recent monographs like Meinolf Vielberg, *Klemens in den pseudoklementinischen Rekognitionen: Studien zur literarischen Form des spätantiken Romans* (TUGAL 145; Berlin: Akademie, 2000); Dominique Côté, *Le thème de l’opposition entre Pierre et Simon dans les Pseudo-Clémentines* (Série Antiquité 167; Paris: Institut d’Études Augustiniennes, 2001); Nicole Kelley, *Knowledge and Religious Authority in the Pseudo-Clementines: Situating the Recognitions in Fourth Century Syria* (WUNT 2.213; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2006); Patricia A. Duncan, *Novel Hermeneutics in the Greek Pseudo-Clementine Romance* (WUNT 395; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2017).

Simon Magus the ‘Pauline’ faction of gentile Christians who rejected the Law.<sup>2</sup> Much has changed since then, but scholars are still debating the origins of this complex work, the time and place from which it came, its possible redactional levels over the centuries and the way we should interpret the text as edited from the manuscripts. No one now will argue that the *Homilies* bring us back to the second century, but there is no consensus on many other questions. This volume will explore some new approaches and ask new questions. It is a collective volume and does not aim at ‘unisono’ answers. We hope it at least reflects the fact that the academic community reading and writing about the *Pseudo-Clementines* has become much more interdisciplinary: including not only New Testament scholars and specialists of different religious traditions, but also students of the ancient novel, rhetoric, and philosophy.

As already noted, the appropriate title to refer to this work is under discussion. Both the traditional use of ‘pseudo’ and of ‘Homilies’ have been questioned. The title *Homilies* sometimes causes confusion because it refers to a very complex work consisting, in its present form, of three introductory writings and of the narrative proper. It includes Peter’s letter to James [*EpPt*], the so-called *Diamartyria* or *Adjuration* [*Adj*], and Clement’s letter to James [*EpCl*]. These are followed by 20 books which are also individually called ‘*Homilies*’ [*Hom.*]. These books then offer some homilies or sermons, but also other types of speeches, disputations, and narrative sections, all presented within the framework of a first-person narrative by Clement of Rome. Confusion on a generic level with homilistic literature caused the deeply rooted idea in the history of scholarship that the *Homilies* would have better preserved the sermons of Peter whereas the *Recognitions* [*Rec.*] were supposedly influenced more heavily by the novelistic framework of recognition scenes: that it would be closer to the classic novel.<sup>3</sup> When we use the general title *Homilies*, we also include the three introductory writings. These letters have often been approached as separate, older sources, thought not to have been written by the *Homilist*.<sup>4</sup> Walter Ullmann saw the *EpCl*

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<sup>2</sup> Ferdinand C. Baur, “Die Christuspartei in der korinthischen Gemeinde, der Gegensatz des petrinischen und paulinischen Christentums in der ältesten Kirche, der Apostel Petrus in Rom.” *Tübinger Zeitschrift für Theologie* 3.4 (1831): 61–206.

<sup>3</sup> For a brief discussion: Duncan, *Novel Hermeneutics*, 3–4, n. 12.

<sup>4</sup> The letters (in particular *EpPt* and *Adj*) as originally written by the *Basic Writer*: Carl Schmidt, *Studien zu den Pseudo-Clementinen nebst einem Anhange: Die älteste römische Bischofsliste und die Pseudo-Clementinen* (TUGAL 46.1; Leipzig: J.C. Hinrichs, 1929), here 93; F. Stanley Jones, “Eros and Astrology in the Περιόδοι Πέτρου: The Sense of the Pseudo-Clementine Novel.” *Apocrypha* 12 (2001): 53–78. We refer to the reprinted version in Jones, *Pseudeoclementina*, 114–137, here in particular 119. Other researchers consider the *EpPt* and *Adj* as written by the author of the *KP*: Adolf Hilgenfeld, *Die clementinischen Recognitionen und Homilien, nach ihrem Ursprung und Inhalt dargestellt* (Jena: J.G. Schreiber; Leipzig: Chr. E. Kollmann, 1848), 26; Georg Strecker, *Das Judenchristentum in den Pseudoklementinen* (TUGAL 70; Berlin: Akademie, 1981<sup>2</sup>), 137–138; or François Bovon, “En tête des Homélies clémentines. La lettre de Pierre à Jacques.” In Amsler, *Nouvelles intrigues*, 329–336, here 335. For

as an early Christian literary witness of apostolic succession, and as a legal document concerning the papal legacy of Rome.<sup>5</sup> More recently, Matthew R. Crawford supposed that the letter of Peter to James “need not have been originally tied to the *Homilies* which now follow it” and that it can be studied “largely in isolation from the remainder of the *Pseudo-Clementine* corpus.”<sup>6</sup> This is just one example of the many questions we will discuss *infra* of how the academic study of the *Homilies* has dissolved this work into separate pieces.

Regarding the traditional use of “pseudo”, scholars have argued with good reasons for simply *Clementina* and for the Greek title found in important manuscripts: *Klementia*.<sup>7</sup> This discussion reflects a deeper lying lack of consensus on the genre of the text we want to study here, on the way it should be approached by scholars, and even on the disciplines in which it should be studied. In 1992 Mark J. Edwards proposed *Clementina* as a title and interpreted it as “a Christian response to the pagan novel.”<sup>8</sup> In a previous collective volume on the *Pseudo-Clementines*, István Czachesz defended the view that there is little ground to call it an ancient novel.<sup>9</sup> The genre of the ancient novel or romance is notoriously difficult to define, and so is the category of ancient fiction.<sup>10</sup> But our continued

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the *EpPt* and *Adj* as Elchasaitic source: Luigi Cirillo, “Jacques de Jérusalem d’après le roman du pseudo-Clément.” In *La Figure du Prêtre dans les Grandes traditions religieuses*, ed. André Motte and Patrick Marchetti (Leuven: Peeters, 2005), 177–188, here 185, 187. *Contra* (letters written by the *Homiliist*): Wehnert, “Literarkritik”, 300.

<sup>5</sup> According to Ullmann, this letter was written at the end of the second century in the vicinity of Rome: Walter Ullman, “The Significance of the *Epistola Clementis* in the Pseudo-Clementines.” *JTS* 11 (1960): 295–317; and idem, “Some Remarks on the Significance of the *Epistola Clementis* in the Pseudo-Clementines.” In *StPatr* 4 (Papers Presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Patristic Studies 1959), ed. Frank L. Cross (Berlin: Akademie, 1961), 330–337, here 331.

<sup>6</sup> Matthew R. Crawford, “Κανών and Scripture according to the Letter of Peter to James.” *ZAC* 20.2 (2016): 260–275, 262.

<sup>7</sup> This title is found in a 10<sup>th</sup>-century manuscript of the *Homilies* (Codex Parisinus gr.930 folio 4v) and in two 11<sup>th</sup>-century sermons by Nicon Monachos as is pointed out by F. Stanley Jones, “Photius’s Witness to the *Pseudo-Clementines*.” In idem, *Pseudoclementina*, 345–355, here 353–354.

<sup>8</sup> Mark J. Edwards, “The *Clementina*: A Christian Response to the Pagan Novel.” *ClQ* 42.2 (1992): 459–474, 459 for the title and note 2 for the reference to Bryan P. Reardon (*Collected Ancient Greek Novels*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989), who, as Edwards mentions, “concedes the omission”.

<sup>9</sup> István Czachesz, “The Clement Romance: Is It a Novel?” In Bremmer, *The Pseudo-Clementines*, 24–35.

<sup>10</sup> For further references see John R. Morgan, “Make Believe and Make-believe: The Fictionality of the Greek Novels.” In *Lies and Fiction in the Ancient World*, ed. Christopher Gill and T.P. Wiseman (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993), 175–229; for related genres see Koen De Temmerman, “Ancient Biography and Formalities of Fiction.” In *Writing Biography in Greece and Rome. Narrative Technique and Fictionalization*, ed. Koen De Temmerman and Kristoffel Demoen (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), 3–25; and Danny Praet, “Legenda Aut Non Legenda? The Quest for the Literary Genre of the Acts of the Martyrs.” In *Wiley Blackwell Companion to Christian Martyrdom*, ed. Paul Middleton (Hoboken [NJ]: Wiley Blackwell), 151–183.

use of “pseudo” in this volume does not imply the editors and authors approach the work as anything else than imaginative or inventive prose.<sup>11</sup> Eliminating the “pseudo” from the title would have the advantage of avoiding too straightforward associations with forgery or deception which seem out of place when discussing a work of fiction. Truth, falsehood, and deception are important themes in the debates and in the narrative of the *Homilies*, but in the course of its narrative the work offers sufficient markers of fictionality which would have guided the ancient reader and should also point the modern reader into the direction of make-believe. Erwin Rohde only discussed the *Pseudo-Clementines* in a footnote, but he already listed a number of plot-features the Christian work has in common with the classical novel.<sup>12</sup>

We agree with Mark J. Edwards who observed that modern scholars do not refer to other ancient first-person narratives by the name of their first-person narrative voices and characters such as pseudo-Socrates for the *Republic* or pseudo-Encolpius for the *Satyricon*. Nobody now believes the first-person narrative voice should really be identified with Clement of Rome, hence the work is pseudographic. In the case of Plato or Petronius we are quite confident about the identity of the authors, in the case of the *Clementina* we can only guess who its author or authors, redactor or redactors were, although we can exclude contemporaries of Petronius. This volume will address questions about the intended audience, but it is probable that the educated reader would realise that what he or she is reading, is inventive prose and not the true history of Clement’s conversion. The ancient reader of Plato or Petronius, the audience of rhetorical showpieces and even the student of speeches in biographical and historiographical works approached these texts as literary creations with very different and complex relations to truth.

Academic compartmentalisation has also had an impact on the modern way the *Clementina* have been studied. Edwards noted they were absent from the collection of English translations published by Bryan P. Reardon as *Collected Ancient Greek novels*.<sup>13</sup> The same could be said about the *Romans grecs et latins* published by Pierre Grimal in the Collection de la Pléiade in 1958. Grimal did cut through the divide of ‘pagan’ versus ‘Christian’ material. He included another first-person hagiographical narrative: the so-called *Confession of Saint Cyprian*. Gregory Nazianzen (*Oratio 24*) and Prudentius (*Peristephanon 13*) fused the imaginative figure of Cyprian, the magician of Antioch with the his-

<sup>11</sup> This broader terminology is suggested by Tim Whitmarsh in: Tim Whitmarsh and Stuart Thomson, *The Romance between Greece and the East* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), 1.

<sup>12</sup> Erwin Rohde, *Der griechische Roman und seine Vorläufer* (Hildesheim/New York [NY]: Georg Olms Verlag, 1974<sup>5</sup>), 507. Jones, “Eros and Astrology” added a few more features on pages 125–126.

<sup>13</sup> But see *supra*: note 8.

torical Cyprian, the bishop of Carthage. In this hagiographical novella the magus from Antioch was hired by a client to put a love spell on the virgin Justina, but he became infatuated by her and her religion. The character of Cyprian of Antioch has some similarities with Simon Magus, *pace* the conversion, and is also seen as one of the possible sources of the Faust-legend. Grimal briefly compares this hagiographical romance with the *Pseudo-Clementines* but did not include the latter since his volume had to be selective.<sup>14</sup> The new French translations of *Romans grecs et latins* published by Romain Brethes and Jean-Philippe Guez in 2016 exclusively offer the texts of Chariton, Xenophon of Ephesus, Petronius, Achilles Tatius, Apuleius, Longus and Heliodorus.<sup>15</sup> The two French volumes offer, respectively, more than 1500 and 1200 pages, so simple practical considerations might explain the absence of the *Pseudo-Clementines* from both. The same practical reasons, probably combined with generic considerations,<sup>16</sup> have caused the marginal position of the *Pseudo-Clementines* in collections of New Testament Apocrypha. In classic collections such as Hennecke-Schneemelcher or James Keith Elliott the *Clementina* are only presented in excerpts.<sup>17</sup> We will see more examples *infra* of how the *Clementina* have often been cut up and studied in parts rather than being addressed as a whole. Full French translations of the *Homilies* and the *Recognitions* were published in 2005 by Gallimard in that same Collection de la Pléiade as *Écrits apocryphes chrétiens* under the direction of Pierre Geoltrain and Jean-Daniel Kaestli, and under the auspices of the Association pour l'Étude de la Littérature Apocryphe Chrétienne (AELAC) which has done so much for the study of the *Pseudo-Clementines*. A team of six scholars translated and annotated the Homilies.<sup>18</sup> But when one looks at second-

<sup>14</sup> Pierre Grimal, *Romans Grecs et Latins* (Bibliothèque de la Pléiade 134; Paris: Gallimard, 1958); 1385–1413 for “La Confession de Saint Cyprien”, and XXII for a short comparison with the *Pseudo-Clementines*. Grimal also did not include the *Ephesiaca* by Xenophon of Ephesus, which he saw as “un résumé maladroit du roman primitif”: XX.

<sup>15</sup> *Romans grecs et latins*, sous la direction de Romain Brethes et Jean-Philippe Guez (Les Belles Lettres, coll. “*Editio minor*” 2; Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 2016).

<sup>16</sup> Jones (*Pseudoclementina*, 36) remarked: “When the *Klementia* is compared with other New Testament apocryphal literature, the author’s quite exceptional literary abilities cannot be overlooked.”

<sup>17</sup> James Keith Elliott, *The Apocryphal New Testament. A Collection of Apocryphal Christian Literature in an English Translation* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993), 431–438 offers an introduction, bibliography and then seven pages of translated parts of *Hom.* 2.3.7 and 8; Johannes Irmscher and Georg Strecker, “Die Pseudoklementinen.” In *Neutestamentliche Apokryphen in deutscher Übersetzung Band 2. Apostolisches, Apokalypsen und Verwandtes*, ed. Wilhelm Schneemelcher and Edgar Hennecke (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1989<sup>5</sup>), 439–488, has more substantial excerpts but is equally incomplete. English translation in Johannes Irmscher and Georg Strecker, “The Pseudo-Clementines.” In *New Testament Apocrypha*, ed. Wilhelm Schneemelcher and English translation by Robert McL. Wilson (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003), 483–541.

<sup>18</sup> See Pierre Geoltrain and Jean-Daniel Kaestli, *Écrits apocryphes chrétiens, tome II* (Collection Bibliothèque de la Pléiade 516; Paris: Gallimard, 2005). The text is presented by Alain Le Boulluec (1195–1214). The translation and annotation (1215–1589) was done by Marie-

ary works on the ancient novel, even recent ones, the *Clementines* are again virtually absent or only discussed in relation to the hypothetical influence from the *Historia Apollonii regis Tyrii*.<sup>19</sup> The study of ancient narrative should not be divided on the basis of the divinities which feature in them, but this implies different scholarly traditions, each operating from within their long history of secondary literature, should interact. More and more academic borders are crossed, insights exchanged, and methodologies combined. This does not always mean the reputation of the *Pseudo-Clementines* has improved. Theologians have traditionally been very negative about this work. Charles Bigg, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History at the University of Oxford from 1901–1908, did not appreciate the *Pseudo-Clementines* as a literary work:

As regards composition, let us observe that the work, though cast in dramatic form, exhibits not the least vestige of dramatic ability. The characters are merely wooden puppets, left lying in a corner until they are wanted, and then shuffled awkwardly on to the stage. Personality they have none.<sup>20</sup>

And on its religious views he wrote in poetic terms:

When the Light of the World had arisen they turned aside after the marsh-fires of an idle antiquated mysticism and a gross and barbarous superstition and so fell deeper and deeper into the mire.<sup>21</sup>

Bigg also sharply criticised the inconsistencies he found in the theological and philosophical doctrines about God in the *Homilies*, which he qualified as “the farthest point in the realm of nonsense ever reached by any human being.”<sup>22</sup> Many specialists of the ancient novel have also complained about the inconsistencies in the narrative and about its tedious verbosity. Graham Stanton wrote recently: “Anyone who has read the full text of either the *Homilies* or the *Recognitions* will readily understand why epitomes of their rambling, loosely organised narratives were made.”<sup>23</sup> The end of the third book of the *Recognitions*

Ange Calvet, Dominique Côté, Pierre Geoltrain, Alain Le Boulluec, Bernard Pouderon, and André Schneider. The general introduction to “Le roman pseudo-clémentin”, a note on the text and the bibliography were written by Pierre Geoltrain and Luigi Cirillo: 1175–1192. In the same volume, Luigi Cirillo and André Schneider presented (1593–1621), translated and annotated (1623–2003) the “Reconnaissances”.

<sup>19</sup> Tim Whitmarsh (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Greek and Roman Novel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), does not mention the *Homilies* at all. It mentions the *Pseudo-Clementine Recognitions* three times and this only in passing: 13, 107 and 192. Scott McGill and Edwards J. Watts (*A Companion to Late Antique Literature*, New York: Wiley, 2018, 408, 410) mention the *Pseudo-Clementines* twice and note its supposed anti-Pauline and Arian character.

<sup>20</sup> Charles Bigg, “The Clementine Homilies.” In *Studia Biblica et Ecclesiastica: Essays Chiefly in Biblical and Patristic Criticism* 2 (Oxford: Clarendon, 1890), 157–193, here 160.

<sup>21</sup> Bigg, “The Clementine Homilies”, 192.

<sup>22</sup> *Hom.* 17.9.3–4; Bigg, “The Clementine Homilies”, 163.

<sup>23</sup> Graham Stanton, “Jewish Christian Elements in the Pseudo-Clementine Writings.” In *Jew-*

(*Rec.* 3.75) summarises ten books or volumes which do not correspond to either the content of the *Recognitions* or the *Homilies*. The general appreciation of the work by Mark J. Edwards was positive: “The Clementina have therefore been compiled with no small art.” But he was not blind to its problems and he commented that the editor is seen to “convict himself of incompetence when he recapitulates a series of homilies as though they occurred in the novel, though in fact he has retailed the plan and content of a rather different work.” He concluded about the editor of the *Recognitions*: “one whom it would be equally uncritical and unkind to style the author.”<sup>24</sup> From the early nineties onwards, the Society for Biblical Literature (SBL) organised conference-sessions on “Ancient Fictions and Early Christian and Jewish Narrative” which have stimulated the cross-over between disciplines in the Anglo-Saxon world.<sup>25</sup> On the other hand, the International Conferences on the Ancient Novel (ICAN) also increasingly include panels on Jewish and Christian narrative texts. This does not mean the reputation of the *Pseudo-Clementines* as a literary text has improved much. One of the pioneers of this cross-over, Richard Pervo, characterised the long-winded storyline and the drawn-out disputes of the *Pseudo-Clementines* as “a smear-piece no less dreadful than it is tedious.”<sup>26</sup>

The literary study and the scholarly appreciation of the *Pseudo-Clementines* has improved and this has gone hand in hand with a more profound analysis of certain motifs, such as Pascal Boulhol has done for the motif of the ‘anagnorismos’. There still is a tendency to harmonise the reading of the *Recognitions* and the *Homilies* instead of studying them independently, but scholars have found deeper meaning in the *Clementina*. The recognition motif is no longer considered to be just an ‘embellishment’: Boulhol’s analysis revealed how the motif is adapted to the theological and didactic goals of the *Basic Writer*.<sup>27</sup> Two years later, in 2010, János Bolyki also gave a theological interpretation of the function of this same theme and its metaphorical dynamics within the work as an act of recognition of others, of oneself and of God. In this way it is emphasised how

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*ish Believers in Jesus: The Early Centuries*, ed. Oskar Skarsaune and Raider Hvalvik (Peabody [Ma]: Hendrickson, 2007), 305–324, here 309.

<sup>24</sup> Edwards, “A Christian Response”, 474 and 461.

<sup>25</sup> See e.g., the edited volumes Ronald F. Hock, Bradley J. Chance, and Judith Perkins, *Ancient Fiction and Early Christian Narrative* (SBL Symposium Series 6; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998), or Jo-Ann A. Brant, Charles W. Hedrick, and Christine Shea, *Ancient Fiction: The Matrix of Early Christian and Jewish Narrative* (Symposium 32; Leiden/Boston [MA]: Brill, 2005); or Sara Johnson, Rubén R. Dupertuis, and Christine Shea, *Reading and Teaching Ancient Fiction: Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman Narratives* (WGRWSup II; Atlanta [GA]: SBL Press, 2018).

<sup>26</sup> Richard I. Pervo, “The Ancient Novel Becomes Christian.” In *The Novel in the Ancient World* (Mnemosyne Supplementum 159), ed. Gareth Schmeling (Leiden: Brill, 1996), 685–711, here quoted 707.

<sup>27</sup> Pascal Boulhol, “La conversion de l’anagnorismos profane dans le roman pseudo-clémentin.” In Amsler, *Nouvelles intrigues*, 151–175, here 152. Nota bene, Boulhol still maintains the theory of an original novel as basic writing from ca. 170, here 160–169.

the *Basic Writer* has clearly linked the family romance, the recognition scenes included, to the doctrinal theses defended throughout the reconstructed *Grundschrift* or *Basic Writing*.<sup>28</sup>

In a recent contribution, Stanley Jones suggested that the *Homilies* are a non-idealistic novel, even a parody. He writes, “The Klementia, [...], noticeably diverges from the ‘idealistic’ to present a parody, as also happened among the ancient Greek and Roman novels; here comic elements grab the upper hand.”<sup>29</sup> He further specifies:

This author not only allows the leading characters, including Peter, to engage in intrigue and prevaricate (*Hom. Clem.* 20.18–22; 5.2–28), but also introduces fantastic elements such as the magic that Simon uses to avoid apprehension when he transforms the face of Clement’s father to appear to be Simon’s own (*Hom. Clem.* 20.11–23; Peter’s eyes alone are impervious to this magic: *Hom. Clem.* 20.12.6–7). When an earthquake occurs upon Peter’s entry to Beirut, Peter does not initially deny the charge that he caused the tremor but instead asserts that he is ready to overturn the entire city unless the inhabitants obey what he says (*Hom. Clem.* 7.9). Terrified, the inhabitants immediately agree to do whatever Peter commands (*Hom. Clem.* 7.10.1), soon grabbing sticks violently to chase Simon and his companions from the city (*Hom. Clem.* 7.10.2).<sup>30</sup>

We have come a long way since the conclusion that the *Homilies* are tedious. Irony, parody, and playfulness are being studied and found at work in the *Homilies*.

We could not possibly discuss all the changes in the study and in this introduction but suffice it to say that this volume tries to bring together specialists from different departments and faculties, and will study this text from research questions which arise from various disciplines.

## 1. Textual Stages and Versions of the *Pseudo-Clementines*

A much-debated question in the 19th and 20th centuries dealt with the mutual relationship between the *Homilies* and the *Recognitions*: to which text should be given priority? Did one influence the other? These questions belonged to the so-called *Benutzungshypothese*.<sup>31</sup> In 1844, Adolph Schliemann stated that the *Rec-*

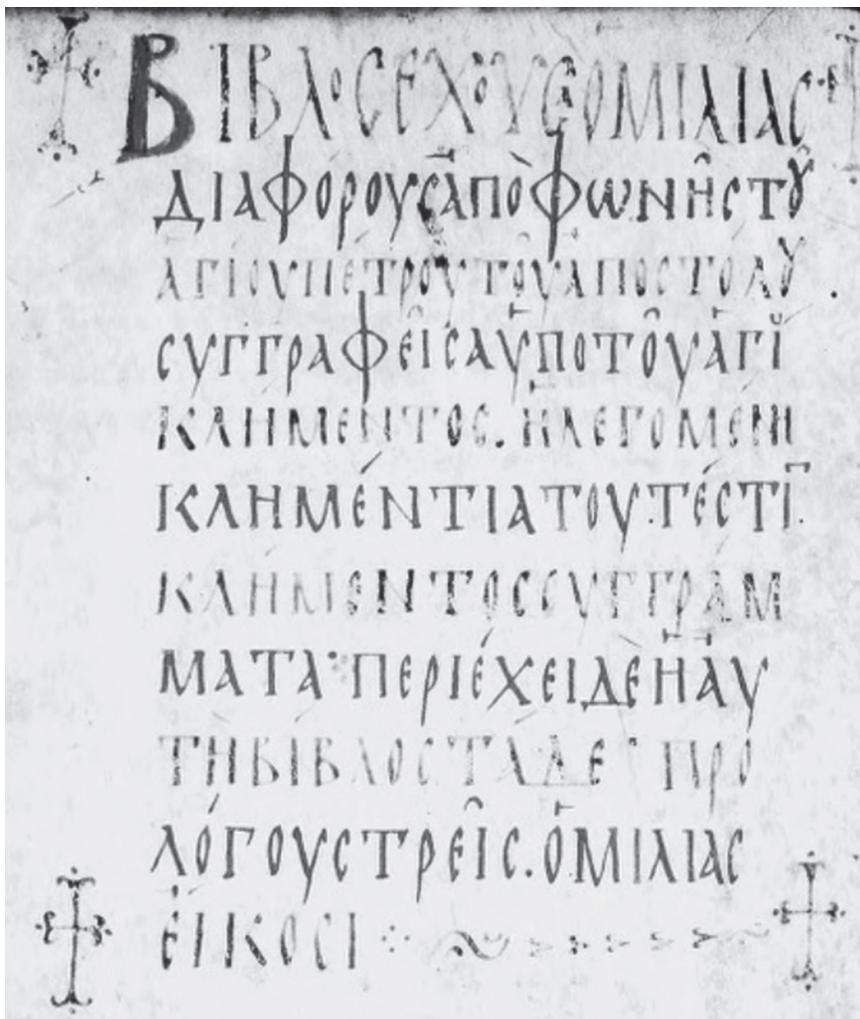
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<sup>28</sup> János Bolyki, “Recognitions in the Pseudo-Clementina.” In Bremmer, *The Pseudo-Clementines*, 191–199.

<sup>29</sup> F. Stanley Jones, “Novels.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Biblical Interpretation*, ed. Paul M. Blowers and Peter W. Martens (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), 295–302, here 296.

<sup>30</sup> Jones, “Novels”, 299–300. Jones even questions the earnestness of the *Homilistic* theory of false pericopes.

<sup>31</sup> For an overview of the several points of view concerning the *Benutzungshypothese*: Vielberg, *Klemens in den pseudoklementinischen Rekognitionen*, 15–17; Amsler, “Etat de la recherche”, 30–31.



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*ognitions* were a later revision of the *Homilies*.<sup>32</sup> Four years later, Adolf Hilgenfeld responded that the *Homilies* were a later reworking of the *Recognitions*.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Adolph Schliemann, *Die Clementinen nebst den verwandten Schriften und der Ebionitismus: Ein Beitrag zur Kirchen- und Dogmengeschichte der ersten Jahrhunderte* (Hamburg: Friedrich Perthes, 1844), 316–325.

<sup>33</sup> Hilgenfeld, *Die clementinischen Recognitionen*, 45, 57.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, Richard Lipsius was the main promotor of the *Grundschrifthypothese*.<sup>34</sup> This theory suggests that the *Homilies* and *Recognitions* depended on a common, but lost *Grundschrift*: in English called *Basic Writing*, in French *Écrit de Base*. One could combine this with the question whether or not there was also an additional relation of dependency between the *Homilies* and *Recognitions*.<sup>35</sup> Most scholars agreed with the hypothesis of a *Grundschrift*, but they never reached an agreement about what this *Grundschrift* would have looked like or when and where it was supposed to have been written.

In older studies which are no longer followed, scholars approached the *Homilies* as dated to the second or early third century, written in either Ebionite or Elchasaitic circles as a reaction against Greek philosophy and Gnosis.<sup>36</sup> Others labelled the *Homilistic* narrative as a Gnostic Jewish Christian witness.<sup>37</sup> In 1901, Fenton J.A. Hort considered the *Homilies* to be an abridged version of the original *Grundschrift* in order to propagate the doctrine of its Elchasaitic group in the second, early third century.<sup>38</sup> Only a year later, Charles Bigg suggested that the *Homilist* was a “Catholic convert to Ebionitism” who made the orthodox *Grundschrift* into an unorthodox work.<sup>39</sup> In 1938, Bernhard Rehm argued that the *EpPt*, *Adj* and the Ebionite, anti-Pauline material in the *Homilies* were added by an Ebionite redactor.<sup>40</sup> The *Homilist* has also often been approached as an anti-Marcionite and/or anti-Appelian writer, which was still relevant in the fourth century.<sup>41</sup> Another (increasing) point of focus is the approach of

<sup>34</sup> Richard A. Lipsius, *Die Quellen der römischen Petrus-Sage* (Kiel: Schwers’sche Buchhandlung, 1872), e.g., 14.

<sup>35</sup> For an overview of the several points of view, see Jones, *Pseudoclementina*, 17.

<sup>36</sup> August Neander, *Genetische Entwicklung der vornehmsten gnostischen Systeme* (Berlin: Ferdinand Dümmler, 1818), 368–370.

<sup>37</sup> Gerhard Uhlhorn, *Die Homilien und Recognitionen des Clemens Romanus nach ihrem Ursprung und Inhalt dargestellt* (Göttingen: Verlag der Dieterichschen Buchhandlung, 1854), 431.

<sup>38</sup> See also Jones, *Pseudoclementina*, 90; Fenton John Anthony Hort, *Notes Introductory to the Study of the Clementine Recognitions. A Course of Lectures* (Cambridge/London/New York: MacMillan & Co, 1901), 88–89.

<sup>39</sup> Bigg, “The Clementine Homilies”, 175, 185–188.

<sup>40</sup> Bernhard Rehm, “Zur Entstehung der pseudoclementinischen Schriften.” *ZNW* 37 (1938): 77–184, here 154–155.

<sup>41</sup> Kelley, *Knowledge and Authority*, 187–189. Think of works such as the *Vita Aberci*, or Ephraim’s *Third Discourse to Hypatius*. See for a more elaborate overview of the scholarship on Marcionism/Apelleanism in the *Pseudo-Clementines*, F. Stanley Jones, “Marcionism in the *Pseudo-Clementines*.” In Jones, *Pseudoclementina*, 152–171. For a discussion of other links between Apelles and the *Pseudo-Clementine Homilies* such as the approach to the Scriptures or the theory of the four elements, see Éric Junod, “Les attitudes d’Apelles, disciple de Marcion, à l’égard de l’Ancien Testament.” *Aug* 22 (1982): 113–133, here 131 n. 51; Giovanni B. Bazzana, “Apelles and the Pseudo-Clementine Doctrine of the False Pericopes.” In “Soyez des changeurs avisés”. *Controverses exégétiques dans la littérature apocryphe chrétienne* (CBP 12), ed. Gabriella Aragione and Rémi Gounelle (Turnhout: Brepols, 2012), 11–32. See also, Alain Le Boulluec, “La Monarchia dans les *Homélies Clémentines* et l’origine du mauvais.” *Chôra. Revue d’études anciennes et médiévales* 13 (2015): 437–450, here 445.

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