Preface

After the fall of the Berlin Wall the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen decided to intensify contacts with universities in Eastern Europe. In 1991 the then Head of the Department of Church History of the Faculty of Theology and Science of Religion, Professor Hans Roldanus, took this opportunity to forge links not only with the theologians of the Károli Gáspár University of Budapest but also with the classicists of the Loránt-Eötvös University of Budapest. The initiative seemed highly promising, as the world of early Christianity was receiving ever increasing attention from New Testament and patristic scholars as well as from ancient historians. Initially, it was decided to focus on the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles, a genre of which various representatives had recently been re-edited or were (are!) in the process of being re-edited. After completing the study of the major Acts, we have decided to proceed with the major Apocalypses. With the widening of the scope of our series we have also changed the title to Studies in Early Christian Apocrypha. The series will continue to publish the results of our conferences, but the editors also welcome other studies in this field, be they proceedings or monographs.

Following the volumes on the Acts of John (1995), Paul and Thecla (1996), Peter (1998), Andrew (2000) and Thomas (2001), this volume is dedicated to the Apocalypse of Peter. The volume starts with a short survey of the Forschungsgeschichte and a discussion of the old question regarding its eventual inspiration: Greek or Jewish. It is followed by a new look at the circumstances of its finding, the composition of the codex and its character, and also by a new edition of the Bodleian and Rainer fragments. The major part of the book studies various aspects and passages of the Apocalypse: the nature of the Ethiopic pseudo-Clementine work that contained the Apocalypse, false prophets, the Bar Kokhba hypothesis, Paradise, the post-mortem 'baptism' of sinners, the grotesque body, the pattern of justice under-
lying our work, the Old Testament quotations, and the reception of the *Apocalypse* in ancient Christianity. The book concludes with a study of the Gnostic *Apocalypse of Peter*. As has become customary, the volume is rounded off by a bibliography and a detailed index.

The conference that formed the basis of this book took place at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen in the autumn of 2000. We would like to thank the Faculty of Theology and Science of Religion and the Onderzoekschool Rudolf Agricola, which is the Groningen Research School for the Humanities, for their financial support towards the conference. Alan Dearn helped to correct the English; Ton Hilhorst and Gerard Luttikhuizen assisted in correcting the proofs, and Birgit van der Lans was a great help in making the index. We are grateful to them all.

Jan N. Bremmer

İstván Czachesz

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List of abbreviations

AAA  Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles
ANRW  Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt
JAC  Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum
JBL  Journal of Biblical Literature
JECS  Journal of Early Christian Studies
JTS  Journal of Theological Studies
PG  Patrologia Graeca
PL  Parrologia Latina
RAC  Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum
RE  Realencyclopaedie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft
SBL  Society of Biblical Literature
SEG  Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum
TWNT  Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament
VigChris  Vigiliae Christianae
ZNW  Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
ZPE  Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik
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