

**GOSPELS—ACTS**

CARMEN BERNABÉ, *Qué se sabe de . . . María Magdalena* (Estella [Navarra]: Verbo Divino, 2020, paper €19) 235 pp., 5 halftones, table. Bibliographies. ISBN: 978-84-9073-554-1.

In this study Bernabé, professor of theology at the University of Deusto in Bilbao, investigates the transmission and rereading of traditions about Mary Magdalene as they evolved in a patriarchal society and church, the way memory of her was constructed in the first generations of Christianity and remembered centuries later. After a five-page introduction, she first considers the most common images that have defined this woman throughout history—disciple and apostle, repentant prostitute, and spouse of Jesus. She next discusses the principal traits presented in the Gospels—Mary from Magdala, lists of women and their importance, the meaning of her being a follower and disciple, and travelling the Galilean villages with Jesus. She then treats open questions in present debate—Mary Magdalene's role in forming the communal Easter kerygma, and her apostolic authority and dangerous memory. Finally she discusses the current relevance of Mary Magdalene's memory and its socio-ecclesial function. She suggests that Mary Magdalene is a feminine figure fundamental for Christianity from its origins and throughout all ages, judging by her memory as constructed and preserved as part of Christian cultural memory.