

**DYLAN MICHAEL BURNS**

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***Education***

PHD YALE UNIVERSITY; New Haven, CT, USA

Religious Studies/Ancient Christianity, expected May 2011.

Dissertation: "Out of Heaven: Neoplatonic Mythopoesis, Eschatology, and Theurgy in the Sethian Gnostic Apocalypses of Nag Hammadi."

Advisor: Prof. Harold W. Attridge.

Committee: Profs. Attridge, John J. Collins, Bentley Layton, Adela Yarbro Collins.

M.A. UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM; Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands

Religious Studies (cum laude), August 2004.

Thesis: "*Teleios Logos Arrhetos*: Late Antique Esotericism and the Underworld of Platonism." 170 pages.

Advisors: Profs. Kocku von Stuckrad and Wouter J. Hanegraaff.

B.A. REED COLLEGE; Portland, OR, USA

Religion, May 2003.

Undergraduate thesis: "Hyper-Orphic Myth: the Theurgy of Proclus." 172 pages.

Advisors: Profs. Steven M. Wasserstrom and Michael E. Foat.

***Awards***

YALE UNIVERSITY

Baden-Württemberg Exchange Fellow, September 2009-August 2010.

Augusta Hazard Travel Award, May 2008.

H. Stuart Harrison Fellow, May 2007-May 2008.

Franke Fellow, September 2005-May 2007.

REED COLLEGE

Awarded Faculty Commendation for academic performance, August 2003.

Class of '21 Award for "excellence and creativity" in undergraduate thesis, May 2003.

Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Chapter, Oregon, 2003.

***Refereed Publications***

"Apophatic Strategies in *Allogenes* (NHC XI,3)," *Harvard Theological Review* 103:2 (2010) 161-79.

"The *Chaldean Oracles of Zoroaster*, Hekate's Couch, and Platonic Orientalism in Psellos and Plethon," *Aries* 6:2 (2006) 158-79.

“Proclus and the Theurgic Liturgy of Pseudo-Dionysius,” *Dionysius* 18 (2004) 111-32.

### ***Commissioned Publications***

“An Unlikely Love Affair: Plato, the Netherlands, and Life after Westotericism,” in *Hermes in the Academy: Ten Years’ Study of Western Esotericism at the University of Amsterdam* (ed. Wouter Hanegraaff and Joyce Pijnenburg; Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2009)

“Seeking Ancient Wisdom in the New Age: New Age and Neo-Gnostic Commentators on the *Gospel of Thomas*,” in *Polemical Encounters. Esoteric Discourse and its Others* (ed. Kocku von Stuckrad and Olav Hammer; Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2007) 252-89.

### ***Entries in Reference Works***

“Gnosticism,” in *Esotericism and the Image* (ed. Egil Asprem and Joyce Pijnenburg; Ouroboros Books), forthcoming 2011

“Hermetism,” in *Esotericism and the Image*

“Neoplatonic Theurgy,” in *Esotericism and the Image*

“Hermetism/Hermeticism,” *Dictionary of Religion* (ed. Kocku von Stuckrad; Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2006)

### ***Associations and Memberships***

Society of Biblical Literature, American Academy of Religion (2007-present), and the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies (2003-present)

### ***Conference Papers and Organization***

Organizer and coordinator of “Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Network” conference at Yale University, May 2011.

“Zostrianos and Iolaos: a Platonic Reminiscence of the Heracleidae at NHC VIII,1.4?” presented to the Society of Biblical Literature’s 2010 Annual Meeting program unit Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism in Atlanta, GA, November 2010.

June 2010 – Co-organizer and chair of panels on “Neoplatonism and Gnosticism” at the 2010 conference of the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies in Madrid, Spain, June 2010.

“Election, Providence, and Polemics between Plotinus and the Sethian Gnostics,” presented to the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies in Madrid, Spain, June 2010.

“Apocalypse, Image, and Mythoplasty in the Plotinus-Gnostic Debate,” invited lecture presented to Nordic Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Group in Quebec City, Canada, March 2010.

- “Gnosticism Rethought, Rethinking John,” invited lecture presented to workshop for the Society of Biblical Literature's working group on the Gospel of John in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 2009.
- “Auto-Angelification, Apocalyptic Baptism, and the Problem of Sethian Theurgy,” invited lecture presented to Nordic Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Group in Quebec City, Canada, March 2009.
- “Apophatic Strategies in *Allogenes*,” presented to the presented to the Society of Biblical Literature's 2007 Annual Meeting program unit "Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism" in San Diego, CA, November 2007.
- “Hellenic-Christian Polemics Between Pseudo-Dionysius’ *Celestial Hierarchy* and Julian’s *Contra Galileos*,” presented to the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting's "Platonism and Neoplatonism" group in San Diego, CA, November 2007.
- “Spiritual Motion in Proclus’ *Telestikē*,” invited lecture presented to the conference "Secret States: Altered States of Consciousness and Western Esotericism," Esalen Institute, CA, May 2007.
- Organizer and chair of panel on “Neoplatonism and Religious Practice” at the 2004 conference of the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies in Liverpool, England, June 2004.
- “Proclus’ Ritual Neoplatonic Power,” presented to the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies in Liverpool, England, June 2004.
- “Aristotelian Logic in Proclus’ Metaphysics,” presented to the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies in New Orleans, LA, June 2003.

### ***Current Research***

Gnosticism, Neoplatonism, early Christian thought, ancient Jewish and Christian mysticism, History of Religions

### ***Research Languages***

Greek, Latin, Coptic, Syriac;  
 German (spoken and written); French, Dutch (written)

### ***Teaching Experience***

YALE UNIVERSITY: Teaching Fellow

Religious Studies 152, Introduction to New Testament History and Literature (Prof. Dale Martin, Yale College), Spring 2008, Spring 2009.

Religion 720, History of Christian Theology to 451 (Prof. Christopher Beeley, Yale Divinity School), Fall 2008.

Religious Studies 158, Introduction to Early Christian History (Prof. Stephen Davis, Yale College), Fall 2007.

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NASHVILLE, Teachers Assistant, Substitute, grades K-4.

For information and references, contact Margaret Berry, J.D., [mberry@usn.org](mailto:mberry@usn.org);  
Babs Freeman-Loftis, [bfl@usn.org](mailto:bfl@usn.org); or Susan Touchstone,  
[stouchstone@usn.org](mailto:stouchstone@usn.org). August 2004-May 2005.

*Archaeological Work/Other*

Participant in Third Summer School in Coptic Papyrology, Strasbourg, July 18-25, 2010, organized by the Bibliothèque nationale et universitaire de Strasbourg (BNU) and the UMR 7044 (CNRS-UdS: Etude des civilisations de l'Antiquité), July 2010.

Student-faculty coordinator for the Kenneth A. Gerber Fund (for details, see <http://www.yale.edu/religiousstudies/grad.html>, and/or contact Prof. Stephen Fraade, [stephen.fraade@yale.edu](mailto:stephen.fraade@yale.edu)), 2008-09 academic year.

Photographer of Syriac monastic frescoes in Turkey and Syria, funded by Augusta Hazard Travel Fund, Yale University, June-July 2008.

Field archaeologist for the Yale Department of Egyptology's Egyptian Delta Monastic Archaeology Project (EDMAP) at Wādī al-Natrūn, Egypt ([http://www.yale.edu/egyptology/ae\\_edmap.htm](http://www.yale.edu/egyptology/ae_edmap.htm)), May-June 2008.