Few, if any, individuals have had such a profound influence on Western culture as Jesus, even though not a single detail of his life or teaching can be confirmed with certainty. This lack of reliable biographical data has left his life open to broad interpretation. Jesus, gnostic and apocryphal sources insist, never truly died on the cross since he was a divine being, whose human frame was an illusion. Muslim sources affirm that Jesus was a prophet of God and will return at the end of time. Jörg Lanz von Liebenfels formulated racial theories in which Jesus was a redeemer for Aryans only, while the Renaissance polymath Guillaume Postel was convinced that Christ had returned as a Venetian woman.

This book explores these and other views without taking sides in any theological arguments and presents research on a variety of alternative Christologies.

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ALTERNATIVE CHRISTS

EDITED BY

OLAV HAMMER
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2. A circular image depicting Christ in an aureole of light from Heinrich Khunrath, *Amphitheatrum sapientiae aeternae* (Hamburg, 1595; Hanau, 1609). © British Library Board. All rights reserved, shelfmark: 30.e.5.719.k.6

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5. Fourth image of Christ distributing the Eucharist from Stefan Michelspacher, *Cabala: Spiegel der Kunst und Natur* (Augsburg: David Francke, 1616) © British Library Board. All rights reserved, shelfmark: 1032.c.3.(1)
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