

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-107-09784-1 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Religion

Edited by Susan M. Felch

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION
TO LITERATURE AND RELIGION

The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Religion invites readers to consider how acts of reading that take both literature and religion seriously may illuminate our encounter with texts, authors, other readers, and the world itself. Drawing on both the dharmic and Abrahamic traditions, it offers close readings of exemplary texts, and, in a return to earlier uses of the word “religion,” focuses on practices, rituals, sensibilities, liturgies, affects, and other rich, embodied aspects of various religious traditions. Written for those with interests in literature or religion, this Companion is an ideal resource for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as academic specialists.

Susan M. Felch is Director of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship and Professor of English at Calvin College. Her publications include *The Collected Works of Anne Vaughan Lock* (1999), *Bakhtin and Religion: A Feeling for Faith* (2001, coedited with Paul Contino), *The Emmaus Readers* (2008–2009, coedited with Gary Schmidt), *Elizabeth Tyrwhit's Morning and Evening Prayers* (2008), for which she won the Josephine A. Roberts Scholarly Edition Award, and *Selected Readings of Bible Stories / 圣经故事选读* (2011, co-authored with Xing Ling). Her *Elizabeth I and Her Age* (2009, coedited with Donald Stump) won the Teaching Edition Award from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women. *Teaching and Christian Imagination* (written with David I. Smith) was published in 2016.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-107-09784-1 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Religion

Edited by Susan M. Felch

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
COMPANIONS TO
LITERATURE

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
LITERATURE AND
RELIGION

SUSAN M. FELCH

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-107-09784-1 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Religion
 Edited by Susan M. Felch
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
 a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107097841

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2016

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
 of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
 place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2016

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Names: Felch, Susan M., 1951- editor.

Title: The Cambridge companion to literature and religion / edited by Susan Felch.
 Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2016. | Series: Cambridge companions
 to literature | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015045378 | ISBN 9781107097841 (Hardback) |

ISBN 9781107483910 (Paperback)

Subjects: LCSH: Religion and literature. | Religion in literature. | Books and reading. |
 Literature, Modern—History and criticism. | Religions. | BISAC: RELIGION / General.

Classification: LCC PN49 .C3557 2016 | DDC 809/.93382—dc23 LC record
 available at <http://lcn.loc.gov/2015045378>

ISBN 978-1-107-09784-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-48391-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
 or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
 publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
 remain, accurate or appropriate.

Revelation characterizes the world
just as much as natural laws do.

(M.M. Bakhtin)

CONTENTS

<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Chronology of Religious Founders and Texts</i>	xii
Introduction SUSAN M. FELCH	1
PART I READING PRACTICES	19
1 Theological Reading ROWAN WILLIAMS	21
2 Confessional Reading JAMES MATTHEW WILSON	35
3 Postsecular Reading ZHANG NI	51
PART II INTERSECTIONS	69
4 Ethics SUSAN M. FELCH	71
5 Dwelling JULIA REINHARD LUPTON	86
6 Imagination MATTHEW POTTS	103
7 Sacrifice MICHON M. MATTHIESEN	116
	vii

CONTENTS

8	Repetition	132
	SUSANNAH BRIETZ MONTA	
	PART III TRADITIONS	149
9	Hinduism	151
	CLEO KEARNS	
10	Buddhism	169
	RICHARD K. PAYNE	
11	Judaism	186
	SUSAN HANDELMAN	
12	Eastern Orthodoxy	202
	LORI BRANCH AND IOANA PATULEANU	
13	Roman Catholicism	218
	PAUL J. CONTINO	
14	Islam	233
	MUSTANSIR MIR	
15	Protestantism	249
	WILLIE JAMES JENNINGS	
16	World Christianity	262
	SUSAN VANZANTEN	
	<i>Select Bibliography</i>	277
	<i>Index</i>	282

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

LORI BRANCH is Associate Professor of English at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. She is the author of *Rituals of Spontaneity: Sentiment and Secularism from Free Prayer to Wordsworth* (2007).

PAUL J. CONTINO is the Blanche E. Seaver Professor of Humanities at Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, and former editor of the journal *Christianity and Literature*. He is the editor, with Susan M. Felch, of *Bakhtin and Religion: A Feeling for Faith* (2001) and has published in journals and book collections.

SUSAN M. FELCH is Professor of English at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and director of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship. Among her books are *Elizabeth Tyrwhit's Morning and Evening Prayers* (2008), *Selected Readings of Bible Stories* / 圣经故事选读, with Xing Ling (2011), and *Teaching and Christian Imagination*, with David I. Smith (2016).

SUSAN HANDELMAN is Professor of English at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel. She is the author of *The Slayers of Moses: The Emergence of Rabbinic Interpretation in Modern Literary Theory* (1982), *Fragments of Redemption: Jewish Thought and Literary Theory in Benjamin, Scholem, and Levinas* (2005), and "Make Yourself a Teacher": *Rabbinic Tales of Mentors and Disciples* (2012).

WILLIE JAMES JENNINGS is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut. He is the author of *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* (2011).

CLEO KEARNS teaches at New York University, New York. She is the author of *T. S. Eliot and Indic Traditions: A Study in Poetry and Belief* (1987) and *The Virgin Mary, Monotheism and Sacrifice* (2008).

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-107-09784-1 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Religion

Edited by Susan M. Felch

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

JULIA REINHARD LUPTON is Professor of English at the University of California, Irvine. Among her books are *Citizen-Saints: Shakespeare and Political Theology* (2005), *Design Your Life: The Pleasures and Perils of Everyday Things* (2009), and *Thinking with Shakespeare: Essays on Politics and Life* (2011).

MICHON M. MATTHIESEN is Associate Professor of Theology at the University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota. She is the author of *Sacrifice as Gift: Eucharist, Grace, and Contemplative Prayer in Maurice de la Taille* (2013).

MUSTANSIR MIR is University Professor of Islamic Studies at Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio, and coeditor of the journal *Studies in Contemporary Islam*. His recent books include *Iqbal* (2006) and *Understanding the Islamic Scripture: A Study of Selected Passages from the Qur'an* (2008).

SUSANNAH BRIETZ MONTA is the John Cardinal O'Hara, C.S.C., and Glynn Family Honors Associate Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana. She is the editor of the journal *Religion and Literature* and the author of *Martyrdom and Literature in Early Modern England* (2005).

ZHANGE NI is Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. She has published in the *Journal of Religion* and the *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*.

IOANA PATULEANU is an independent scholar and has published in book collections and journals.

RICHARD K. PAYNE is Dean of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, California, and the Yehan Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhist Studies. He is the author of essays in edited collections and journals as well as the editor-in-chief of the Buddhism section of *Oxford Bibliographies*.

MATTHEW POTTS is Assistant Professor of Ministry Studies at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is the author of *Cormac McCarthy and the Signs of Sacrament: Literature, Theology, and the Moral of Stories* (2015).

SUSAN VANZANTEN is Professor of English at Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington. Among her books are *Postcolonial Literature and the Biblical Call to Justice* (1994), *Truth and Reconciliation: The Confessional Mode in South African Literature* (2002), and *Mending a Tattered Faith: Devotions with Dickinson* (2010).

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-107-09784-1 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Religion

Edited by Susan M. Felch

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

ROWAN WILLIAMS is the Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury. Among his books are *Christian Imagination in Poetry and Polity* (2004), *Dostoevsky: Language, Faith and Fiction* (2009), *Faith in the Public Square* (2012), and *Meeting God in Mark* (2014).

JAMES MATTHEW WILSON is Associate Professor of Religion and Literature at Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania. His recent books are *The Violent and the Fallen* (2013) and *Some Permanent Things* (2014).

CHRONOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS FOUNDERS AND TEXTS

B.C.E.

ca. 1500–700	Vedas composed
ca. 800–600	Brahmanas composed
ca. 800–150	Hebrew sacred writings composed
ca. 600–400	Early Upanishads composed
ca. 500–150 C.E.	Sutras composed
566	Birth of the Buddha (long chronology)
448	Birth of the Buddha (short chronology)
ca. 400–100	Later Upanishads composed
ca. 300–300 C. E.	Mahabharata composed
ca. 280–130	Hebrew writings translated into Greek (the Septuagint)
ca. 200–200 C. E.	Ramayana composed
ca. 150–68	Creation of the Dead Sea Scrolls

C.E.

4	Birth of Jesus of Nazareth
ca. 50–125	New Testament writings composed
ca. 100	Bhagavad Gita composed
ca. 200	The Mishnah composed
ca. 350–1350	Puranas composed
ca. 400	Bible translated into Latin by Jerome (the Vulgate)
ca. 500	The Gemara composed
ca. 500–700	Tevaram collection compiled
ca. 500–900	Early Tantras composed
ca. 570	Birth of Muhammad
610–632	Revelations of the Qur'an
983	First printing of Chinese Buddhist canon
1054	Great Schism marks permanent split between Church of Rome and Church of Constantinople
1517	Luther posts the 95 theses; beginning of the Protestant Reformation