

Franz Winter:  
The Use of Ancient Gnostic Texts in Modern Esoteric Movements: the  
Case of Samael Aun Weor

“Gnosis” and “Gnosticism” are words that are widely used in modern esoteric literature. References to this “Gnostic tradition” are found in the writings of many esoteric authors. In addition to using this terminology, some writers explicitly refer to ancient Gnostic texts. My paper focuses on a special case of this usage of ancient Gnostic texts in the framework of a modern esoteric movement: a publication of the Colombian esoteric writer Samael Aun Weor, born Víctor Manuel Gómez Rodríguez (1917–1977), who originally founded the *Movimiento Gnostico*, which later split into many different “Neo-Gnostic” groups now active all around the world. The author’s last book, published posthumously, is a commentary on the ancient Gnostic text *Pistis Sophia*. I want to discuss its content, its setting and the handling of the “ancient” text. This should provide insight into the new interpretation given to ancient texts in the framework of a modern esoteric movement.

Keywords:

[Christianity](#), [Neo-Gnosticism](#), [Latin America](#), [Occultism](#)

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